



Reconciling in Christ Sunday

10:30 am - January 25, 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!

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

GATHERING HYMN

#1038 "God, We Gather as Your People"



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.

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



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us pray:

O God, when racism, intolerance, and queerphobia, homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia feel inescapable and it is hard to imagine justice and a love that welcomes all of your children to our community, you seem hidden and far away. Come closer and dwell among us, encouraging us as we build resilient and just communities. **Come near to us. Show us the way.**

O God, we have witnessed the harm and suffering of many beloved children, especially those whose sexual or romantic orientation, gender identity, or gender expression do not follow the patterns of what society has deemed normal. Challenge us to disrupt this way of treating people who need our love and support. **Come near to us. Show us the way.**

O God, we have witnessed the harm and suffering of many people, especially those whose race, ethnicity, or immigration status cause us to ignore needs as we tolerate racism, xenophobia, and the lack of equity in our society that keep many of your beloved children from full belonging. **Come near to us. Show us the way.**

Help us to remember that you see us: our troubles and grief, the broken relationships that undermine community, our weakness and lack of courage in confronting evil. You hold our pain. We can leave it all to you. You are our helper. **Come near to us. Show us the way.**

Help us to remember that you listen to our desires and calm our troubled hearts. We can cry out to you. You will not abandon us. **Come near to us. Show us the way.**

God, rise up and comfort us so we no longer have to be afraid. Lead us to trust in the hope and promise of a resilient community, with justice for the oppressed, afflicted, and excluded.

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

Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

Lord, have mer - cy. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son.

Christ, have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your Word teaches us, calls us, and shapes us, that we will become the wisdom of God and the body of Christ for others. On this Reconciling in Christ Sunday may your word turn us toward what is good and holy and just, that all your beloveds of all sexual and romantic orientations, identities, and expressions will know we are seen, known, and loved by you. May the example of Jesus continue to create words and action of courage in the work and ministry of anti- racism. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

Please
be
seated.

Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later God glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy. They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice. As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.

Word of God, word of freedom.

Praise be to God.

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-2

See what kind of love the Creator has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are! Because the world did not recognize God, it does not recognize us. Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when God appears we will be like God because we'll see God as God is.

Word of God, word of freedom.

Praise be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please
stand as
you are
com-
fortable
in body
or in
spirit.



GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

The Word made flesh dwells among us.

Full of grace and truth.

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light, and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in the shadow of death.

From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee, their father, repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good

news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ

Praise to you, Word of life!

Please
be
seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

#1043 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Please
stand as
you are
comfort-
able in
body or
spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and

earth, architect of time, quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground, and by your breath we are given life.

We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human. You lived among us to reveal your justice, died among us to break the bonds of sin and death, and were raised among us to bring abundant life.

We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit, draws us into community, moves us to action, and inspires us to hope against hope. You breathe new life into a fallen world and equip us to proclaim the good news of resurrecting love. All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Creator in prayer.

We pray for our pastors, deacons, bishops, and church leaders, that they may guide us well as we become a loving, welcoming, and resilient community in Jesus Christ. We give thanks for ReconcilingWorks and all of our Reconciling in Christ ministry partners. We pray that the whole church may someday become a blessed community where all our LGBTQIA+ siblings are celebrated. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to our church.**

We pray for the sustainability of our planet. Guide us to care for creation, be mindful of how much we throw away, reduce how much carbon dioxide our lifestyles add to the air we breathe, and remember how much our choices impact the lives of people in poor and marginalized communities. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to our Earth.**

We pray for our siblings all around the world. We pray that leaders everywhere recognize and respond to the suffering of the poor, marginalized, and persecuted. We pray that governments enact laws that protect and defend the poor, marginalized, and persecuted. We pray that your hand of justice intercede for us. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to the nations.**

We pray for people who have chaos swirling around and within them. We pray for those that have been told they are less than, wrong, or an outcast for who they are. We pray that all of us find true peace, joy, and wholeness in you. We pray for people who are victims of violence because of queerphobia [or homophobia, transphobia, biphobia], racism, sexism, and ableism. We pray for your mercy, love, and healing to care for them. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to your children.**

We pray that our congregation and its ministries uplift and care for all living things in our world. We pray that we work towards justice and peace in our own family and community. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to us.**

We pray for LGBTQIA+ saints, all our siblings who have gone before us in the fight for justice, freedom, and peace, even when church and society ignored them and many of your LGBTQIA+ [or Queer] children forgot them. Help us remember and honor the memory of the people who have boldly stood as themselves, showing the substance you created even when the world told them to hide. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to this community of Queer [or LGBTQIA+] people and allies.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy wisdom. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Please
be
Seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"All Belong Here" *by the Many*
vocalist Sara Parks & the Celebration Band

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, we give you praise! You liberate us from sin and death by the abundance at this table. Multiply these gifts and fill us with your spirit, so that we may embody Christ and enflesh your radical freedom. **Amen.**

Please
stand as
you are
comfort-
able 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
for you sent your child to be the light and life for the world,

through him you showed us how to love and be loved,
 how to enact justice and pray for peace.
 And so, with the glorious company of the saints,
 with earth and sea and stars,
 with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

♩ = 84 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. _____

Holy, just, and merciful God.
 In the intersection of the waters above and the waters below,
 you created life out of the void.
We thank you for the gift of creation.

Through Miriam and Moses,
 you lead your people from oppression into liberation.
We thank you for your gift of liberation.

You sent the prophets to warn to love not hate,
 and guide us to your faithfulness in your promises.
We thank you for your promise to love.

In the intersection of the divine and humanity,
 you made us whole through Jesus Christ.
We thank you for the gift of Christ.

...to the very end of the age. **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, do - na no - bis pa - - - cem.

#1042 “May This Church Be like a Tree”

#971 “Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom”

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

BENEDICTION

As we leave this space may God’s face shine upon us, God’s love sustain us, and God’s peace inspire us and grant us peace. May God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer—fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may live in hope of a blessed community where humanity’s diversity is celebrated. **Amen.**

Benediction: *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

SENDING HYMN*“The Joy” by The Belonging Co.*

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 enough
More than enough for me

You are faithful to Your promise
You are strong when I am weak
When I'm standing in Your presence
I have everything 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 within me say
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength

Jesus come what may
You are worthy of all
Worthy of all my praise

You are faithful to Your promise
You are strong when I am weak
When I'm standing in Your presence
I have everything 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 within me say
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength

Let it rise up like a river
Overflowing Holy Spirit
Let it pour out with no limit
Overflowing Holy Spirit

Let it rise up like a river
Overflowing Holy Spirit
Let it pour out with no limit
Overflowing Holy Spirit

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 within me say
O my soul bless His Name
All that is within me say

O my soul bless His Name
All that is within me say
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength

SENDING

Go in peace to seek justice for all people.
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 |
| Assisting Minister: | Nancy Raisanen |
| Reader: | Mark Paulsen |
| Ushers: | Sally Davis |
| Communion Assistants: | Gayle Mack, Gayle Van Osdol |
| Greeter: | Gayle Van Osdol |
| Songleader: | Sara Parks |
| Pianist: | Jacob Schmeltzer |
| Band Members: | Jason Parks, Tom Bronken, Ross Larson |
| Audio Technician: | Traci Zini |
| Livestream Technician: | Traci Zini |
| Projection Technician: | Kathy Godec |
| Nursery: | Maddie Dykema |
| Flower Delivery: | |

Acknowledgements:

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donations automatically go to our
general fund which supports the
entirety of our ministry.**

Thank you for your generosity!

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