

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran

Fourth Sunday in Epiphany



Do you want to be right, or do you want to have a relationship? When a teenager spends \$200 on the world's coolest sunglasses is it the time to comment on the foolishness of the purchase or to simply smile and nod? May the people of Corinth eat meat sacrificed to idols? Paul seems to suggest that it does not really matter where the meat comes from. What matters is how the people you care about feel about that meat. Will it challenge their faith? Will it become a stumbling block to the weak? Do you want to be right, or do you want to have a relationship?

This theme continues in the gospel. The laws prohibiting work on the sabbath carry deep meaning for many people of faith, and yet on this sabbath Jesus rebukes an unclean spirit and frees a man. Jesus chooses to care for the man and to free him, rather than worry over the details of the law. In this instance Jesus is not condemned for his choice, as he will be later. But his fame begins to spread throughout the region. That too will later prove dangerous, yet it is also a sign of the evangelical nature of the faith. This is not a private faith, held closely and kept hidden. Rather it is an outgoing faith spread from person to person throughout the world.

To this day people continue to place barriers and restrictions on the faith. Congregations do this in intentional ways, for example, by setting a minimum age for receiving holy communion. The benefits of these restrictions can be debated, but at least they are chosen intentionally. Churches also create unintentional barriers. Consider the clothes people wear to church each Sunday. Are many people wearing suits and ties? Do you see blue jeans? Do people wear shorts in the summer? What are some of the ways people might be kept from a relationship with Jesus by the barriers we create?

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Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA
502 9th Ave NE, PO Box 298, Roseau MN 56751

Phone: **218-463-1648** | Email: messiahroseau@gmail.com
Website: www.messiahroseau.net Facebook: [Messiah Lutheran Church](#)

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran

*The mission of Messiah Lutheran Church is to glorify Christ
by nurturing our faith, sharing His love, and teaching His Word.*

January 31, 2021

10:30 a.m.

We Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy God,

C: you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—

our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.

We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.

We distrust those who are not like us.

We exploit the earth and its resources

and fail to consider generations to come.

Forgive us, gracious God,

for all we have done and left undone.

Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

L: How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of ☩ Christ Jesus,

our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community

living out Christ's justice

and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: “O Day of Rest and Gladness” - ELW 521

- 1 O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness,
most beautiful, most bright:
on you the high and lowly,
through ages joined in tune,
sing, “Holy, holy, holy,”
to the great God triune.
- 2 On you, at earth’s creation,
the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation,
Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious
the Spirit sent from heav’n;
and thus on you, most glorious,
a threefold light was giv’n.

***GREETING**

- L: 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.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

- L: Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all you lands.
- C: **Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.
Give glory and honor to the Lord!**
- L: Worship the Lord, in holy attire;
tremble before him, all the earth;
- C: **Say among the nations:
The Lord is king, he governs the peoples with equity.
Give glory and honor to the Lord!**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *ELW Holy Communion Setting 10, page 205

(Tune: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee)



Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.



Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

L: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray: **Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

PSALM 111

¹ Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² **Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ **He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ **They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *ELW Holy Communion Setting 10, page 205



***GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the 1st chapter.

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

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY - “We Come to You for Healing, Lord” - ELW 617

- 1 We come to you for healing, Lord,
 of body, mind, and soul,
 and pray that by your Spirit's touch
 we may again be whole.
- 2 As once you walked through ancient streets
 and reached toward those in pain,
 come, risen Christ, among us still
 with pow'r to heal again.
- 5 We come to you, O loving Lord,
 in our distress and pain,
 in trust that through our nights and days
 your grace will heal, sustain.

SERMON

We Respond as God's People

***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.

OFFERING MOMENT: *Sharing our tithes and gifts is an outpouring of thanksgiving and praise for all that God has done for us. We give with glad hearts and joyful spirits!*

OFFERING PRAYER:

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

PRAYERS:

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *A brief silence.*

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community (*especially*), let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***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.**

***BENEDICTION**

We Are Sent to Serve

***SENDING HYMN: “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” - ELW 543**

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.
- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
- 4 “I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Week at a Glance

Sunday January 31

10:00am Sunday School
 10:30am In Person Service
 10:30am FB Live/Radio
 1:00pm Youth Praise Band Practice
 7:00pm Virtual Zoom 7th- 12th Grade YG

Monday, February 01

Quilting 1pm – 4pm

Tuesday February 02

Quilting 10:am – 4pm

Wednesday, February 03

3:30 pm: 4th-6th Grade YG
 5:30 pm: Confirmation “TO GO BOX”
 Suppers
 6:00pm: 7th, 8th & 9th Grade
 Confirmation Classes
 7:00 pm: 7th-12th Grade Moessiah
 R.O.C.K.

