

**MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.*



**Baptism of Our Lord Sunday**  
**January 12, 2025**

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436  
www.messiahoaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900  
@MessiahOaklandNJ  
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

*The congregation is invited to worship in a way that is comfortable and meaningful by standing, sitting, kneeling, coloring, etc. You may join in worship by reciting the responses in bold type.*

**SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE**

**WELCOME FROM THE PASTOR**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

Song continued on next page

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### FIRST READING: A Reading from **Isaiah 43:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM: Psalm 29** will be read responsively

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

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

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

The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> 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!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

**SECOND READING: A reading from Acts 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW pg. 142



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



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

**THE GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Come to the Water of Life*

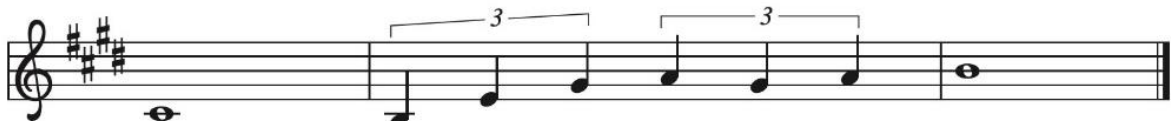
**ACS #955**



1 All who are thirst-y for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y for  
2 All who are thirst-y for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y for  
3 All who are thirst-y for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y for  
4 All who are thirst-y for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,  
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,  
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,  
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE INTERCESSION

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## OFFERING

Offering can be left in the plates at the back of the sanctuary or given online by scanning the QR code.



## OFFERTORY

### *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

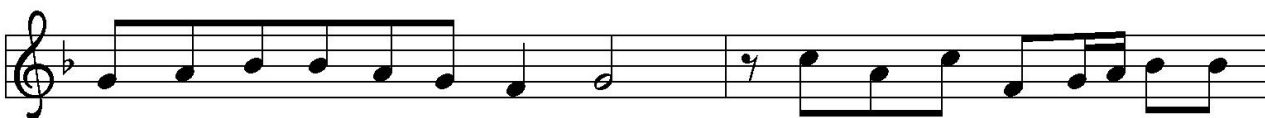
ELW #186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.**

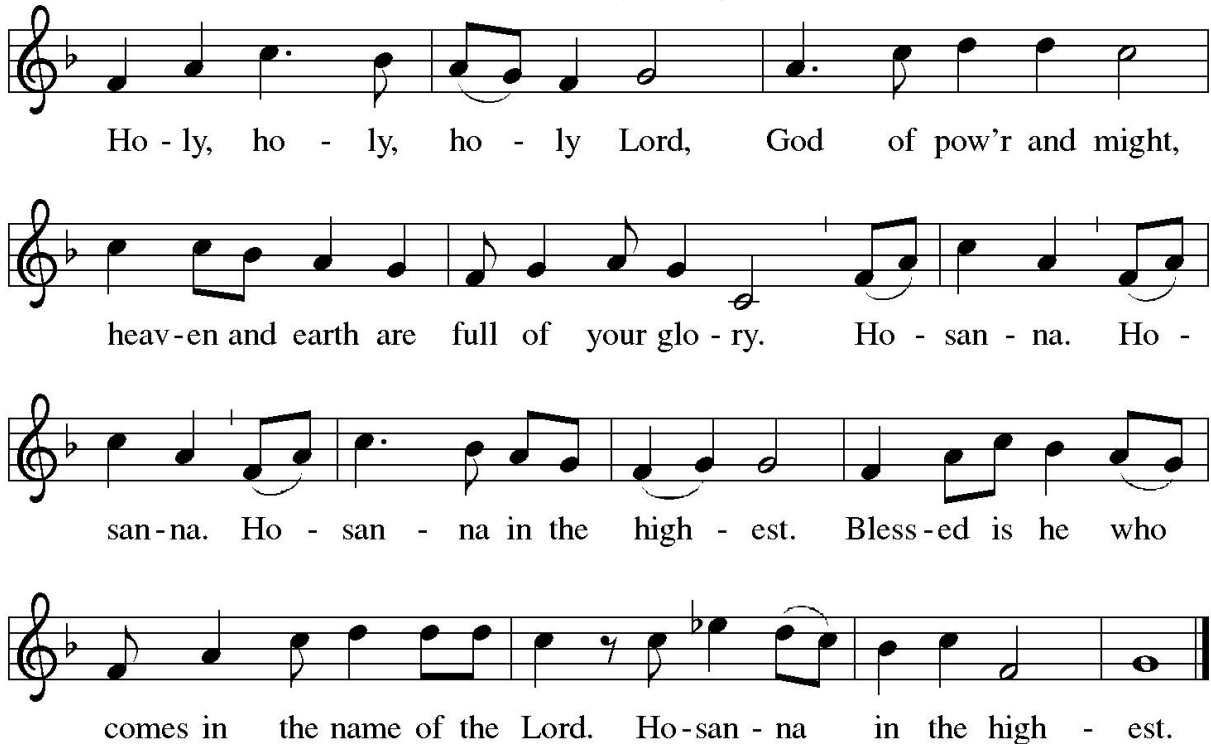


## PREFACE

### COMMUNION RESPONSE

### *Holy Holy*

ELW pg.144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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

### 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come and eat.

**Thanks be to God.**

### COMMUNION

*You can commune from your seat using the prepackaged elements of a wafer and grape juice or you can come forward to the altar to receive the elements. To commune at the altar rail, please proceed down the diagonal aisles to pick up a cup from the plates. You will be given a wafer and then offered wine (first chalice) or grape juice (second chalice). We invite you to commune in whatever way is comfortable and meaningful to you. For those communing online, please join us using whatever bread/crackers and wine/grape juice you have at home. All are welcome at God's table.*

The body and blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen**

<sup>2</sup>In the stars that grace the darkness,  
 in the blazing sun of dawn,  
 in the light of peace and wisdom, we  
 can hear your quiet song.  
 Love that fills the night with wonder,  
 love that warms the weary soul,  
 love that bursts all chains asunder,  
 set us free and make us whole.

