

Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion. We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention--all are welcome!

RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY

January 28, 2024

8:30 am

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as comfortable, in body or in spirit and face the cross at the back of the sanctuary
*The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text. **You are invited to read the bold portions.***

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of boundless compassion,
Help us to admit that we have been wrong.
Give us the word the world cannot.
Tell us again that you believe in us
so we can love ourselves as you do.

Amen.

We proclaim publicly for the ways we have rejected God's love and God's image of us.

For historical acts of injustice and oppression perpetuated
against communities in this abundant land of the First Nations,
Forgive us, merciful God.

For the times we have failed to recognize racism and bigotry
in ourselves, in our church, and in our society,
and the times we have failed to take action,
Forgive us, God of justice.

For complicity in systems of privilege and power
over those whose skin color, culture, sexual orientation,
gender identity, gender expression, or creed
differ in some way, even today,
Forgive us, compassionate God.

Grant us patience to endure periods without action,

persistence in resisting the evil of oppression,
and faithfulness in working toward racial and social justice
among your people, in the church, and in the world.

We beseech you, God of hope.

Siblings in Christ, the truth is that God loves you deeply and without end.

This forgiveness is a gift; we don't do this on our own.

We are bound to the Holy Spirit, who accompanies us on this journey of reconciliation in Christ.

Know and believe you are forgiven.

Know and trust that God is with you as you adjust and make amends, As you now know what you did not know before And that you have been made whole in the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer, ✠ and the Sanctifier,

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#661 "All Are Welcome"



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -

Refrain

Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

GREETING

The grace of the One who redeemed and redeems us, the love, mercy, and justice of the One who created all beyond our wildest dreams and called it all GOOD, and the wisdom of the One who challenges us to go and do likewise be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

p. 98

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men, a - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 101 "This is the Feast"

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

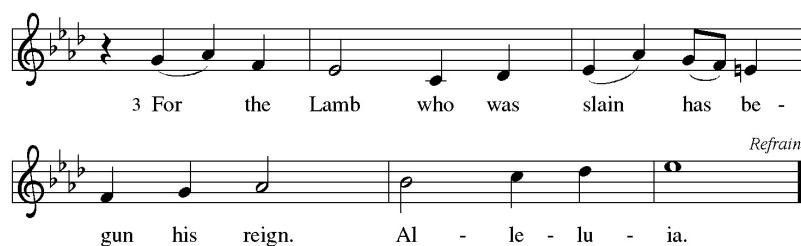
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Please be
seated.*



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, Holy and Living God, we open to you this day. May peace flow and let justice roll down like an ever-flowing stream. Open our eyes and help us to see that no one is outside your love; outside our love. Remind us that we are not alone thanks to your abiding presence and the ministry of ReconcilingWorks and the Reconciling in Christ program, through Jesus Christ, the free gift of grace. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Amos 5:21-24

I despise and reject your feasts! I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies!. When you offer me burnt offerings, I reject your oblations, and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle! Spare me the racket of your chanting! Relieve me of the strumming of your harps! Instead, let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;

truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;

God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

*Please
stand as
comfortable,
in
body or
in spirit.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

Glory to You, O Lord.

21[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. 22They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” 25But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” 26And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud

voice, came out of him. 27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” 28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be
seated.*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“For Everyone Born”

For ev - ery - one - born a place at the ta - ble
 For wom - an and man a place at the ta - ble
 For young and for old a place at the ta - ble
 For queer and for straight a place at the ta - ble
 For ev - ery - one born a place at the ta - ble

3 for ev - ery - one born clean wa - ter and bread
 re - vis - ing the roles de - sid - ing the share
 a voice to be heard a part in the song
 a cov - e - nant shared a wel - com - ing space,
 to live with - out fear and sim - ply to be

6 a shel - ter a space a safe place for grow - ing
 with wis - dom and grace di - vid - ing the pow - er
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled
 a rain - bow of race and gen - der and col - or,
 to work to speak out to wit - ness and wor - ship

8 for ev - ery - one born a star o - ver - head and
 for wom - an and man a sys - tem that's fair
 for young and for old the right to be - long
 for queer and for straight a cha - ice of grace
 for ev - ery - one born the right to be free

11 God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy com -

14 pas - sion and peace yes God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice

17 jus - tice and joy

*Please
stand as
comfortable,
in
body or in
spirit.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us profess our faith:

**We believe in one God, the Architect and Guardian,
who, in the beginning, breathed life into the void,
sprouting all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ
that in order to reconcile the cosmos,
this God sent a piece of God's own self
to be born human as kin to us all.**

And who, at the hands of political tyranny, was killed.

He rose again to new life in love to return the world to God.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who is one with the Creator and Savior.**

She is our guide and wisdom.

She pours her spirit into apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, and listeners.

