



WELCOME TO THIS
WORSHIP CELEBRA-
TION of the living
Christ's presence in
our midst. Christ
comes to us with new
life and strength for
Christian living in
daily life through the
hearing of the Word,
preaching, prayer,
song, and community.

As the Confession and
Forgiveness begins, all
may make the sign of
the cross, the sign that
is marked at baptism.

Congregational re-
sponses are in bold

*Asterisks through-
out the order of
worship indicate
the people stand-
ing, in body and/or
in spirit.

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Whitaker, Reader

PRELUDE "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Skidaway Voices in Bronze

*CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God,
 the Creator of heaven and earth,
 the Word who spoke life into being,
 the Wind stirring the waters.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us
 completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Mighty God, lover of justice,

People: **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

Leader: 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 \dagger Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

People: Amen.

*GATHERING SONG “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

Hymn 553



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy - less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

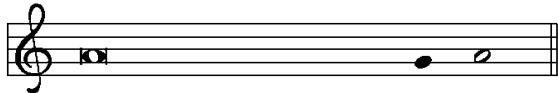
Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

*GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

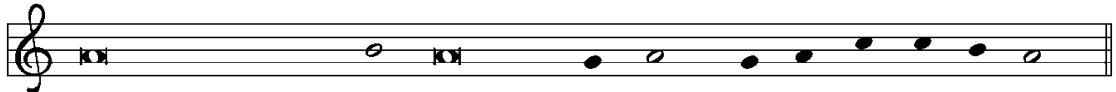
*KYRIE



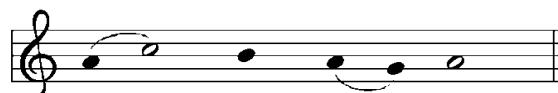
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



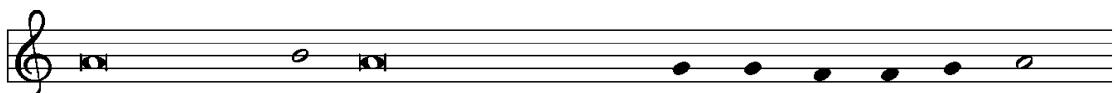
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy 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, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



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



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.



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. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: 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.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Thomerson

Chancel Choir

*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus
God set the stars to give light to the world, the light of my life is Jesus!
In Him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness shine on my path, and show me the way to the
Father.*

*In Him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart Lord Jesus.*

WORD

Ron Whitaker, Reader

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Old Testament 649

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

The reading of Scripture is when God makes known his will: God desires mercy and salvation.

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.

Ultimately, this word points us to the Word, the incarnate Son of God.

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.

Through Christ — God's only Son — are we able to know the Father's favor and grace.

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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 112:1-9

Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)

Leader: ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God's commandments!

People: ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright ¹ will be blessed.

Leader: ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

People: ⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

Leader: ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

People: ⁶ For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

Leader: ⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

People: ⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

Leader: ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

New Testament 146

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Musical notation for the acclamation 'Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?'. The music is in G major (two sharps) and common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: '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 5:13-16**

New Testament 4

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

Altar Flowers are given this week by Mike & Chrystal Campbell, grandson Jack, and granddaughter Jane in loving memory of their mother and grandmother Martie Thomas and by Pat Cooper remembering the women of Emanuel Women's Facility.

February's Eternal Candle is given by The Ridberg Family to the glory of God.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
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. ¹⁵ People 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. ¹⁶ In 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Jason Talsness

***HYMN OF THE DAY “This Little Light of Mine”**

Hymn 677

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

***APOSTLES' CREED**

People: 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**

(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is offered.)

Leader: Merciful God,

People: Receive our prayer.

(Final petition and response.)

Leader: 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.

People: 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.

SENDING

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

Leader: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise \pm bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

*SENDING SONG “We Are Marching in the Light”

Hymn 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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PERMISSIONS

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE** "This Little Light of Mine"

Shirley Newhart, organ

arr. Hayes

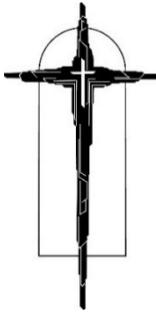
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 8	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, February 9	<i>9:00 am Garden Club of Savannah</i> 10:00 am Women's Bible Study <i>6:30 pm Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, February 10	3:00 pm Stephen Ministers
Wednesday, February 11	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARNing Group 1:30 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursday, February 12	<i>3:00 pm Skidaway Abigail's</i> 3:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Exploring the Topic of Heaven
Friday, February 13	3:30 pm Understanding Your Grief
Saturday, February 14	

Italics indicate outside group

ONLINE GIVING

Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to Messiah using the secure online portal at the website (messiahsi.org) and clicking on the Give tab. Another option to reach the portal is to scan this QR code using your smartphone's QR reader.



If you would like to give the old-fashioned way, the offering plate is on the table as you exit the Sanctuary.



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Director, Faith Formation	Ken Ritz
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Pat Cooper
Reader	Ron Whitaker
Evangelism Greeters	Karen Munson and Yvonne Johnson
Ushers	Shirley & Phil Nack
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Terry Blaney, Lynn McLauchlan, and Diane Munroe
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Christine Lind (Host) Cheryl Liebgott (Cake)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Clyde Olson 02/12

Anniversaries: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Be sure to join us at Coffee Fellowship when we will celebrate those of you with February birthdays.

