



Baptism of Our Lord

10:30 am - January 11, 2026

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

GATHERING HYMN

#957 "Take Me to the Water"

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. The first staff consists of eight measures of a melody. The second staff continues the melody. Below the notation are two stanzas of the hymn text. The first stanza is numbered 1-4, and the second stanza is unnumbered.

1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter,
2 I . . . love . . . Je - sus, I . . . love . . . Je - sus,
3 He's . . . my . . . Sav - ior, he's . . . my . . . Sav - ior,
4 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
I . . . love . . . Je - sus, oh, yes, I do.
he's . . . my . . . Sav - ior, oh, yes, he is.
Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.
You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;
You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.
Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever.
You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through.
In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.
You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.
You have become our salvation.

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text.
You are invited to read the bold portions.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more.
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts;
wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

1 Ky - ri - e, e - - le - i - son.
7 Lord, have mer - - cy. Chri - ste, e - - le - i - son.
13 Christ, have mer - - cy. Ky - ri - e, e - - le - i - son.
19 Lord, have mer - - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

3

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.
² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth,
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout

4

Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



GOSPEL

Matthew 3: 13-17

Glory to you, O Lord.

13 Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

#916 "Down Galilee's Slow Roadways"



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
 3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
 The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
 But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

We believe in God, the Creator and Lover of the Universe;

And we respond to this God in love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the embodiment of Love and the Savior of all;

And we respond to this God in love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Love's power poured out, and the Presence of Love within;

And we respond to this God in love.

We believe in the Church, The community of Love; And we believe in life renewed and eternal; Love enjoyed and shared with God and creation for ever.

And again we dedicate ourselves to this love and to the God who gives it. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill, especially... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Please be
Seated.

Please stand
as you are
comfortable
in body or
spirit.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Wade In The Water” *Messiah’s Celebration Choir*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **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:

♩ = 84

128 F Dm7 Am C B♭ F
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts.
 5 B♭ F C Dm B♭maj7 F/C Csus
 Heav - en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -
 8 F B♭ F C Dm
 est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 11 B♭maj7 F/C C Dm F F/A B♭maj7 F/C C F
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. —
 ... 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.

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, mi - se - re - re
 no - - - bis. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
 sins of the world, mi - se - re - re no - - - bis.
 Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, do - na no - bis pa - - -
 cem.

#396 “Spirit of Gentleness”

#955 “Come to the Water of Life”

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.
 Benediction: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

People of hope and peace, go into the world.

You are baptized into God's justice and compassion.

Bring God's healing love to all whom you meet. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“The Joy” by *The Belonging Co.*

6

1. This is the day You made.
 So, I'll rejoice and be glad, rejoice and be glad in it.
 This is where I believe that You are more than e-nough, more
 than e-nough for me. You are faith-ful to Your prom-ise, You are strong
 when I am weak. When I'm stand-ing in Your pres-ence, I have ev-
 'ry-thing I need. The joy of the Lord, the joy of the Lord is my strength.
 The joy of the Lord, the joy of the Lord is my strength. O
 my soul, bless His Name, all that is with-in me say the
 joy of the Lord, the joy of the Lord is my strength.

2. Je-sus, come what may. You are wor-
 thy of all, wor-thy of all my praise.

joy of the Lord is my strength.
 Let it rise up like a riv - er, o - ver - flow
 ing, Ho - ly Spir - it. Let it pour out
 with no lim - it, o - ver - flow - ing, Ho - ly Spir -
 it. Let it rise up like a riv - er,
 o - ver - flow - ing, Ho - ly Spir - it. Let it pour
 out with no lim - it, o - ver - flow - ing,
 Ho - ly Spir - it.

joy of the Lord is my strength.

SENDING

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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.

Preacher:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Liturgist:	Pr. Molly Hunter
Assisting Minister:	Molly Luty
Reader:	Nancy Hamlin
Ushers:	Sally Davis, Amy Diedrich
Communion Assistants:	Kerry McGinley & Karen Burkman, Marina Shinkarenko
Greeters:	
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Lesley Williams
Nursery:	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	

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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
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venmo

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