We believe in the uniting of all Christians into the one body of Christ,

And we believe in our return to God at the end. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Before we pray, if you're able, I invite you to close your eyes and your hands to make a tight fist. While you continue making or imagining this fist, we contemplate what we need to let go of to let justice roll down, to let justice prevail in our lives, church, and world. I invite you to think about those you find difficult to love as children of God—perhaps even yourself.

God, we hold on to inherited prejudices that shadow our beliefs, to particular traits in others that rub us the wrong way, keeping compassion from softening our hearts, and those who have wronged or kept us from believing in God's overflowing grace. *Now, slowly open your hands, letting go of the tension, and imagine that cool water is flowing into and over them.* In this moment, we open the doors of our lives to the call of our Creator, the God of all people, who invites us to become more than we can ask or imagine. God of inclusion, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for pastors, deacons, bishops, and church leaders who do their best to live out the loving and welcoming community in Jesus Christ. May they be bold in their call to radical hospitality, inclusion, and the work of justice of all God's diversity, and may we do our diligence in calling them to deeper and more meaningful justice they might not see. We give thanks for ReconcilingWorks' 50 years of ministry and all the Reconciling in Christ partners. May their ministry with their members, communities, and the larger Church be a mighty force of justice rolling down like an ever-flowing stream. God of inclusion, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, non-binary, pansexual, queer/questioning, asexual, Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color in Christ, and the gifts they are to our church and society. May our churches be bold and prophetic in the ways we live out our

welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy with and for our siblings. May all know that in their truest, fullest most authentic selves, they are perfectly formed and perfectly loved as God created them to be. God of inclusion, **Hear our prayer.**

We remember and pray for those suffering discrimination, fear, and violence at the hands of oppressive regimes; may systems of such oppression be dismantled and new systems be built where all of God's Beloved are treated with dignity and respect. We remember and pray for those whose lives have been lost to violence and hate; may we be peacemakers through our words, actions, and advocacy. God of inclusion, **Hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident that you will turn to us and be gracious to us as you always do to those who love your name. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE *(You may wave, shake a hand, or offer the peace sign.)*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

"Many Gifts, One Spirit"

OFFERING PRAYER

For the gift of unconditional love, we give thanks. For the way in which these offerings will become gifts of love embodied, we give thanks. For the gift of this community bound and working together, we give thanks. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Please be
seated.*

*Please
stand as
comforta-
ble, in
body or
in spirit.*

... you created life out of the void.

We thank you for the gift of creation.

... you lead your people from oppression into liberation.

We thank you for your gift of liberation.

... and guide us to your faithfulness in your promises.

We thank you for your promise to love.

... you made us whole through Jesus Christ.

We thank you for the gift of Christ.

... Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God p. 112



#977 ACS "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"

#546 ELW "To Be Your Presence"

POST COMMUNION PRAYER & BLESSING

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you

*Please be
seated.*

*Please
stand as
comforta-
ble, in
body or in
spirit.*

with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor
and ☩ give you peace. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

#710 "Let Streams of Living Justice"



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

SENDING

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

No cash or checkbook? No problem.
You can donate through Venmo
or on our website at:
messiahlutheranmqt.org/give

If you wish to designate your
donation to a specific fund, please be
sure to do so. Any undesignated
donations automatically go to our
general fund which supports the
entirety of our ministry.

Thank you for your generosity!

Messiah Evangelical
Lutheran Church

@messiahlutheranmqt



venmo

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church



Children belong in worship!

Worship kits and a nursery
space is available. God rejoices
in the joyful noise of children
and so do we!



God calls us to welcome everyone!

Messiah seeks to be a welcoming
community and to share the love of
God with our neighbors. If you are
new, please introduce yourself to our
pastors.



Worship should be accessible!

Hearing devices (and T-Coil) and
large print bulletins are available. We
invite you to sit or stand as you are
comfortable. All gender and family
restroom facilities are available on
the first level, please see signs in the
Narthex.



All are welcome at Jesus' table!

During communion grape juice and gluten-free
options are available. Those not wishing to
commune may come forward for a blessing.
Those not able to come forward may receive
communion in their pew, please notify the usher.



God calls us to pray!

Private prayer requests may be made by writing
them on the back of the Welcome Card. If you
would like to be added to the prayer list or receive
a pastoral care visit, please contact the church
office.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Preacher:	Pr. Molly Hunter
Liturgist:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Kathy Maynard
Reader:	Brenda Blett
Ushers:	Mike Coyne, Anne Rydholm
Communion Assistants:	Dave Blomquist, Marina Shinkarenko, Judy Quirk
Greeters:	Joan Tasson, Jan Vickstrom
Organist:	Kathy Strazzinski
Senior Choir Director:	Sara Parks
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Nursery:	Jamie Dodge
Flower Delivery:	Bev Evans

Acknowledgements:

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