

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2019



INTROIT

Psalm 130:5-8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

Spoken:

- P** Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your presence.
- C** **I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,*
and in his word I hope;**
- P** my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,*
more than watchmen for the morning.
- C** **O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast
love,*
and with him is plentiful redemption.**
- P** And he will redeem Israel*
from all his iniquities.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-17; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:8-25

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: "The King's Table" is the title of today's lesson. Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, suffered crippling injuries at age 5 while escaping Saul's enemies with his nurse. Once David established his kingdom, his thoughts turned to whether there were any survivors from Saul and Jonathan's line. Discovering Mephibosheth, David bestows on

him Saul's land and fortune. Mephibosheth's family moves to Jerusalem, where he always eats at the king's table. Discuss how God provides for our daily needs today.

ANNUAL "THANK YOU" GIFT TO CHURCH STAFF: As we move beyond Thanksgiving and into a new church year, let's take a moment to be thankful for the faithful preaching, teaching and worship that we experience at Messiah. There are a number of workers in our church who make that possible. Messiah traditionally collects a monetary "thank you gift" for our dedicated church staff to present to them at our Christmas Eve service. We ask each of you to prayerfully consider contributing to these gifts. To do so, please place your gift in a designated envelope and put it in the offering bag or deliver it to the church office **by December 22nd**.

IN NEED OF GIFT CARDS? The holidays are coming and once again, Concordia requests that you think SCRIP for all your gift card needs. **We will be at our usual location in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall.** Stop by and see us, get some things checked off you list and support our school in the process!

2020 BOX ENVELOPES: Messiah uses a box envelope system to track each member's annual giving for that year's taxes. All 2020 box envelopes are ready for pick up now in the Narthex. Please note that nearly ALL 2020 box numbers have changed from 2019's, so your current number will not be the one you'll use starting in January. For that reason, it is imperative that all members recycle their old 2019 envelopes at that time. Don't see a box with your name on it out there? Contact the office and a number will be assigned to you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE IN THE NARTHEX! Have you grabbed yours for the holiday this year? Only one dollar, this is a great way to help support Messiah's missions. Grab yours today!

WE DID IT! GOAL MET! As of Sunday, December 8th, Messiah has reached her fundraising goal to help support LMSNW in their continued ministries in hospitals, care centers, jails and prisons. With our members donations in for this financial campaign, our support means that LMSNW can expand its ministries in King County jails, Kent Regional Justice

Center, Monroe Penitentiary and other locations by adding an additional chaplain to their staff. **Thanks for your generosity.** It truly makes a difference in the lives of others.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE: Christmas Eve's Candlelight Service starts at **7:00 pm** with readings and hymns.

CHRISTMAS DAY: The Divine Service for Christmas starts at **9:30 am**. We look forward to seeing you as we welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Please note, this year we will be will not be holding the Evening Prayer service.

DECORATING MESSIAH WITH POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS: Members who wish to contribute to the purchase of poinsettias for Christmas will find a sign-up sheet next to the flower chart in the hallway. The cost for each poinsettia is \$12.00. Please use a designated envelope, labeled **Poinsettia**, and place it in the collection with your Sunday offerings. You are welcome to take your flowers home after Christmas Day service.

THIS MONTH'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD DRIVE THANK YOU: The weight of this year's Thanksgiving Food Shower donation received by North Helpline Food Bank came to a total of 489 pounds. Thanks to all our members and their generosity this holiday season.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES: Thank you to those of you who filled a Shoebox for Samaritians Purse. We were able to send off 23 boxes. That will make 23 children who receive these boxes very happy **and** give their family the opportunity to learn about Jesus through the 12-week program they are invited to participate in when receiving the box. You are helping spread the message of the good news, **JESUS**.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT: The next Men's Night Out will be held on Monday, January 6th at 6:00 pm at Scott's Bar & Grill, located at 8115 Lake Ballinger Way in Edmonds. Please RSVP to Brian Danforth, 206-363-5654.

TALK RADIO FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON...You can listen to Christmas hymn studies on "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising," "We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth," "Let All Together Praise Our God," and "From East to West." Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen at your convenience at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

DAILY READINGS

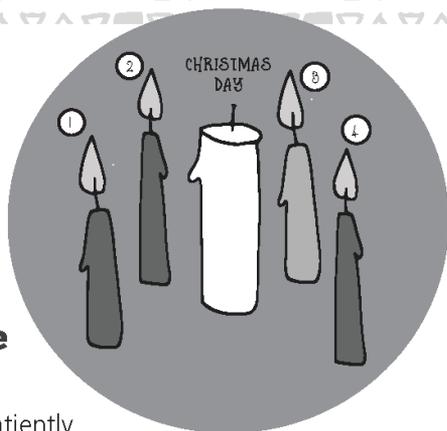
December 22: Is. 43:1–24; Rev. 9:13–10:11; **23:** Is. 43:25–44:20; Rev. 11:1–19; **24:** Is. 44:21–45:13, 20–25; Rev. 12:1–17; **25:** Is. 49:1–18; Matt. 1:1–17; **26:** Is. 49:22–26; 50:4–51:8, 12–16; Matt. 1:18–25; **27:** Is. 51:17–52:12; Matt. 2:1–12; **28:** Is. 52:13–54:10; Matt. 2:13–23.

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+ + + KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE + + +

What does it mean when four candles have been lit on the Advent wreath?

You've been preparing and patiently waiting for that wonderful day of celebration. When four of the candles on the Advent wreath have been lit, it means that Christmas is almost here! That's right! The day on which we remember the birth of our Savior is right around the corner!



What does this mean to me?

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Today is the last Sunday of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Next week the Church will celebrate Christmas Day, one of the most important days of the whole year. As you can see, Advent has prepared us for the coming of Jesus, our wonderful Savior from sin!



Remind your children of the important part that Advent plays in the lives of all Christians. This is the time in the Church Year that prepares us for the coming of our Savior. Be sure to bring your children to both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.



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Messiah Lutheran Church's annual

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

December 24th, 7:00 pm

Join us.

