

### 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

10:30 am

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are comfortable in body or in spirit.*

### GATHERING HYMN

#641 "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.

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain, **you are invited to read the bold sections**

## 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Bronken*

GOD LOVES EACH AND EV - RV ONE. FOR US ALL HE SENT HIS SON.

5 LET'S GIVE THANKS FOR WHAT HE'S DONE, A - LE - LU - I - A!

8 PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESS - INGS FLOW.

12 PRAISE HIM ALL CREA - TURES HERE BE - LOW

17 SOME - TIMES WE DON'T HAVE A CLUE. WE DOUBT. DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

21 HO - LY SPI - RIT HELPS US THROUGH; A - LE - LU - I - A!

25 A - LE - LU - I - A! A - LE - LU - I - A!

## 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.**

## 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!.

Please be  
seated

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.**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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

<sup>4</sup>Hence, 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.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet 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.

<sup>7</sup>It 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. <sup>8</sup>“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. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For 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? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, 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 you are  
comfortable  
in body or  
spirit

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## 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. 27They 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.” 28At 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”

$\text{♩} = 85$

For ev - ery - one - born a place at the ta - ble  
For wom - an and man a place at the ta - ble  
For yound 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

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

a shel-ter a space a safe place for grow - ing  
with wis-dom and grace di - vid - ing the pow - er  
the hads 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

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

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

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

jus - tice and joy

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please  
stand as  
you are  
able.

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, heal-  
ers, 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

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

Please be  
seated

## SPECIAL MUSIC

“We Are the Church Alive”

## 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.**

Please stand  
as you are  
comfortable  
in body or  
spirit

## 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 right, and a good and joyful thing,...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

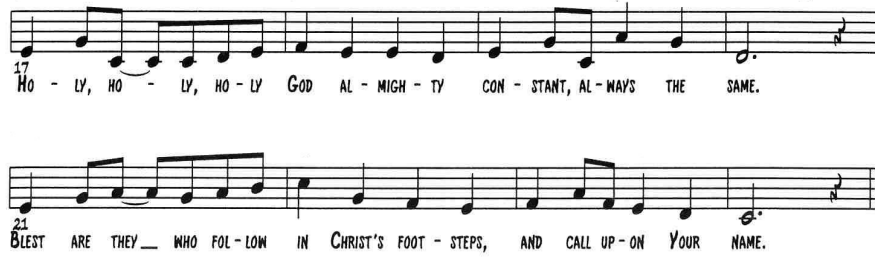
HO - LY, HO - LY, HO - LY GOD AL - MIGH - TY LET PEO - PLE NOW PRO - CLAIM, -

5 ALL CRE - A - TION IS YOUR AWE - SOME DO - ING. WE PRAISE YOUR HO - LY NAME.

9 EARTH AND MOON, SUN AND SKY SUR - ROUND US, HILLS AND VAL LEYS AND STREAMS,

13 PLANTS AND CREA - TURES AND MORE YOU GIVE US, BLESSED BE - YOND ALL OUR DREAMS!





... 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.

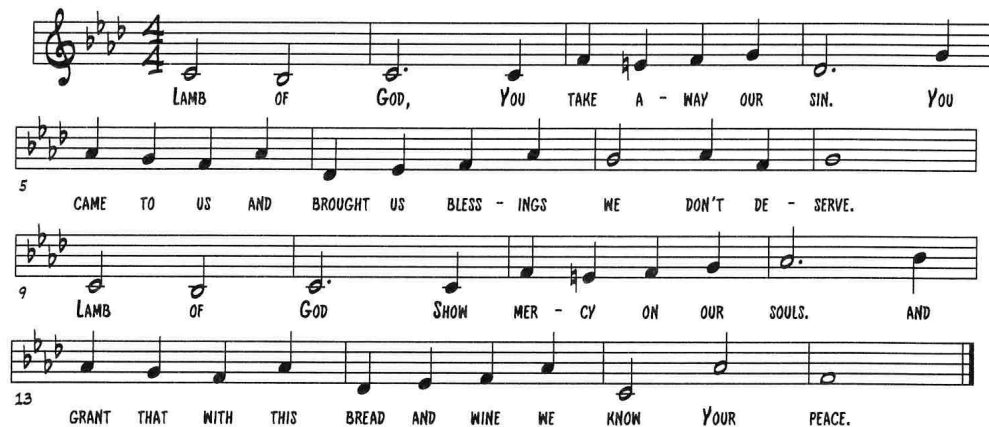
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

Please be  
seated



Please  
stand as  
you are  
able

Benedic-  
tion: *God  
blesses us and  
sends us in  
mission to the  
world.*

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

#1062 *ACS* "Build a Longer Table"

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER & BLESSING

### BENEDICTION

May God the Great Creator,  
go on creating within us,  
Christ Jesus be our company  
and the Holy Spirit surround us  
with eternal grace. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

#551 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

### 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](http://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

305 W. Magnetic St., Marquette Michigan

906.225.1119 — [www.messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org)

Precher:

Liturgist:

Assisting Minister:

Reader:

Ushers:

Communion Assistants:

Greeters:

Songleader:

Pianist:

Band:

Audio Technician:

Livestream Technician:

Projection Technician:

Nursery Attendant:

Flower Delivery:

Pr. Molly Hunter

Pr. Andrew Plocher

Mike Hill

Molly Luty

Dave & Jill Luoma

Mike Hill, Sandy Lindberg, Marina Shinkarenko

Bev Evans

Sara Parks

Jacob Schmeltzer

Tom Bronken, Jason Parks, Darren Smith

Dan Zini

Traci Zini

Kathy Godec

Jamie Dodge

Bev Evans

### Acknowledgements:

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