Sunday February 07

10:00am Sunday School
 10:30am In Person Service
 10:30am FB Live/Radio
 11:30am 4th Grade Bible Workshop/
 Fellowship Hall
 1:00pm Youth Praise Band Practice
 1:00pm Private Baptism
 7:00pm Virtual Zoom 7th- 12th Grade YG

Monday, February 08

Quilting 1pm – 4pm

Tuesday February 09

Quilting 10:00am – 4pm

Wednesday, February 10

3:30 pm: 1st-3rd Grade YG
 5:30 pm: Confirmation “TO GO BOX”
 Suppers
 6:00pm: 7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation
 Classes
 7:00 pm: 7th-12th Grade Moessiah R.O.C.K.

Staying connected

*Thank you for worshiping with us
 in person, via radio, or on Facebook Live!*

Messiah radio broadcast: Tune in on Wild 102 radio at 10:30am.

Roseauonline.com.

Today's radio broadcast is in loving memory of David W. Smith (Bob Harris), and in loving memory of friends that have passed during these difficult times. Given by David's Aunt, Janice Critchley.

FaceBook Live: Go to Messiah's Facebook page to watch livestream video of worship at 10:30am.

Breeze App: If you listen to the radio broadcast of our worship service, please Check In to today's worship via the Breeze app on your phone.

Pastor Dave's Installation: On Sunday, February 14th, the NW Minnesota Synod Bishop, Rev. Bill Tesch, will be joining us to formalize Pastor Dave's call to serve at Messiah. A service of installation for Pastor Dave will take place as a part of our 10:30 AM service. We invite you to mark your calendar and attend in-person, on Facebook Live, or via radio broadcast! Bishop Tesch will also be installing Deacon Joanne at Moe's 9:15 AM service.

Messiah Quilting: *Please join us! Mondays from 1-4pm and Tuesdays from 10am-4pm, Feb-March (we will be following Minnesota State Covid-19 guidelines).*

Giving Envelopes for 2021 & Year End 2020 Contribution Statements

All church members will find the giving envelopes have been placed in their church mailbox for pick up at the Sunday Service or at any time during office hours.

Year End Contribution Statements have been sent via email. If you did not receive yours, the statement is now in your church mailbox. Please provide the church office with your email address if you would like to receive it this way.

Thank You to All Who Continue to Support the Ministry of Messiah Through Your Gifts and Offerings. You may mail your offerings to the church, sign up for an automatic debit through your bank or give a gift through the Breeze app. We appreciate your efforts to continue the work of Messiah in these uncertain times!

**Worship on 1/24/2021 – Attendance: 63 Offering: \$3625
Weekly Direct Debit: \$59**

*Worship Servers for Sunday,
January 31:*

Reader: Dave Grafstrom

Communion: No Communion

Sound Booth: Bob/Andrew Tuttle

Counters: Dave/Sharon Grafstrom

Council Rep: Bonnie Delmore

Greeter: Bonnie Delmore

Usher: Sharon Grafstrom

*Worship Servers for Sunday,
February 07:*

Reader: Mark Wilson

Communion: No Communion

Sound Booth: Paul Grafstrom

Counters: Warren & Marsha Hagen

Council Rep: Ashley Filpula

Greeter/Usher: Ashley Filpula

Messiah Leadership:

Pastor Dave Swonger:

218-452-4639

pastordavemlc@gmail.com

Deacon Joanne Swonger:

701-955-4479

deaconjoannemlc@gmail.com

Youth Director: Jay Ostgaard:

jjostgaard@gmail.com

Council President: Karyn Santl

Office Administrator:

Elaine Wulff

messiahroseau@gmail.com

**(Office hours: Tues-Thurs,
8:30am-4:30pm) 218-463-1648**

Organist: Joyce Hulst

Custodian: Yhone Magnusson

“Lord, Hear our Prayer”:

Requests for public prayer during worship: We are revamping how we add names to the congregational prayers during worship. To be mindful of privacy concerns, we ask that the person requesting prayer sign a permission form. An assigned representative, such as a family member or one of Messiah’s prayer chain coordinators, may also sign on their behalf. This process allows us to print people’s names in the bulletin and uplift them in public prayer during worship for a period of one month. Permission forms are available on the table in the narthex.

Requests for confidential prayer via the prayer chain: The prayer chain will continue to operate just as it has in the past. You may reach out to our Prayer Chain Coordinator, Mary Olson, 463-2364. Your prayer concern will be kept confidential and will be uplifted in prayer by those who serve as intercessors on our congregation’s Prayer Chain.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask either Sara, Sharon, Deacon Joanne, or Pastor Dave.

“The Cup of our Life” for Lent: Lent is a 40-day season that encourages us to sharpen our spiritual senses and experience our Lord’s saving grace in new ways. This year our Lenten series is “The Cup of our Life.” Each week we will consider how our lives are sacred vessels shaped for daily love and service by our Lord Jesus. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, 6:30 PM services will be held at both Moe and at Messiah every week.