

**Third Sunday After
Epiphany
January 26, 2025**

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Connect with Messiah – text 'MESSIAHFP' to 84576 to sign-up

Messiah Lutheran School

4401 W. 215th St., Fairview Park, OH 44126, (440) 331-6553

Email – school@messiahfp.org

Welcome to worship! We are delighted you chose to worship here today. May you be strengthened through God's word and the promise of life in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The mission statement of Messiah Church is: *Drawing in to Christ, Building up in Christ, Sending out for Christ.*

Our aim is to love each other as Christ has first loved us all.

Concerning the sacrament of Holy Communion

- "In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery."¹
- "Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the church to those who are baptized."² We welcome to the Lord's table all who commune in other Christian faiths.³
- Gluten-free hosts are available for those who need them; ask the pastor as you approach.
- Those not communing, are encouraged to come forward for a blessing, for all are loved by God.
- If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know you would like to receive communion at your seat.

¹ The Use of the Means of Grace (ELCA), Part III, Principal 33

² Ibid, Part III, Principal 37

³ Ibid, Part III, Principal 49

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

*You are invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type.*

Prelude: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Ross Anderson

----- Gathering -----

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
Our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In ✠ Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

Hymn: "Arise, Your Light Has Come!"

ELW 314

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.

Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

----- **Word** -----

First Reading

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

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19



Choir/Cantor sings Refrain; Assembly repeats & sings bold print.

¹ The heavens declare the glo-ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

² **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to
the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

Refrain

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the
simple.

⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and re-joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the
eyes.**

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much
fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

Refrain

¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping
them there is great reward.

¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them
not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and
innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable ¹ in your sight, O LORD, my strength and ¹ my redeemer.**
Refrain

Second Reading

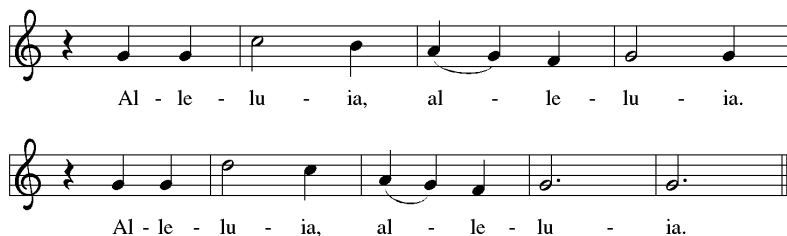
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able



Choir/Cantor: The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news¹ to the poor,*

and to proclaim release¹ to the captives. **All repeat Alleluia.**

Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

Silence for reflection.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

ELW 843

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Each portion of the prayers ends with:

A: Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace

You may be seated.

Offering is received

Electronic offerings may be made via:

text to 855-913-1744, or scan



(8:30) Choir Once He Came in Blessing" J. Horn, arr. M. Sedio

(11:00) Choir: "Verset"

George Blake

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory: "Born, Reborn"

ACS 956

Refrain



Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!

Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!

Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for-ev - er - more!

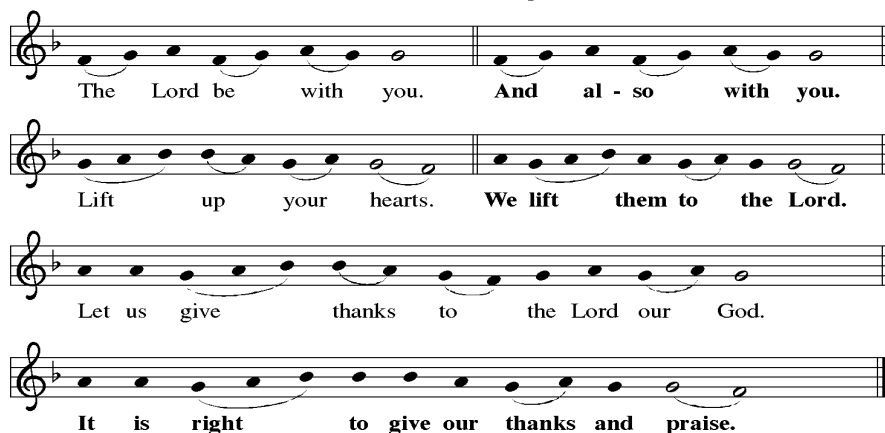
1 Drown us. Drown us. Raise us. Raise us.
2 Name us. Name us. Heal us. Heal us.

