

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE

“This is my Son,
the Beloved, with whom
I am well pleased.”



Matthew 3:17, NRSV

☩ Holy Communion ☩

Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026



In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

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

Kneel

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,
C: **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.

P: 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 \dagger Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

Stand

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

GATHERING HYMN**God Whose Almighty Word.....LBW 400**

1 God, whose al - mighty word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Lord, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing.
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might! Bound-less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray,
in - ly blind: oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light!
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide,

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

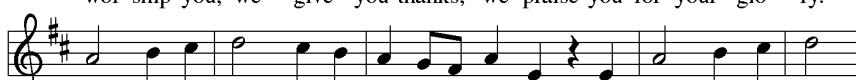
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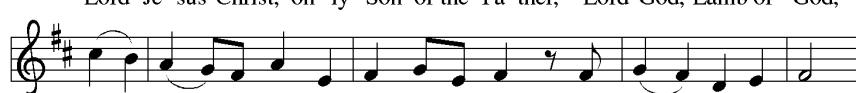
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



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,



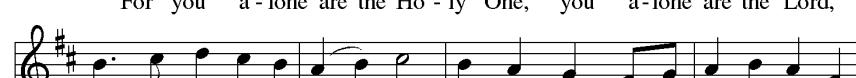
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



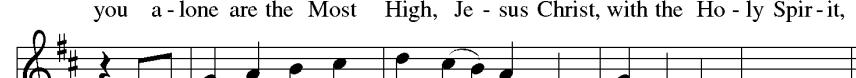
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD**FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9**

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

A: A Reading from Isaiah:

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,

nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

The cantor sings the refrain: the congregation repeats it.

The voice of the LORD is up - on the wa - ters.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo - ry and strength.

**2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**4 The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. R**

5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**8 The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R**

9 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

11 O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. R

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

A: A Reading from Acts:

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

A: The word of the Lord.**C: Thanks be to God.**

Stand

The Gospel is carried into the midst of the people as a reminder that Christ is present among us. Please face the processional cross.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

CANTOR: A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, * with whom I ! am well pleased.

C: Repeat the Alleluias**GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17**

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON.....Pastor Amme

Stand

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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 Pilot,
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 will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTI, IHR CHRISTEN, Niklaus Herman, 1480-1561

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: 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.

After each petition:

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: 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.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. **P:** Peace be with you.

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

ANTHEM

Simeon's Blessing Pepper Choplin

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER**A:** Let us pray:**C:** God of majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard
 what you have prepared for those who love you,
 yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
 Use what we have gathered
 to feed us with the reign of God come near,
 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

heav'n 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



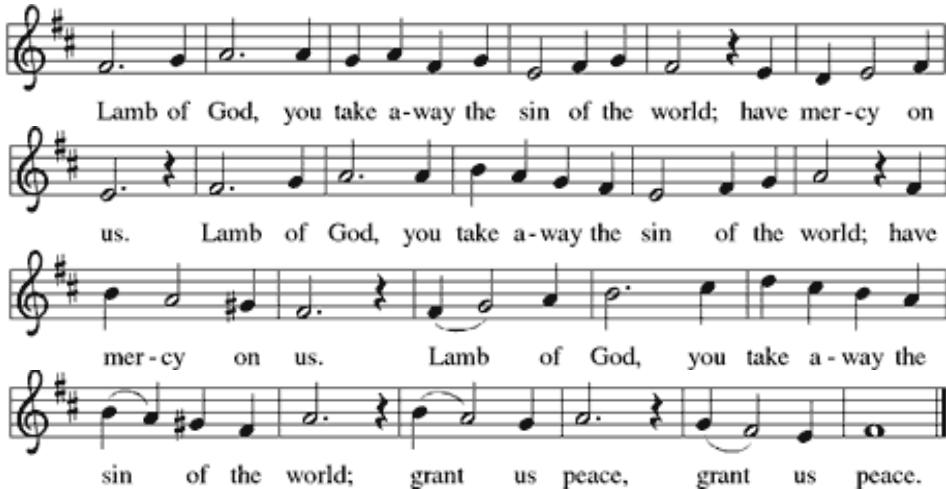
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 Come to the table; taste and see.

C: Thanks be to 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; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The communicant may say: Amen**

COMMUNION HYMN*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling;
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scand - ed dove.

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

Stand

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

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
+ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

SENDING HYMN

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*LBW 90

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint-ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - them be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - them be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 an - them be to thee ad-dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702, adapt.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee
Lay Assistant: Susan Bryan; **Communion Assistant:** Candy Watkins
Acolyte/Crucifer: Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter; **Greeters/Comm. Presenters:** Paul and Georgie Ulrich
Cantor: Candy Watkins; **Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and celebrating the Baptism of our Lord.

The Bud Vase is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jamie Wither on the anniversary of his birthday, January 12, by his wife and son, Kathy and Sean Wither, his daughter and son-in-law, Vanessa and Brett Hollfelder and grandchildren, Ali Rudinski, Gordie Emick, and Jackson Summers.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in honor of Ethel Emenheiser's 98th birthday on Jan. 9th, by her daughter and son in law Susan and John Bryan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, January 19th. Please let the office know if you are not available next Sunday. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive Communion please notify the church office at 570-326-9171.

Bible Study and Fellowship will begin on January 15 at 6:30. *All are Welcome!*

Looking for something to do on these cold winter days. Why not do a puzzle or two. The next few Sunday's there will be quality used puzzles in the Narthex offered for donations to help offset major expenses for the church.

SEEKING: Individuals willing to paint our Jensen lounge. Please notify Pam if you are able to join in this fellowship. The date will be established as we go forth.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING
JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Filled with Expectation

At the beginning of the Epiphany season, we encounter John the baptizer, serving people who are filled with expectation. Curiosity is the birthplace of expectation. Many people were curious about whether John might be the expected messiah. They were hopeful that the dreams of their people were about to be fulfilled by this strange and solitary prophet.

Sometimes we are exuberant when our expectations are fulfilled. We know this feeling when a new baby is born, a family member graduates from college or attains a new job, or a summer vacation is around the corner. Other times, we are devastated by unfulfilled expectations—when a loved one dies in hospice, a pink slip is given at work, or a house is foreclosed.

Expectation can lead to great happiness or to depression. John's followers' expectations were correct but misplaced. John redirected their hopes to Jesus, who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

In what ways can we joyfully expect God's good work in our own lives? Have we put our hope in people or things guaranteed to disappoint us? How might life be different if we put all our hope for the future in the good plan of God?

At Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened and a dove descended. Then God spoke these life-changing and transformative words: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).

When we were baptized, God spoke words like these over us as well. As creations made in God's own image, we are innately beloved and pleasing to God. May this truth change how we navigate through the world and fill us with joyful expectation for God's good plan to come.

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