

*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*February 15, 2026  
Transfiguration of Our Lord*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ  
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: [MessiahMech@gmail.com](mailto:MessiahMech@gmail.com); Website: [MessiahMech.com](http://MessiahMech.com)

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 15, 2026

*Hearing Assistance Receivers are available upon request.*

*\* Please stand as you are able \**

*Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today. You are invited to make Messiah your church home.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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

*A brief silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: we confess that we are captive 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

**ELW 834**



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - mighty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.

Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

**\*THE 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.*



KYRIE

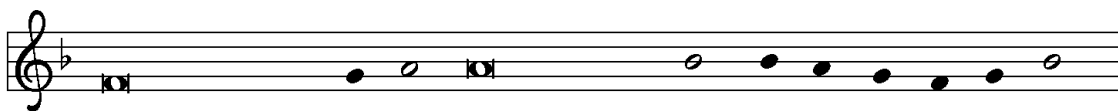
(ELW p. 165)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



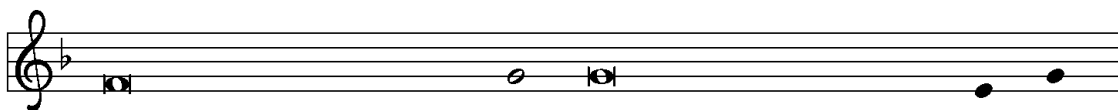
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



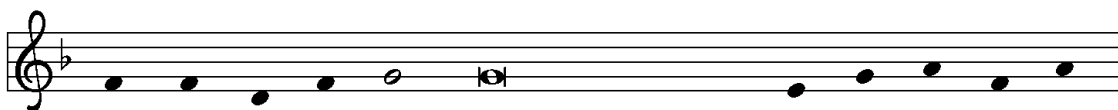
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



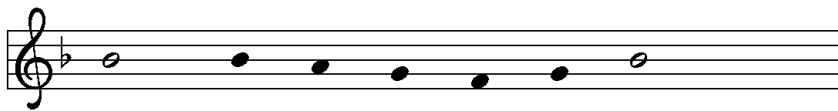
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



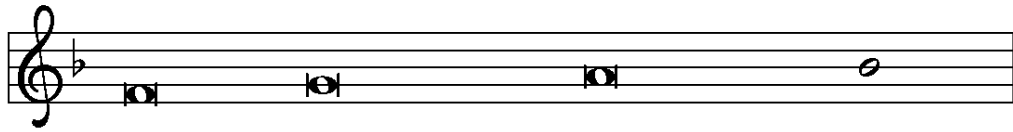
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**(ELW p.167)**

*Refrain*



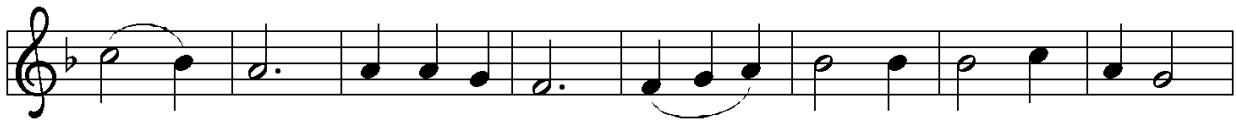
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



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



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



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



2 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.


*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



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

3 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.

*Final refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

**C: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

Lector

*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the Lord" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.  
<sup>16</sup>The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

**Lector**

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

A reading from 2 Peter.

<sup>16</sup>We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.


<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**(ELW p. 171)**



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



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

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9**

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light.

<sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

<sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON  
SERMON**

**Pastor Jim Berg**





1 Daz - zling pres - ence on the moun - tain: hu - man eye had  
 2 From this mount of mys - tic splen - dor to the cross Christ  
 3 From the heights of new cre - a - tion, Christ be - holds his  
 4 Let our praise ring from each moun - tain, in - to deep - est



nev - er seen such a won - der, such re - splen - dence,  
 press - es on; here no Mo - ses nor E - li - jah,  
 world, re - deemed; as with Pe - ter and com - pan - ions,  
 val - leys pour, where, with lives of grate - ful ser - vice,



heav'n and earth in cloud con - vene.  
 on - ly thieves Christ's wings a - dorn.  
 brings us now to sights un - seen.  
 we a - dore Christ ev - er - more.



