



## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am - February 1, 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

#977 "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"

1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to

that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,

some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and

vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
breaks it - truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es

all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.  
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

## CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God,  
 the Creator of heaven and earth,  
 the Word who spoke life into being,  
 the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,**  
**but we have served our own interests**  
**at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,**  
**but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**  
**that we may do justice, love mercy,**  
**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away,  
 and new things God now declares:  
 Like a spring of water that never fails,  
 God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
 and forgives your sin in **☩** Jesus' name.  
 May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
 and bless you with the gift of peace.

**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

Lord, have mercy. Christe, e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son.

13

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

19

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

**HYMN OF PRAISE****GLORIA**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

1. We praise You, we bless you, we a - dore You, we glo - ri - fy You, we give You thanks for Your great glo - ry,

20

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, O God, al - might - y Fa - ther. 2. Lord Je - sus Christ,

24

on - ly Be - got - ton Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther. You

take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; You take a - way the sins of the world, re -

ceive our prayer, You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us. For

You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord, You a - lone are the Most High,

28

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a -

58

men, a - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and

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the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

Please  
be seat-  
ed

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu, al - le -  
lu - ia. lu, al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

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5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

Please be seated

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

#1010 "Wind and Cold Roar"

1 Co - rre el vien-to\_en es - ta gran ciu - dad, mu - chos tem - bla -  
1 Wind and cold roar through the cit - y street; some folk have no  
2 Those with - in may swell with civ - ic pride; man - y wait out -  
3 Vi - o - lence and ha - tred, near and far, ter - ror, slaugh - ter,

rán: per - dón, Se - ñor. Pa - ra u - nos hoy ha - brá ca -  
heat: for - give us, Lord. Man - y have warm homes, wool clothes to  
side: for - give us, Lord. Some have man - y chanc - es to suc -  
war: for - give us, Lord. You in - sist the hun - gry shall be

lor, pa - ra o - otros, no: per - dón, Se - ñor.  
wear; this is so un - fair: for - give us, Lord.  
ceed; oth - ers live in need: for - give us, Lord.  
fed; let us give them bread: for - give us, Lord.

*Refrain / Estribillo*

A - yú - da - nos a en - ten - der nues - tra  
Help us grasp how this is our sin; teach us,

cul - pa, oh Se - ñor. Nues - tra - a - le - grí - as son do -  
save us by your cross, for the things we crave and seek to  
lor pa - ra mu - chos hoy: per - dón, Se - ñor.  
win cost our neigh-bors loss. For - give us, 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 Saviour 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.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way, especially... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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

“Holy Company” by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

### OFFERING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we offer our gifts to you today, trusting in your promise that you are indeed the One who heals, who proclaims good news to the poor, and who brings hope to those in despair. As we give, we are reminded of your humble presence in the world and your invitation to follow you with hearts full of trust and faith. May our offerings reflect the joy we find in the assurance that, all things are made new through your love for us. We pray in your holy name. **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.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

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

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 -  
 est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_

...

God of quiet words and loud silences,  
 ... and let Your Word of life fill our hearts and our souls. **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 -  
 17 cem, do - na no - bis pa - - - cem.

#725 "When the Poor Ones"  
 #1062 "Build a Longer Table"

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

## BENEDICTION

May you be sent out, not just with a blessing, but with a mission.  
 May the Spirit empower you to see the world through Jesus's eyes—full of need and potential.  
 Go, then, to love fiercely, serve humbly, and point everyone you meet to the One who first loved us.  
 Be His reflection in a world that desperately needs Him.  
 Go in peace and serve with joy. Amen

## SENDING HYMN

"I Will Follow"

Where You go, I'll go; Where You stay, I'll stay; When You move, I'll move.

I will fol - low. Oh, oh, oh.

1. All Your ways are good, all Your ways are sure; I will trust in You a - lone.  
 2. Light in - to the world, Light in - to my life— I will live for You a - lone.

High - er than my sight, high a - bove my life; I will trust in You a - lone.  
 You're the One I seek, know - ing I will find all I need in You a - lone.

Where You go, I'll go; Where You stay, I'll stay;  
 In You a - lone.

When You move, I'll move. I will fol - low You. Whom You love, I'll love;

How You serve, I'll serve; If this life I lose, I will fol - low You,

**INTERLUDE**

Gm7 E♭2 B♭ F(4) E♭maj9

yeah. I will fol - low You, yeah. In You, there's

32 B♭ F E♭maj9 B♭ F E♭maj9

life ev - er - last - ing. In You, there's free - dom for my soul. In You, there's

36 B♭ F E♭maj9 B♭ F D.S. al Coda

joy, un - end - ing joy; And I will fol - low.

**CHORUS**

Gm7 E♭2 B♭

Where You go, I'll go; Where You stay, I'll stay; When You move, I'll move.

43 F(4) Gm7 E♭2

I will fol - low You. Whom You love, I'll love; How You serve, I'll serve;

46 B♭ F(4) Gm7 E♭2 B♭

If this life I lose, I will fol - low You, yeah. I will fol - low You, yeah.

51 F(4) Gm7 E♭2 B♭ F(4)

I will fol - low You, yeah. I will fol - low You, yeah.

**ENDING****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. Molly Hunter
Liturgist:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Jeanne Groos
Reader:	Josh MacIvor-Andersen
Ushers:	Jean Reynolds, Amy Diedrich
Communion Assistants:	Sandy Lindberg, Kerry McGinley & Karen Burkman
Greeters:	Gayle Van Osdol
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Emily Fitzpatrick
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Kathy Godec
Nursery:	Sarah Bleckiner
Flower Delivery:	Sherri Brugman

**No cash or checkbook? No problem. You can donate through Venmo or on our website at: [messiahlutheranmqt.org/give](http://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!**

**Messiah Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**  
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**venmo**

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