

What Kind of God do You Think You're Dealing With?

***PREACHING AND TEACHING THE TRUTH TO HIS EXPANDING
KINGDOM, REACHING OUT TO ALL!***

Feb 1st, 2026

With Reflection Questions and Devotionals in the back

The Lutheran Church & School of Messiah
840 N. 11th St. Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-245-2838



The 4th Sunday After Epiphany
(February 1, 2026)

Offering: offering baskets are located at either end of the back pews. Or feel free to use the QR code

Announcements & Sharing of Christ's Shalom/Peace

Confession and Absolution

Stand

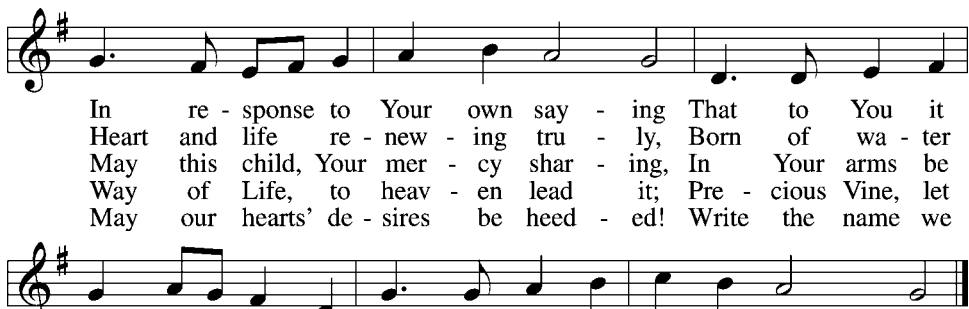
592 Dearest Jesus, We Are Here



1 Dear - est Je - sus, we are here, Glad - ly Your com-
2 Your com-mand is clear and plain, And we would o -
3 There-fore we have come to You, In our arms this
4 Gra - cious Head, Your mem - ber own; Shep - herd, take Your
5 Now in - to Your heart we pour Prayers that from our



mand o - bey - ing; With this child we now draw near
bey it du - ly: "You must all be born a - gain,
in - fant bear - ing. Tru - ly here Your grace we view;
lamb and feed it; Prince of Peace, make here Your throne;
hearts pro-ceed - ed. Our pe - ti - tions heav'n - ward soar;



In re - sponse to Your own say - ing That to You it
Heart and life re - new - ing tru - ly, Born of wa - ter
May this child, Your mer - cy shar - ing, In Your arms be
Way of Life, to heav - en lead it; Pre - cious Vine, let
May our hearts' de - sires be heed - ed! Write the name we
shall be giv - en As a child and heir of heav - en.
and the Spir - it, And My king - dom thus in - her - it."
shield - ed ev - er, Yours on earth and Yours for - ev - er.
noth - ing sev - er From Your side this branch for - ev - er.
now have giv - en; Write it in the book of heav - en!

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation

184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

LSB 185

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalms 15

¹O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
²**He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;**
³who does not slander with his tongue
and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
⁴**in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the LORD;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;**
⁵who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.
 Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Lord, have mercy upon us. [Mark 10:27]**

Gloria in Excelsis

**P Glory be to God on high:
 C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
 We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
 O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy
 upon us.
 For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen. [Luke 2:14;
 John 1:29]**

Salutation and Collect of the Day [2 Timothy 4:22]

**P The Lord be with you.
 C And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.
 Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

- ¹Hear what the LORD says:
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
- ²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.
- ³“O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!
- ⁴For 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.
- ⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”
- ⁶“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?
- ⁷Will 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?”
- ⁸He has told you, O man, 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?

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where 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? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia

LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Creed [“Creed” comes from the Latin credo, which means “I believe.” From the time of Pentecost, the Ancient Christian Church has confessed a creed. The Early Christian Church has always believed, taught, and confessed these Scriptural teachings. This is why we are called a Creedal Church.]

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Kids' Time

842 Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
 2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
 Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
 Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
 of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
 thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855-1932, alt.
 Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse . . . Contredansen, c. 1710, Amsterdam
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon *What Kind of God Do You Think You're Dealing With?* **Micah 6**

Stand

Offertory [Psalm 51:10-12]

LSB 192

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Offering: offering baskets are located at either end of the back pews. Or feel free to use the QR code

Prayer of the Church [1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9-13]

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**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 Conclusion for the Lord's Prayer is not in Matthew or Luke. The Conclusion is from 1 Chronicles 29:10-11, King David's prayer in the assembly.]*

Salutation

LSB 201

**P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

**A Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.**

Benediction [Latin for God's "Good Speak" to you]

LSB 202

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.
- C **Amen, amen, amen.**

[Aaronic Benediction Numbers 6:24-26]

917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-93
Tune: Edward J. Hopkins, 1818-1901
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Reflection Questions *What Kind of God Do You Think You're Dealing With?*

General Congregation

When life presses you, do you respond as if God must be appeased—or trusted?
(*What does that reveal about the God you believe you're dealing with?*)

Youth (Middle–High School)

When you mess up, do you hide from God or talk to Him—and why?