Refrain

Mark us. Mark us. Claim us! Claim us!
Wash us. Wash us. Seal us! Seal us!

A: Let us pray. 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.

----- Holy Communion -----




The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



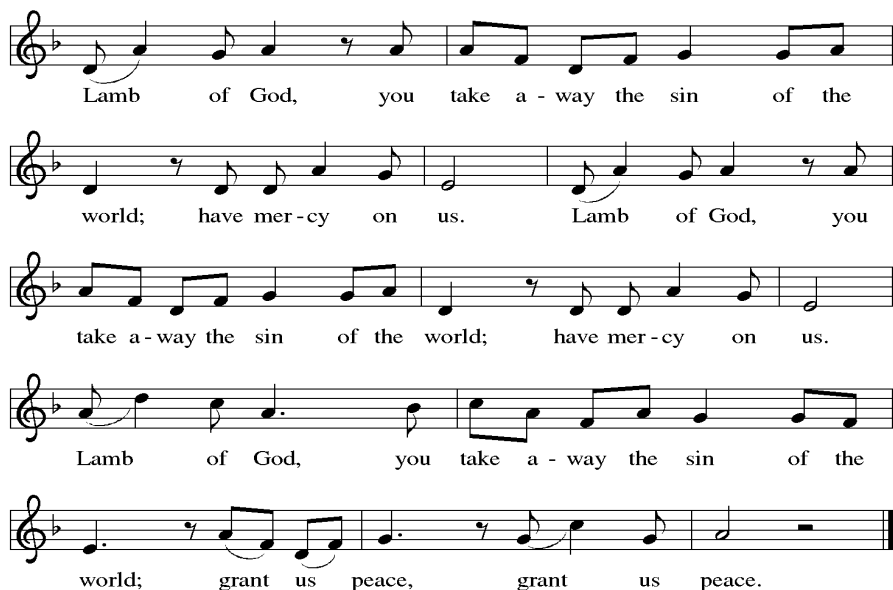
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed...Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
**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.**

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.
Thanks be to God! Amen!

Please be seated.



Distribution Hymns:

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

ELW 710

“One Bread, One Body”

ELW 496

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

A: Let us pray. Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

-----**Sending**-----

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Hymn: “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

ELW 551

A: Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: “A Song of Rejoicing”

John M. Rasley

Altar Flowers

In Loving Memory of John McDonald given by Diane McDonald.

Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

Assisting Minister – Needed (8:30) Needed (11:00)

Communion Assistant – James Quayle (8:30) Hayden Wolf (11:00)

Deacons – Amy & Mark Hunger (8:30) (11:00) Terrie Leske

Acolyte – Needed (8:30) Hayden Wolfe (11:00)

Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministry – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Altar Guild – Maria Geier, Elenor Davis

Children's Church – Allie Polenz, Kristen Jolicoeur

Flautist: Bethany Henderson

Prayers of the Congregation

For people the world over who are living in the midst of war and its tumult.
That all may strive for peace and reconciliation. That all may ask; What
shall I do, Lord?

For peace, comfort and assurance to those who are suffering loss in the
California wildfires. For safety of those working to protect homes,
businesses and the environment. And for restoration of habit for all
animals.

For those lifted up by worshippers last week at all of our on-line and in-
person services: Rita, Robert, Scott G., Nancy, Linda, Marc, Joyce, Jill,
Richard, Bob and Delores, Mike and Marilyn, Marilyn, Myra, Chris, Brian,
Jim, Paul, Jill, Marion, George, Rita, David, Julia, Simon, Brody, Kate,
Mason, Heather, Alex, Dory family, Eckert family, Orzech family, Charlie,
Cherry, a Laundry Love friend who lost her son in an accident, Mike and
Cheryl, Bill and Jane.

Those for whom we quietly pray; those who struggle emotionally and
financially, those with family discord, those whose jobs are at risk or
unfulfilling, those who are afraid or worried, those with health concerns,
and those we have not yet reached with the love of Christ.

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