

**MESSIAH**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MADISON, ALABAMA  
*God's People. Reaching Out*

# January 29, 2023

*The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*



*Good Morning and Welcome!*

Guests, we are glad you are here.  
Please fill out the yellow "Connection Card" in the pew and place in the offering.  
Sound Assistance and staffed nursery available.

**[Online Guest Form](#)**

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758 | (256)721-0041 | [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**  
*Bread of Life from With One Voice*  
*\* Please stand as you are able*

THE PRELUDE: “The Beatitudes” (Malotte)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

\*HYMN: "Gather Us In"

ELW #532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

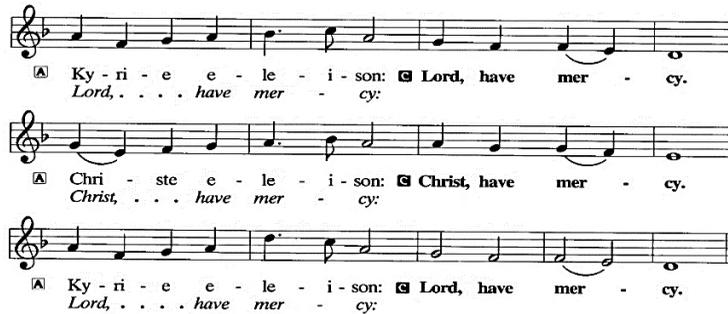


we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

**\*THE 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.

**\*THE KYRIE**



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☒ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ☒ Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☒ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**\*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**\*THE HYMN OF PRAISE**



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Ⓘ 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.

☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Ⓙ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

(song continues next page ➡)

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.  
[C] Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
[I] For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
[II] 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.  
[C] Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,  
and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

<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 controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with 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?

## THE PSALM

*Psalm 15*

<sup>1</sup> Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
**Who may abide upon your holy hill?**

<sup>2</sup> Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
**Who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
**they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.**

<sup>4</sup> In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.  
**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain,  
 nor do they take bribes against the innocent  
**Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>For 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 scribe? 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 our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand 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 reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life 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.’

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Sarah Walker

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go”

Al - le lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

\*THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

\*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

<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>Then 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. <sup>5</sup>‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> ‘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 the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

\*HYMN: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

LBW 448

F Dm Bb F

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; His

Dm F Am F

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re-lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 Word my hope se- cures; He will my shield and

Bb F Dm F C7 F

now am found; Was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.

## \*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

## \*THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## \*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

## THE OFFERING

Piano Solo (8:30): Improvisation on "O Savior, Let Me Walk with Thee"

Choir Anthem (11:00): "If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments" (Tallis)

## \*THE OFFERTORY: "Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord"

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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a square symbol. The music is a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
Merciful God,

**We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING and THE PREFACE**

The Lord be with you.  
And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

**\*THE SANCTUS: "Holy, Holy, Holy"**

The musical score is written on six staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The text is: "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. 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." The final note of the sixth staff is a whole note with a fermata, indicating a sustained ending.

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.  
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.

\*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

\*THE 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

THE AGNUS DEI

☐ 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.

THE DISTRIBUTION

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, The fount of life, the  
 2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; You plead with all to  
 3 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, And long to feast up -  
 4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, Wher - e'er our chang - ing

light of all: From ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
 call on you; To those who seek you, you are  
 on you still; We drink of you, the foun - tain -  
 lot is cast; Glad, when your smile on us you

parts We turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
 good; To those who find you, life is new.  
 head; Our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
 turn, Blest, when by faith we hold you fast.

5 O Jesus, ever with us stay!  
 Make all our moments fair and bright!  
 Oh, chase the night of sin away!  
 Shed o'er the world your holy light.

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun-tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

## \*POST COMMUNION CATICLE: "Thankful Hearts"

☐ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,  
 and lead us forth in joy with shouts  
 of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

## \*THE BLESSING and THE DISMISSAL

## THE POSTLUDE: "St. Anthony's Chorale - We Thy People Praise Thee" (Haydn)

## WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by Ellie Nelson and the Flowers Family in memory of Jim Nelson.

THANK YOU to Pastor Keith Cook for preaching and leading worship today and Randall Fields for accompanying.

