



Reconciling in Christ Sunday

10:30 am - January 26, 2025

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah

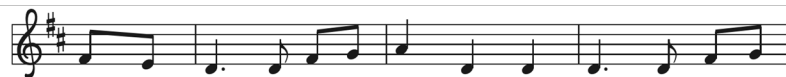
We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic 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!

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text. **You are**

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.



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.

invited to
read the
bold por-
tions.

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

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

Leader: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer -
 - cy up - on us.
 Chri - ste e - lei - son. Christ, have mer -
 - cy up - on us.

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: 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. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ALL:

A - men, 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.

Please
 be
 seated

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.

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 together, 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 in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Leader: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

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 pris-
oners 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!

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

I invite you to profess your faith, renouncing the forces of evil and the power of sin. Do you renounce the powers of racism, sexism, queerphobia, homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, and ableism? **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, 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.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“All Belong Here” *The Many*

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

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.**

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:

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might

2. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho-san - na in the high - est

3. Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord

...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 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.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

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.

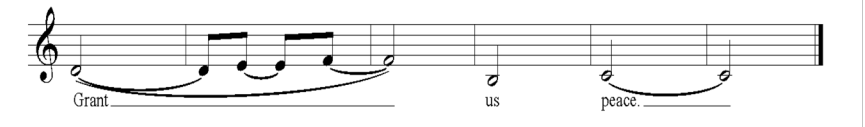
Have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

Have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

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

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

#723 "Canticle of the Turning"



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



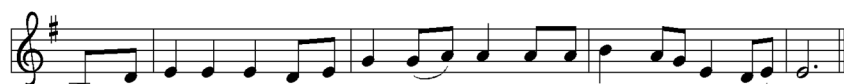
weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

SENDING

Go in peace. Live in hope.

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:	Mark Paulsen
Reader:	Josh MacIvor-Andersen
Ushers:	Dave & Nancy Skoog
Communion Assistants:	Sandy Lindberg, Gayle Mack, Marina Shinkarenko
Greeter:	Marina Shinkarenko
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band Members:	Jason Parks, Darren Smith, Ross Larson
Audio Technician:	Traci Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Abby LaForest
Nursery:	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	

Acknowledgements:

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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!

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