“This is my Son, the be - lov - ed,” thun - d’rous voice from  
 “Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,” was one’s pen - i -  
 Jus - tice, mer - cy, and com - pas - sion: these the booths he  
 To the Son, God’s own be - lov - ed, and the Spir - it



cloud ex - claimed. Word made flesh to heal cre - a - tion,  
 ten - tial sigh. With trans - fig - ur - ing as - sur - ance,  
 bids us build, that the earth he loves may flour - ish  
 end - less - ly, may the church’s praise be lift - ed



to dis - ci - ples God pro - claimed.  
 Christ re - joins his fer - vent cry.  
 as each life with grace is filled.  
 to the bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

Text: Paul E. Hoffman, b. 1956  
 Music: WAVERLY, Karen E. Black, b. 1960  
 Text and music © 2015 Augsburg Fortress

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## **\*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**

**A:** 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.

**A:** Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God,

**C: *receive our prayer.***

**A:** Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God,

**C: *receive our prayer.***

**A:** Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God,

**C: *receive our prayer.***

**A:** Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C: *receive our prayer.***

**A:** Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy. Merciful God,

**C: *receive our prayer.***

A: Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of all relationships, bless this branch of the body of Christ that is Messiah Lutheran Church. Strengthen all its relationships and weave your love and grace into each family and household. We especially pray this week for the Laveck, Mahovtas, and Martin families. Make us your people. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: 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.**

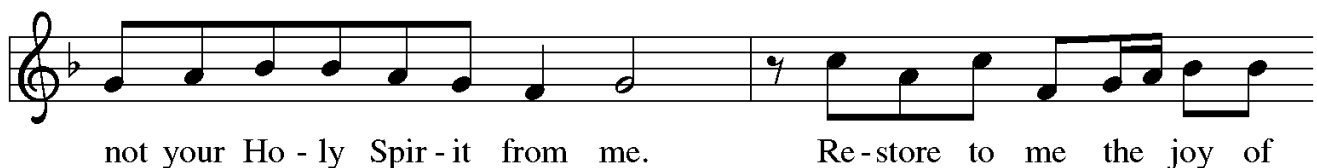
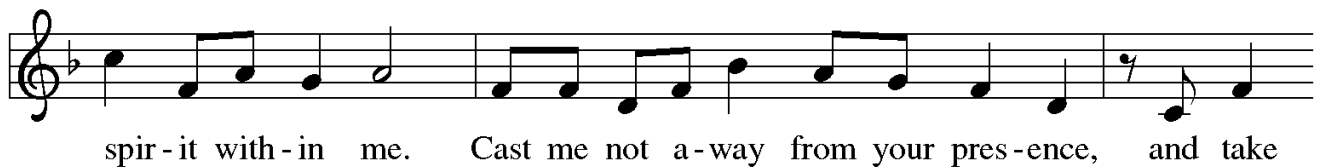
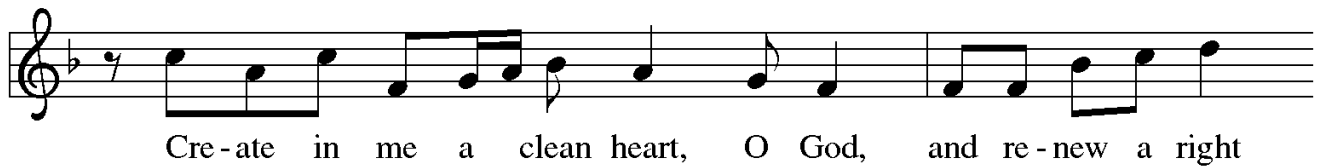
**\*PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING** – *You may place an "I give online" card in the plate as a physical offering*

**\*OFFERING SONG – Create in Me a Clean Heart**



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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**\*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.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(ELW p. 152)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**\*PREFACE**