EXPLORING THE TOPIC OF HEAVEN

Monthly on the Second Thursday

Interested in thoughtful conversation about what Scripture and Christian teaching say about heaven? Join our new small group discussion gathering.

This new small group will meet monthly on the second Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM, beginning February 12, at the Ritz's home, 15 Middleton Road, in the Landings.

Each gathering will be relaxed and welcoming. Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer or snack to share. There will be dinner together, followed by about 45 minutes of guided discussion focused on the topic of heaven.

Two books on heaven will be used as a foundation for our conversations, but you do not need to purchase or read either book to attend.

If you are interested or would simply like more information, there is a signup sheet on the Narthex Kiosk. You can also speak with Ken Ritz, Director of Faith Formation, (ken-ritz@gmail.com; 513.907.6191)

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

The Luther College Nordic Choir concert on Monday, February 2, was a huge accomplishment with over 100 people attending. Messiah would like to thank everyone who contributed

to the evening's success—serving the dinner for the 70 guests, hosting the students overnight, recruiting and organizing the hosts, promoting the program, providing technical support, selling tickets, distributing programs, and greeting attendees. Wow! It took a village, but it was a success.

PLANNING SURVEY

Deadline: February 15

Just a reminder to complete the church strategic planning survey if you have not already done so. Response rates have been excellent so far so don't miss your opportunity for your voice to be heard

The Messiah Minute and a special email have gone out with the link to the strategic planning survey. If you did not receive the email, please contact the Church Office to request a follow-up. If you prefer to complete a paper copy of the survey, you can also request a hard copy from the Church Office. If you have questions, talk to the Strategic Planning Team: Howard Anderson, Ken Hylander, or Pastor Talsness

CONFIRMATION

Sunday, February 15

Oskar Johnson-Liu will be confirmed during worship on Sunday, February 15. His family will share a celebratory cake following worship in Peper Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Love Thy Neighbor

Deadline: February 15

This February the Outreach Ministry is focusing its "Love Thy Neighbor" collection on SunCare Hospice Care Center of Rincon, an organization that does not have a consistent partnership with any businesses or groups other than holiday donations. They would be so grateful to receive assistance from the members of Messiah for the Love Thy Neighbor collection.

An Outreach Ministry member will be available after church to provide a printed list of items if you would like to donate to SunCare Hospice. Also, the Outreach Ministry will gladly accept monetary donations and can do the shopping for you! They will be accepting donations until Sunday, February 15th. The ministry members are excited to be helping a new neighbor this year! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Nguyen (jennifernguyen@yahoo.com; 912-713-2797).

A SPECIAL CHOIR OPPORTUNITY

What is VOX CORDIUM? It is a special emphasis choir for Lent and Easter. VOX CORDIUM translated means "Voice from the Heart." Every choir member's voice will unite to sing music that is from the heart. Lent is a perfect time to set aside some time for service and commitment by joining the VOX CORDIUM choir. It is a commitment of just 7 weeks, 7 hours, 7 Sundays. The VOX CORDIUM choir starts on Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00 p.m. and concludes on Easter Sunday, April 5th. On Easter Sunday, the VOX CORDIUM choir will present, *The Hallelujah Chorus*.

We are seeking at least nine new members to make this choir possible. Please consider signing up on the Narthex Kiosk today! For more information, contact Choir Director Rodney Powers (rodneykp@gmail.com; 912.321.4048).

SERMON PREVIEW

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5), Jesus tells his followers, “You are the salt of the earth” and “you are the light of the world.” Salt that has lost its taste is useless, and a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. With these images, Jesus calls Christians to a distinct witness—not to blend in with the world, but to give it flavor and light. This witness is not about standing out for its own sake but about concrete acts of love offered for the sake of our neighbors and the world. Jesus invites us to let our light shine so that others may encounter that love and, through it, give glory to God.

Questions for Reflection: Reflect for a moment on what it's like to eat something that really is lacking in salt. Noted German-Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said that, “The Church is the Church only when it exists for others.” To what extent does this assertion seem obvious? In what ways does it personally challenge you as an individual and us as a congregation? How do your everyday actions reflect love of others and love for the world?

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

2026 Spiritual Growth Activity

We are inviting our whole church family to participate in a **12-month spiritual growth journey**. Each month we will focus on one simple, but meaningful activity designed to help you draw closer to Christ.

February—Read One Gospel in One Sitting (1.5-2 hours)

Choose either the Gospel of Mark (shorter, fast-moving) or the Gospel of John (reflective, rich-in-meaning) and set aside enough time to read the entire Gospel without rushing. A modern translation such as New International Version, New Living Translation, or English Standard Version is recommended.

As you read, pay attention not just to the events but to **Jesus' character**, noticing how He treats people, how He responds to interruptions, and what emotions He expresses. Watch for His **mission**—what He says He came to do, how He speaks about the Kingdom of God, and what priorities guide His choices. Finally, reflect on His **heart**—what He cares about most deeply, where He shows compassion, and what grieves or angers Him. End with a simple prayer of gratitude and response.

This extended reading helps you see the big picture of Jesus' life and ministry and deepens your understanding of His heart and mission.

Read an Epistle with Study

For those who want an additional challenge...Choose Philippians, Ephesians, or James.

Read it twice. Pay attention to its historical setting, major themes, and key commands (use a study Bible or trusted commentary if helpful). Write a brief summary of what the letter teaches about Christian living and how it applies to your current habits or lifestyle.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

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¹ Greg Stinson is serving the second year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

² George Lawrence is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2028.