A NURSERY, staffed by Katrina Strand, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

ALL ARE INVITED to enjoy coffee, tea, and fellowship after worship in the Parrish Hall.

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING TO CALL A PASTOR is today, January 29 at 9:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All confirmed members of MLC should attend in person if possible, or by Zoom if necessary. In the event the meeting's business cannot be concluded prior to 10:55, a recess will be called and the meeting will resume after the 11:00 a.m. service.

SCOUT SUNDAY with scouts from Troop 404 and Troop 350 will be next Sunday. Troop 404 is the girls troop that meets at our church on Monday nights.

THROUGH THIS TRANSITION Pulpit Supply has been secured through the end of February. Until our next pastor arrives, Pastor Diana Bottin will provide pastoral care for urgent matters that may arise. Please contact Claire or the Church Office if you need Pastoral Care.

KIT MINISTRY ITEM - Dark Towels (52 x 27) FOOD PANTRY (see note)

HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM's FOOD PANTRY seeks food donations for January and February. Shopping lists can be picked up at the Mission Control area of the Narthex. You can return the items to MLC or contact HAP directly for larger pickups. POC Claire Strand

COORDINATORS ARE NEEDED for Coffee Makers & Wednesday Night Dinners in 2023.

CHANCEL FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS for Sundays in 2023 are available. The cost to sponsor Sunday Flowers is \$30 per household. Up to two households can sponsor a single household. Please see the sign up board in the Narthex.

<u>Director of Outreach Ministries</u>	Claire Strand	<u>Acolytes</u>	Olivia Sullivan (8:30)
<u>Communication &amp; Tech Director</u>	Meredith Kilby		Ryan Fedrick (11:00)
<u>Office Managers</u>	Bobby Huwaldt	<u>Greeters</u>	Gary & Linda Heideman (8:30)
	Meredith Kilby		Dagmar Miller (11:00)
<u>Choir Director &amp; Accompanist</u>	Randall Fields	<u>Ushers</u>	Zach Dehm, Peter Woods (8:30)
<u>Nursery Attendant</u>	Katrina Strand		Tom & Paulette McNamara (11:00)
		<u>Lectors</u>	Joe Stuart (8:30)
			Andrew King (11:00)
		<u>Altar Guild</u>	Chris Berry (8:30)
			Debbie Neely (11:00)
		<u>Stream Team</u>	Glen Long, Paul Zutter (11:00)
		<u>Flower Guild</u>	Jean Stuart

## **\*\*CHURCH CALENDAR\*\***

### **Sunday, January 29**

- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for Youth
- 9:45 a.m. - Special Congregation Meeting of Call to Pastor
- 4:00 p.m. - 1<sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation
- 5:00 p.m. - Jr/Sr Youth

### **Tuesday, January 31**

- 9:00 a.m. - Comforters

### **Wednesday, February 1**

- 5:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. - Cherub Choir
- 6:00 p.m. - Seraph Choir
- 6:30 p.m. - Notabella
- 7:30 p.m. - Messiah Choir

### **Thursday, February 2**

- 9:00 a.m. - Bridge Club
- 7:00 p.m. - Kit Ministries

### **Sunday, February 5**

- 8:30 a.m. - Service of Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/the Lord's Supper
- 9:45 a.m. - Town Hall Meeting/Parsonage Discussions
- 11:00 a.m. - \*Service of Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/the Lord's Supper
- 4:00 p.m. - 1<sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation
- 5:00 p.m. - Jr/Sr Youth - Game Night

*\*These services are live streamed on [mlutheran.org](http://mlutheran.org)*

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**February 2** - AARP Tax Services resume in Parish Hall (M & Th. through April 13)

**February 12** - Special Congregation Meeting (Parsonage)

**February 22** - Ash Wednesday Services at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

**April 2** - Palm Sunday

**April 9** - Easter Sunday

### **Attendance:**

January 15 Online: - 72

January 22: 8:30 a.m. - 78, 11:00 a.m. - 72

### **Offerings Counted January 22, 2023**

Church Ministries  
Current Mortgages  
Wednesday Night Dinners  
Flowers

House of Harvest  
Initial Offering  
Facility Usage  
Messiah Mugs

### **ONLINE GIVING**

Scan the QR code to give to MLC today.