P: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

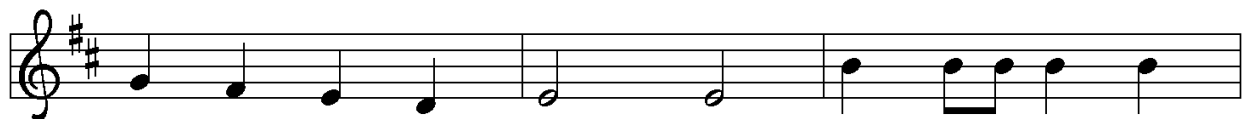
(ELW p. 173)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, 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.

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: *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: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

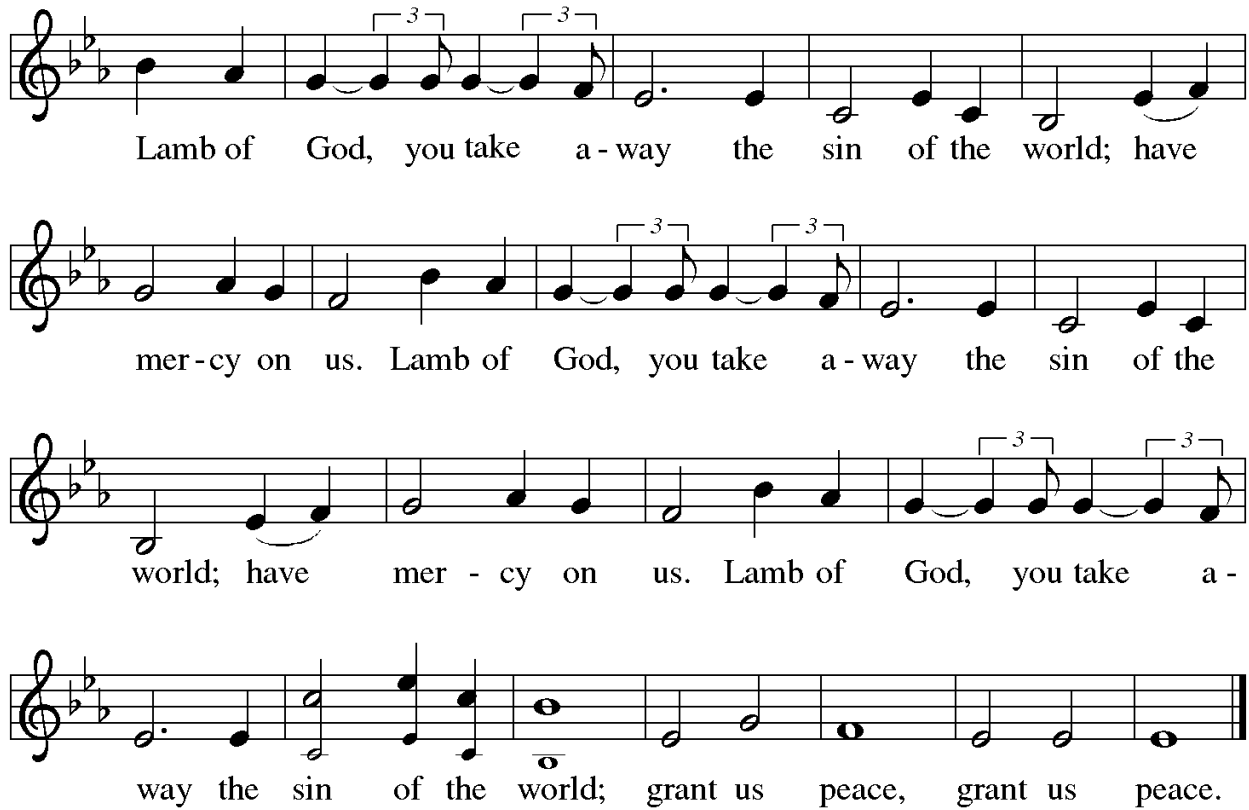
**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION**



**COMMUNION SONG – Lamb of God**

(ELW p. 174)



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.

