



5th Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am - February 8, 2026

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

#532 "Gather Us In"

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!

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,

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text.

You are invited to read the bold portions.



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.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

11

Ky - ri - e, e - - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - - cy. Chri - ste, 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,

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,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Please
be seat-
ed

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.

¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be
seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

#715 “Christ, Be Our Light”

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing, hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

We believe in God, who creates and sustains life, and whose love does not depend on our faithfulness.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who lived among us, confronted injustice, suffered death, and was raised to new life for all.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who unsettles the comfortable, strengthens the weary, and keeps the church from giving up.

We believe the church is called to serve the neighbor, and that life, even now, is being renewed.

Trusting this grace, we offer ourselves to God and to the world God loves. 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.

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving, especially... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

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

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

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 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 seat-
ed.

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.

#677 "This Little Light of Mine"

#1000 "God's Work, Our Hands"

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

BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **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.
13
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..



In You a - lone.



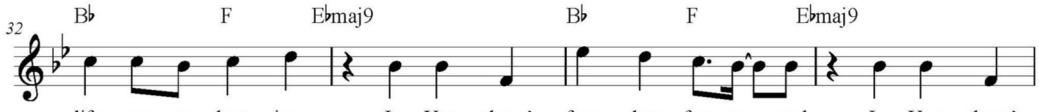
When You move, I'll move. I will fol - low You. Whom You love, I'll love;



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

INTERLUDE

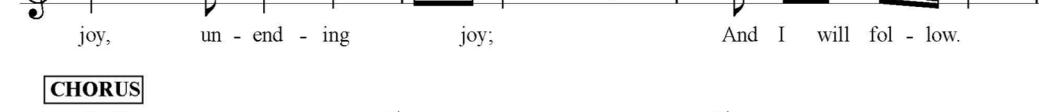
yeah. I will fol - low You, yeah.

BRIDGE

In You, there's



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



joy, un - end - ing joy;

And I will fol - low.

CHORUS

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



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

ENDING

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



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

SENDING

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Preacher:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Molly Luty
Reader:	Jeanne Groos
Ushers:	Fred & Jeanne Groos
Communion Assistants:	Gayle Mack, Marina Shinkarenko, Gayle Van Osdol, Emma Ziegler
Greeters:	William Kaurala, Ellen Symons
Songleader:	Dan Kilpela & Gwen Storm
Pianist:	Emily Fitzpatrick
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Kathy Godec
Nursery:	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	Lois Raikko

Acknowledgements:

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