

Reconciling in Christ Sunday

8:30 am - January 26, 2025

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 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.***

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!**

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

above, 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.

For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -
 long. May that wel - come be our song.

GREETING

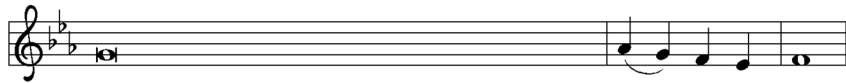
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



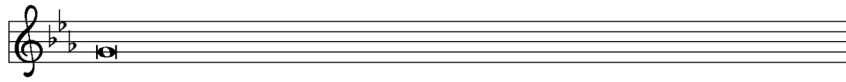
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



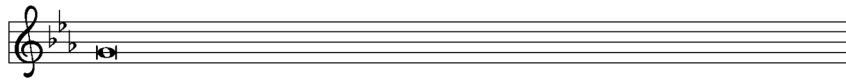
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

GLORY TO GOD

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

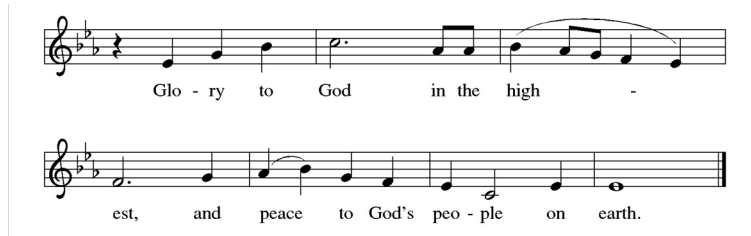
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.



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

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

When the seventh month came and the people of Israel were settled in their towns, all the people gathered together in the area in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Instruction scroll from Moses, according to which the Lord had instructed Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the Instruction before the assembly. This assembly was made up of anyone who could understand what they heard. Facing the area in front of the Water Gate, he read it aloud, from early morning until the middle of the day. He read it in the presence of those who could understand, and everyone listened attentively to the Instruction scroll. Standing above all of the people, Ezra the scribe opened the scroll in the sight of all of the people. And as he opened it, all of the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all of the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" while raising their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. They read aloud from the scroll, the Instruction from God, explaining and interpreting it so the people could understand what they heard. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all of the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Don't mourn or weep." They said this because all the people wept when they heard the words of the Instruction. "Go, eat rich food, and drink something sweet," he said to them, "and send portions of this to any who have nothing ready! This day is holy to our Lord. Don't be sad, because the joy from the Lord is your strength!"

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 19

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words;

Please
be
seated.

their voice is not heard;

**4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens
and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.**

7 The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;

**8 the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

**10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 But who can detect one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING

1st Corinthians 12:12-31a

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. Certainly, the body isn't one part but many. If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? But as it is, there are many parts but one body. So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body togeth-

er, giving greater honor to the part with less honor so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it. You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues. All aren't apostles, are they? All aren't prophets, are they? All aren't teachers, are they? All don't perform miracles, do they? All don't have gifts of healing, do they? All don't speak in different tongues, do they? All don't interpret, do they? Use your ambition to try to get greater gifts.

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

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia” p. 102

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

Luke 4:14-21

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit is upon me, because God has anointed me. God has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

#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.

Please
 stand as
 you are
 comforta-
 ble in
 body or
 spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I invite you to profess your faith, renouncing the forces of evil and the power of sin. Do you re-
 nounce the powers of racism, sexism, queerphobia, homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, and able-
 ism? **We renounce them.**

Do you renounce systems of oppression that harm God's children? **We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the sins of silence that draw one away from God and neighbor? **We renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Creator?

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

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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 the liberating and reconciling love of God, let us pray for all people and all creation.

Holy One, you are the strength of your church. Inspire the proclamation of our pastors, bishops, lay pastors and all volunteers by the power of the Spirit so that all the baptized are bold to share your expansive and affirming good news with all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The heavens declare your glory, and the sky proclaims your handiwork. Where creation groans because of human misuse, waste, and neglect, bring healing and renewal. Open us to heed creation's lament so that all creatures can thrive and sing your praise. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your statutes are just, and your commandments are clear. Direct leaders of nations, cities, and towns to pursue justice and equity for our neighbors who are hurting, vulnerable, and held captive to unjust systems. Strengthen us in our resolve to build your beloved community on earth as it is in heaven. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You call us together as one body in Christ, and you create each member with unique gifts and identities. Renew our commitment to celebrate the diversity among us as people of all gender identities and expressions, sexual and romantic orientations, and racial and ethnic identities. Empower this church to recognize and uplift the voices and skills of those who are overlooked in the mission of your church. Shape us into an adaptive, resilient community that does not relent in proclaiming your good news and caring for one another. Today we lift up to you all who are in need, especially... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your teaching revives the weary soul. Inspire faith formation ministries that foster in us a sense of wonder and curiosity. Make us attentive to your word, and fashion us into a people who never stop asking questions and who never stop learning more about your word and your world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With the body of Christ around us, we rejoice for the witness of the body of Christ who has gone before us. We give thanks for the saints of this community, for leaders of the early church including Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, and for all your holy ones whose lives bore witness to your ever-expansive love and whose example inspires us to do the same. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these our prayers, spoken and silent, and our sighs too deep for words, to your abundant mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Please
be seated.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

“For Everyone Born”

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 en flesh your radical freedom. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD’S SUPPER

God is here!

The Spirit is with us!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to our God!

Let us give thanks to the Holy One and Holy Three!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is indeed 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.

...Groaning in expectation with all of creation, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Breath of God, in this bread and cup you bring new life to this resilient community.

Breathe on us, that we may live!

May your Spirit intercede for us with sighs too deep for words, so that we might be made one body in Christ. **Breathe on us, that we may live!**

Revive our faith, infuse us with your peace, and reveal to us your justice, so that we might witness to the resurrection in all that we say and in all that we do.

Breathe on us, that we may live!

All thanks and praise to you, O God, Holy One and Holy Three. **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.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God” p. 112

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

- #524 “What Is This Place”
- #902 “Come Now, O God”

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

BENEDICTION

Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing make you afraid. All things are passing. God alone never changes. Patience gains all things. If you have God you will want for nothing. God alone suffices. † May the blessing of God, Holy One and Holy Three, be with us today and every day, building us into a resilient community that practices justice and radical inclusion. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

#763 “My Life Flows On in Endless Song” vs. 1, 4

- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth’s lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

SENDING

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

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 906.225.1119 — www.messiahlutheranmqt.org

Preacher:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Liturgist:	Pr. Molly Hunter
Assisting Minister:	Kathy Maynard
Reader:	Dave Echelbarger
Ushers:	Cathy Seblonka, Sten Taube
Communion Assistants:	Mike Coyne, Beth Krznarich, Kathy Maynard
Greeters:	Joan Tasson, Jan Vickstrom
Organist:	Kathy Strazzinski
Senior Choir Director:	Sara Parks
Audio Technician:	Traci Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Nursery:	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	
Refreshments:	Susy Swanson & Grant Soltwisch

Acknowledgements:

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