Millennials

Where in your life are you still trying to earn peace instead of receiving it?

Gen Z

If God were actually like Jesus on the cross, what would that change about how safe you feel being honest with Him?

Spiritually Curious / Unchurched

What if God isn't asking for more from you—but revealing who He is to you?



Scan for Offering

Family Devotion (10–12 minutes)

Theme “The God Who Does Not Ask for Your Firstborn—But Gives His Own”

Opening Question (All Ages)

When someone is angry, what do you think they want from you—an apology, a promise, or distance?

(Parents can share briefly. Let kids answer freely.)

Read Together

Micah 6:6–8

Optional: Have one child read verses 6–7, another verse 8.

Explain

Say something like: “God’s people thought God wanted bigger sacrifices when things were wrong. Micah says, ‘No—that’s not who God is.’ God doesn’t want bribes. He wants hearts that trust Him.” Then add: “And later, God shows exactly what kind of God He is—not by taking a life, but by giving His own Son.”

1 Corinthians 1:18 (just one verse)

“The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

Discussion (Pick One, Depending on Ages)

Younger kids:

Is God trying to hurt us—or help us? How do we know?

Older kids / teens:

Why do you think people sometimes get God wrong?

Parents:

When do we accidentally act like God expects us to perform instead of trust?

Connect to Jesus

“Jesus on the cross answers the question: *What kind of God are we dealing with?*

A God who would rather die for us than demand something from us.”

Prayer

Lord Jesus, When we are afraid, remind us who You are. When we try to earn Your love, bring us back to Your cross. Help us trust You. Amen.

Pastor: Mike Redeker
Elders: Peter Chaney
DCE: Jonathan Peterson
Acolytes: Dylan Diaz, Harlan Diaz

Ushers: Dean Hollatz, Korrey Klein, Tucker Klein, Matt Powell
Organist: Richard Scott
Greeters:

PRAYER REQUESTS— *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* Prayer requests for you, family with permission, or by a pastor, may be sent to admin@mlgj.org & sec@mlgj.org

Messiah's Prayer List

Continued health and healing: Chris

Ballard, Ralph Bickel, Mary Ann Bradshaw, Peter Chaney, Darlene & Darrel Clark, Lucy Clemmer, Linda Currey, John Feliciano, Carol Haller, Jimmie Kenner and family, Carrie Lamgo, Jack Messenger, Jess Messenger, Tom Moore, Illona Rennels, Bob Rennick, Dorothy Roberts, Esther Schlauger, Karen Skoog, Bill & Deborah Stacy, Shane Walz, Romaine Webb, Jeff Vagneur, Rick Shaper, *Joanie Lozano*

Fighting serious diseases: Sharon

Breshears, Denise Currie, Courtney Grieger, Misty Hannah, Steve Kaskus, Shane Larsen, Anna Marie Mautz, Barb Moore, *John Moseman Sr.*, Melani Perschbacher, Debra Proctor, Diana Walcher, *John Moseman Jr.*

Continue to fight cancer: Ralph Bickel,

Karen Caldwell, Tyler, Rhonda Covington, James Hamleton, Les Hawkins, Barbara Huff, Mike Jerome, Arthur Kluegel, Chuck Magner, Marshall Mead, Walter Netzke, Amy Poulin, Rick Reimers, Loretta Siilata, Skogen, Karen Shoda, *Bonnie Cox*

Home Hospice Care:

Called Home: *Steve Hildebrand*
Kathy Michels

Serving in the military: Jake Bradshaw, Jack Eberhard, Elijah and Rachael Messenger, Karen and James Moore, Caleb Schmidt, Brandon & Kayt Soine, Eric Stahly.

Messiah Lutheran members

Messiah Lutheran faculty & staff

Messiah Lutheran Church/School

High School Students

Mavericks of Messiah: *Continue to pray for the college students.*

Missionaries: Rev. Tim Norton to the Navajo Nation and **Rev Dr. Karl Heimer**, Ysleta, El Paso Texas.

Celebrating Birthdays:

1-Feb Shirley Arnold
2-Feb Trish Hill
3-Feb Donna Bruns
4-Feb Sarah Larsen, Diane J. Sommers
5-Feb Kathy Reed, Gretchen Gottschalk
6-Feb Makayla L. Peck, Soren Ashcraft
7-Feb Keith W. Rockwood, Ronald Shellabarger

Wedding Anniversaries:

Joe and Karen Barcus (59)