



7th Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am - February 23, 2025

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” Bell Choir

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

#1077 “Mercy, We Abide in You”

Refrain – All *Fine*

Mer - cy, we a - bide in you. Stir in us, we pray.

Leader

1 In peace, may we as - sem - ble. In
2 For all who suf - fer in war, for
3 We are bro - ken, long - ing for peace, for -

peace, may we u - nite. In peace, may we be
all who strug - gle for com - fort, for all who slum - ber in
give - ness, flow a - mong us. May we be rec - on -

Refrain

whole.
ease.
ciled. Move with - in each heart.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of justice, compassion, and sacred ways,
We have so much still to learn.
By your grace, we have come to know love more deeply
than once before –
its mess, its complexity,

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

its stubborn and tender truths transform us more each day.
Through fires that refine and valleys of death, you have guided us.
You draw us into the heart of Wisdom,
Saving us from the lies of destruction.
Turning us towards hope that liberates.
But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you..

We confess, we have not welcomed as Christ welcomed.
We confess, we have not loved as Jesus loved.
We confess, we have not forgiven as God has forgiven.
Our priorities are not your own.
Search our hearts, O God, and heal our fear.
Meet us there with your good news that sets the captives free.
Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to the systems that destroy.
God does not bind us to our regrets.
Or forever hold us to what we once believed.
God says, come and follow!
Know forgiveness and sin no more.
Love abounds. And Justice shall be manifest!
Wherever new life is desired,
may the peace of Christ be welcomed among us.
Thanks be to God who leads us on paths of resurrection.

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

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and

Please
be
seated

your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1st Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

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!

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

GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Please
be
seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

#1062 “Build a Longer Table”



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Brian E. Konkol from Sojourners)*

We believe in God, our Creator, maker of a universal community still in process;

God, who created precious resources to provide for all;

God, who created us to be connected as companions with God, the Earth, and all people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior,

who was ridiculed, tortured and executed for the sins of humankind.

He rose from the dead, overthrew the dominance of evil and injustice for our sake,

and he continues to judge and liberate the hatred, ignorance, and arrogance of all human beings.

We believe the way of Jesus is our way; our way of light, and our way of life.

We believe in the Spirit of God, our Advocate,

whose blaze comforts with divine presence and challenges human hearts to burn for righteousness.

We see the power of God in our lives and throughout the world.

We trust that God's work, through our actions, can bring peace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care, especially... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Graves into Gardens" *by Brandon Lake*

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 you, Lord.

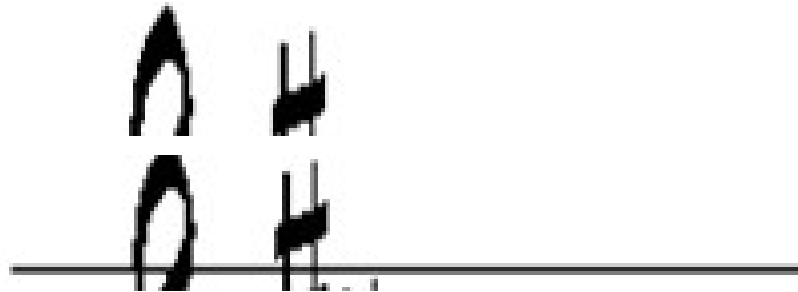
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Please
be
seated

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

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...We praise your name and join their unending hymn:



... you deliver us from every sin that holds us captive.

For this we are grateful.

...and inviting us yet today to this meal of grace.

For this we are grateful.

...Every moment you guide us in your wisdom.

For this we are grateful.

As we are made into one Body by the Spirit
and as we share this meal in this holy space,

May we go out and share this love with a world in need. 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.



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. ___

#708 “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”
 #485 “I Am the Bread 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

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

“The Earth is Yours”

VERSE 1

♩ = 136

D A Bm G

1. Your voice, it thun - ders, the oaks start twist - ing; The for - est sounds with ce - dars break - ing.

D/G D A/C# Bm G/B

The wa - ters see You and start their with - ing; From the depths a song is ris - ing.

PRE-CHORUS 1 **CHORUS 1**

16 *D/G* *A* *G* *D* *A/C#* *Bm*
 Now it's ris - ing from the ground. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.

26 *G* *D* *F#m7* *Bm* *G*
 The earth is Yours, and sing - ing: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord." The earth is Yours,

VERSE 2

36 *N.C.* *D* *D/A* *F#m7* *Bm*
 the earth is Yours. 2. Your voice, it thun - ders, the ground is shak - ing; The might -

44 *G* *A/G* *G/A* *D* *F#m7*
 y moun - tains now are trem - bl - ing. Cre - a - tion sees You and starts com - pos - ing;

PRE-CHORUS 2

51 *Bm* *G* *G/B* *A* *G*
 The fields and trees, they start re - joic - ing. And now it's ris - ing from the ground.

59 *A* *G/B* *A/C#* *Gm/Bb* *Gm/D* *Gm/A* *Gm*
 Now it's ris - ing from the ground. Hear us cry - ing out. Hear us cry - ing out.

CHORUS 2

D *A/C#* *Bm* *G* *D* *F#m7*
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. The earth is Yours, and sing - ing: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,

78 *Bm* *G* *D* *D/F#* *A/C#* *Bm*
 ho - ly Lord." The earth is Yours, and sing - ing: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord."

88 *G* *D*
 The earth is Yours, the earth is Yours, the earth is Yours. _

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. Molly Hunter |
| Liturgist: | Pr. Andrew Plocher |
| Assisting Minister: | Mark Paulsen |
| Reader: | Josh MacIvor-Andersen |
| Ushers: | Nancy Hamlin, |
| Communion Assistants: | Sandy Lindberg, Marina Shinkarenko, |
| Greeter: | Marina Shinkarenko, Ellen Symons |
| Songleader: | Sara Parks |
| Pianist: | Jacob Schmeltzer |
| Band Members: | Jason Parks, Tom Bronken, Darren Smith,
Ross Larson |
| Audio Technician: | Traci Zini |
| Livestream Technician: | Traci Zini |
| Projection Technician: | Kathy Godec |
| Nursery: | Maddie Dykema |
| Flower Delivery: | Jan Julian |

Acknowledgements:
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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!

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