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen**



**\*SONG AFTER COMMUNION – Praise to You, O God of Mercy**

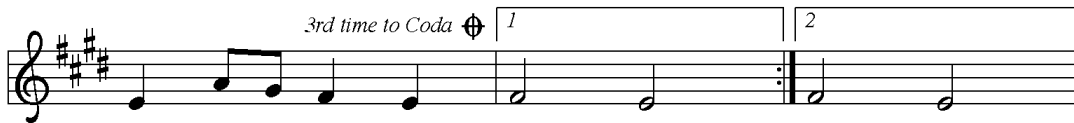
**ELW 208**



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -  
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -  
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:  
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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**

**\*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**

**\*SENDING SONG – We Are Marching in the Light**

**ELW 866**



*Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -*  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



*nyen' kwen - khos'.* *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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**\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



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**SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – February 15, 2026**

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Gladys Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder
- Lector: Anita Philp
- Acolyte: Abby Schroeder
- Greeter: Nancy Berg
- Ushers: Daren & Max Williams
- Altar Guild: Becky Collie & Linda Mahovtas
- Counters: Johnnie & Becky Collie
- Live Streamer: Valerie Williams

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 Altar Flowers given by Debbie Walker  
 In remembrance of Doug Walker
 

\*\*\*\*\*

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH**

February 13-15	Winter Celebration (Rescheduled)	All Day
February 15	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
February 17	Banner Team	1:00 PM
	AA	5:30 PM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
	AA Business Meeting	7:00 PM
February 18	PAL	9:00 AM
	Ash Wednesday Service (w/All Souls)	12:15 PM
	Ash Wednesday Service (w/All Souls)	6:30 PM
February 19	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
February 22	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Messiah Church Council Tours MCEF	12:00 PM
February 24	Old Ivy Garden Club	9:15 AM
	AA	5:30 PM
	AA Business Meeting	7:00 PM
February 18	Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Lenten Soup Supper and Service	6:30 PM
February 19	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM

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# *Announcements*

## **PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week but aims to be in on Tuesday and Wednesday. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

## **THANKS, PASTOR JIM!**

Many thanks to Pastor Jim Berg for once again leading us in worship and sharing the Word with us! We appreciate you "switching hats" like this!

## **WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Numbers For the 6th Sunday of 2026:

- Average Contributions to current were \$2,533.00
- Contributions for current February 8th were \$3,876.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$15,198.00
- For comparison, current YTD 2025 was \$30,378.00
- Designated giving for the 6th Sunday was \$335.00

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

You are invited and encouraged to begin the season of Lent with the somber reminder: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We humble ourselves and embark on a season of intentional prayer, devotion, study, and service. Once again we'll offer joint services with All Souls Episcopal Church: a 12:15 pm service with Communion and imposition of ashes (but no music) and a 6:30 pm service with Communion and imposition of ashes (with music). God's blessings be upon us in this holy time.

## **ALL THINGS LENT**

With the season of Lent comes many opportunities for worship, study, prayer, and more.

- Lenten devotions from Luther Seminary are available in the narthex.
- Lenten soup suppers and midweek worship services will begin on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Look for signup sheets for soup suppers. The meal begins at 6:30 pm; we'll have a time for conversation and discussion around the themes of gratitude and abundance, beginning at around 7:00 pm; and we'll worship together using Holden Evening Prayer, concluding at around 8:00 pm.
- Our Sunday morning adult class during Christian Formation will be called "Sackcloth Talk." Please check out the announcement below for more information.
- Holy Week dates: Palm/Passion Sunday is March 29<sup>th</sup>; Maundy Thursday is April 2<sup>nd</sup>; Good Friday is April 3<sup>rd</sup>; Easter Sunday is April 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **SACKCLOTH TALK**

We know that the members of Messiah value the sense of family and community we have here. We also know how much we care about serving our neighbors. After our conversation last fall about writing letters to representatives, it's clear that we are hesitant to risk our beloved community by talking about topics where we disagree in terms of how to best serve our neighbors.