<sup>3</sup>You who made the heaven's splendor,  
 ev'ry dancing star of night,  
 make us shine with gentle justice,  
 let us each reflect your light.  
 Mighty God of all creation,  
 gentle Christ who lights our way,  
 loving Spirit of salvation,  
 lead us on to endless day.

COMMUNION HYMN

Wade In The Water

ELW #459

*Refrain*

All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,

wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the wa - ter.

Leader

All

- 1 See that host all dressed in white,
- 2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the
- 3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
- 4 If you don't be-lieve I've been re - deemed,

wa - ter; the lead - er looks like the Is - ra - 'lite,  
 looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led,  
 the Ho - ly Ghost a - com-ing on me,  
 just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream,

All

*Refrain*

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

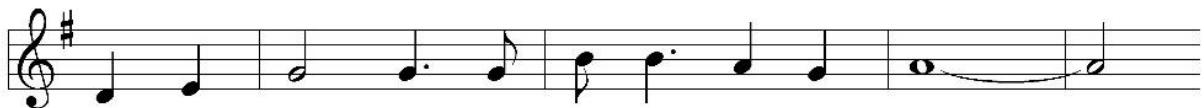
## SENDING HYMN

### *I've Got Peace Like A River*

TFF #258



1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,  
2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain,  
3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,



I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul;  
I've got joy like a foun-tain in my soul;  
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul;



I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,  
I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain,  
I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,



I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul.  
I've got joy like a foun-tain in my soul.  
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting  
THURSDAY: 12:00 am Bible Study  
7:30 pm Band practice  
SUNDAY: 9:00 am Choir practice  
10:00 am Worship

### **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NEXT SUNDAY**

Second Sunday after Epiphany Sunday, January 19, 2025  
10:00am Worship Service

### **JANUARY BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH**

Lutheran Disaster Response

### **TODAY'S MINISTERS**

**PASTOR:** Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund  
**ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Bob Luderer  
**ASSISTING MINISTER/LAY READER:** Nancy Krause  
**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Nancy Krause & Jerri Angermueller  
**VIDEO TECH:** Alex Boyce/Nick DeRoda  
**USHER:** Arnold Ludke  
**GREETER:** Marilyn Rubner  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Brigitte Albrecht & Susanne Herbst  
**FLOWER GUILD:** Brigitte Albrecht  
**COUNTERS:** Linda Axtell & Brigitte Albrecht  
**COORDINATING COUNCILOR:** Eleanore Orman  
**COFFEE HOUR:** Nancy Krause

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Messiah Singers Are Back:

Join us starting January 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am before worship to start singing again. Here are the rehearsal dates: 1/12, 1/19, 2/2, 3/2, 3/9, 3/19, 3/30. Please talk to Bob if you have questions or want to get involved.

### Leaders Needed:

The Nominating Committee is looking for leaders to serve in 2025. We have open positions on the Council, the 2025 Nominating Committee, and other committees as well. If you are interested in learning more, please talk to Pastor Courtney, Alex Boyce, Michele Weintruab, Eleanore Orman or Joan Ludke.

### Book Club: January 27<sup>th</sup> on Zoom

We are reading the *Red Tent* by Anita Diamant. Pick up a copy from church or your local library or borrow the copy from church. We will discuss the book on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm on Zoom. Talk to Valerie Nicolosi for more information.

### Annual Meeting: January 26<sup>th</sup> following worship

Please join us for the Annual Meeting following worship on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Report will be emailed out this week and hard copies will be available in the narthex next week. After the meeting, we will join together for fellowship – please sign up in the Narthex to bring a dish to share!

### Holy Huddle Tailgate: February 2<sup>nd</sup> following worship

You are invited to wear your favorite sports gear to worship and join us afterwards for a Holy Huddle Tailgate. For more information or to help out, please talk to Valerie Nicolosi.

### Souper Bowl Collection: February 9<sup>th</sup> at Shop Rite

Sign up in the narthex to help at our annual Souper Bowl Collection at Shop Rite. Talk to Ron and Marilyn Rubner for more information.



**Please keep in prayer the following people in our Messiah family:** Joan B, Helen, Mike, Kim, Len, and Karl.  
**and the following friends and family:** All affected by Covid19: those recovering, healthcare workers, all essential workers and the unemployed.

The Family of David Wasserman  
Family and Friends grieving for Lori Schmitt  
Jonny and Natalie  
David  
Kurt  
Peter  
Yoko and Bill, friends of Joan and Arnold  
Mark and Keith, Susanne's friends  
Gayle, friend of Joan and Eleanore  
Camille, Marilyn's friend  
June, Lee's mother  
Miro, Vesna's father  
Erika, Kristen's sister  
Ken, friend of Tony and Edie  
Patty, friend of Ludkes  
Dawn, Sarah, Rafael and Massimo, Violette's mother, daughter & grandsons  
John, Joan, Herb, Mike and Andy, Ron and Marilyn's friends  
Karen, Cheryl's sister  
Greta, Tom's sister  
Ethel and Mickey, Brigitte's sister-in-law and friend  
Kim, friend of Sue  
Autumn and Angelina, Lori's niece and granddaughter  
Marilyn and Vincent, Lisa's parents  
Bob, Tammy, Heather, Jayme, Allison and her sister, Lou and family, Alison,  
Josh, Jen, Laura and Chelsea, Michele's father-in-law, and friends  
Ron and June, Karen's parents  
Melinda and Paul, Eleanore's sister and nephew