Last year a new ELCA Social Statement was released called "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All." This statement came out after months of deliberation, public comment, and prayer. It is a very careful and deliberate consideration of how we live our faith in the civic sphere. This might not be the most comfortable conversation – thus the biblical idea of repenting in "sackcloth" – but sometimes we accept discomfort to talk about meaningful things, even if it's hard, because we care about each other enough to do so. Please join these conversations as we read through this statement together as a part of our Lenten discipline to examine ourselves and re-turn to God for guidance.

## **MCEF NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SENIORS IN MECHANICSVILLE**

MCEF needs volunteers to help our seniors and disabled persons by providing the rides they need to live independently. We also need volunteer ride coordinators to help them schedule rides for medical appointments, to their grocery store or to do personal business. If you can share a few hours each month and have a desire to help in our ministry to seniors please contact MCEF Senior Rides at (804) 357-9360, or by email at: [Office@4mcef.com](mailto:Office@4mcef.com)

## **JANUARY AT MCEF**

The month of January started off slower than usual with a week of closings. Normally when Hanover schools are closed the OSS is closed. That was ok during the storm but with the 2nd week of school closings and roadways somewhat better, it was decided to open for those in need. There were enough volunteers who could staff the OSS, and the parking lot and sidewalk were clear. The OSS served 121 families with 173 well-filled bags of food, 10 infants and children received clothing, plus 21 women and 22 men. 34 people were assisted with linens and 42 received socks and underwear. 96 rides were given for seniors to go to doctor's offices and essential services. 13 households received financial assistance.

Current needs: ladies' socks, men's jeans size 32 or 34 waist, personal care items: deodorant and razors, ramen noodles and canned beets.

Thank you for your donations to assist those in need.

## **Y.O.U.T.H. IN ACTION (YOUTHFUL OUTREACH TO UPLIFT AND THRIVE IN HOLINESS)**

The youth group will hold its 3rd annual Craft Fair and Yard Sale on **March 7 from 8am- 2pm**. Wondering how you can help?

- Option 1: Donate household items for the youth yard sale spot! Items can be brought to church on Sunday, March 1st or Friday evening, March 6th from 5pm-7pm. If you need assistance getting items to the church, let a youth leader know.
- Option 2: Donate to our bake sale! The youth will be selling baked goods at the concession stand along with lunch items and we would appreciate your contribution.
- Option 3: Pray this event brings people in the community together and that they may see the glory of God in our good works and hospitality.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Women's Bible Study groups meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month . This month we will meet on February 25th. One group meets at 10:00 a.m. and one group meets at 6:30 p.m. Both groups meet in the church fellowship hall. We are currently reading A Lineage of Grace by Francine Rivers. On the 25th we will be reading the opening and chapter 1 and 2 about Ruth. The women we are reading about are all brave women in the Bible who changed eternity by being in the lineage of Jesus. Please join us! If you need a ride to the meetings please call Marilyn Gunn, Donna Combs, or Nancy Berg.

## **BANNER TEAM**

The Banner Team will be meeting on Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. We are very close to finishing the first part of the banner set we are currently working on. Hopefully we will be dedicating it this month. The other two parts should follow shortly after. If you are interested in helping out you are welcome to join us. Questions? Talk to Nancy Berg.





# Messiah Lutheran Church

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**The Rev. Ryan Radtke, Pastor**

## 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	TBD
Vice President	TBD
Secretary	Cory Gooch
Treasurer	Emily Reagan
Financial Secretary	Dona Polesky
Parish Nurse	Sue Gilnett, RN

## 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES/TEAM LEADERS

MINISTRY	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES	TEAM LEADER
Christian Formation	Anita Philp	Anita Philp
Evangelism/Digital Team	Cheryl Griffis	Cheryl Griffis
Fellowship	Cathryn O'Brien	Becky Collie
Property	Daren Williams	
Social Ministry	Rosalee Duke	Stephanie Shea
Stewardship	John Shea	
Worship	Brad Trimble	Debbie Walker

