

Evening Prayer



December 20, 2023

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. We're glad you found your way to us. If you're feeling lost, please be sure to reach out to your neighbor and they will be happy to answer any questions you might have. We hope you feel welcome and at home at Messiah Lutheran Church.

A special welcome to those with young children

We are very happy you are here today. At Messiah, we want you to feel at home.

- ◆ First, please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Children are most welcome at Messiah.
- ◆ To make it a bit easier on your family, please dare to sit toward the front where your children can easily see. Encourage them to note the colors, hear the music, watch the pastor, and embrace the action at the altar. What Jesus is doing here promises to engage them.
- ◆ As we go along, softly explain the liturgy to your children, encouraging them to join in on parts. *Amen! Lord have mercy! Our Father!* These belong to them, too.
- ◆ Be sure to sing, speak, and pray your parts also as you sit and stand. Your children learn by following your lead.
- ◆ If you must leave, please hurry back. We want your children here with us.
- ◆ If you need a little help, please ask. There are many people here who will lend you a hand.

Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us will be rejoicing with you in Jesus words, **“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” (Luke 18:16-17 ESV)**

We know that your children are a gift to the Church, so we will do our best to welcome, encourage, and bless you all. Welcome to Messiah.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in peace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. **Amen.**



EVENING PRAYER

Advent Midweek III

December 20, 2023

PRELUDE

Nowell No. 4 – Louis Claude Daquin

Stand

SERVICE OF LIGHT

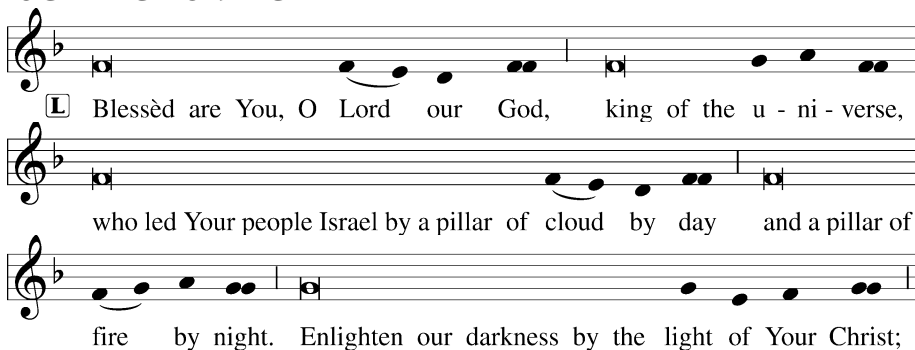
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.
L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,
C and the day is almost o - ver.
L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness
C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

PHOS HILARON



[L] Joy - ous light of glo - ry:
[C] of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,
 bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the
 set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.
 We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:
 You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -
 ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:
 the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT



[L] Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,
 who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of
 fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;

may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
 for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion
 and we, Your creatures, glo-ri-fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.
C A - men.

Sit

PSALMODY

PSALM 141

Psalm 141:1-4, 8

C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice
 when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in-cense,
 the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri - fice.
II Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

I Let not my heart in-cline to an-y e-vil thing;
let me not be oc-cu-pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil-do-ers.

II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.
Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in
the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

- L** Let us pray.
Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.
- C** Amen.

OFFICE HYMN

496 HOLY SPIRIT, LIGHT DIVINE



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, Shine up - on this heart of mine;
2 Let me see my Sav - ior's face, Let me all His beau - ties trace;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, Cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, Cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vine, Dwell with - in this heart of mine;



Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark - ness in - to day.
Show those glo - rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee.
In Thy mer - cy pit - y me, From sin's bond - age set me free.
Yield a sa - cred, set - tled peace, Let it grow and still in - crease.
Cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.

L The Third Article

C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

L What does this mean?

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

READING

2 Timothy 1:1-14

L A reading from second Timothy, chapter one.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

SERMON

CANTICLE

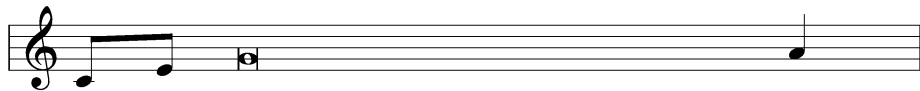
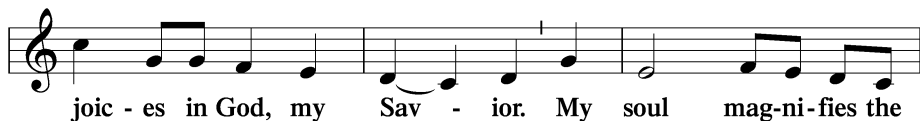
Stand

MAGNIFICAT

Luke 1:46-55

Refrain

C My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -

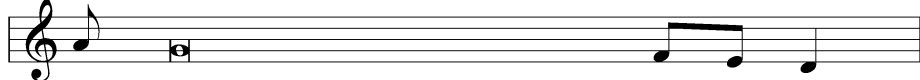


2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,

3 He has shown strength with His arm;

4 He has filled the hungry with good things,

5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son

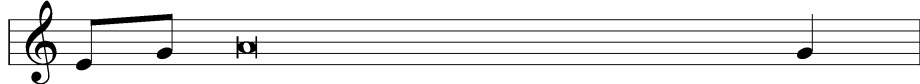


2 and holy is His name;

3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;

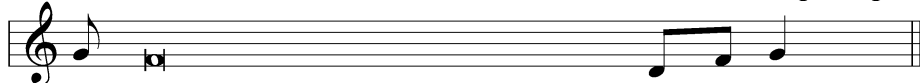


2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him

3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones

4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy

5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*

3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.

4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.

5 is now, and will be forever. A - - - - - men. *Refrain*

Sit

OFFERING

My Faith Divine – Joannes Brahms

PRAYER

Stand

LITANY

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



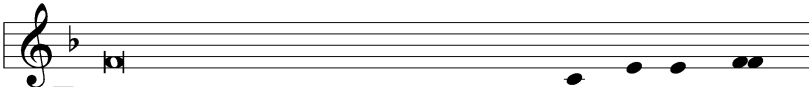
L In peace let us pray to the Lord:




C Lord, have mer - cy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our synodical and district presidents, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the President, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

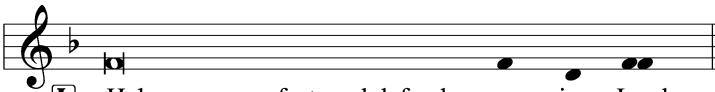
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

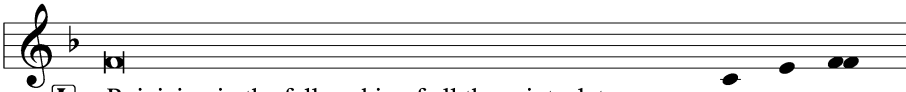


C Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

[L] Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

[C] **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.

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1

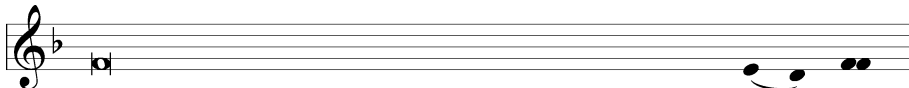


[L] Let us bless the Lord.



[C] Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION



[P] The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.

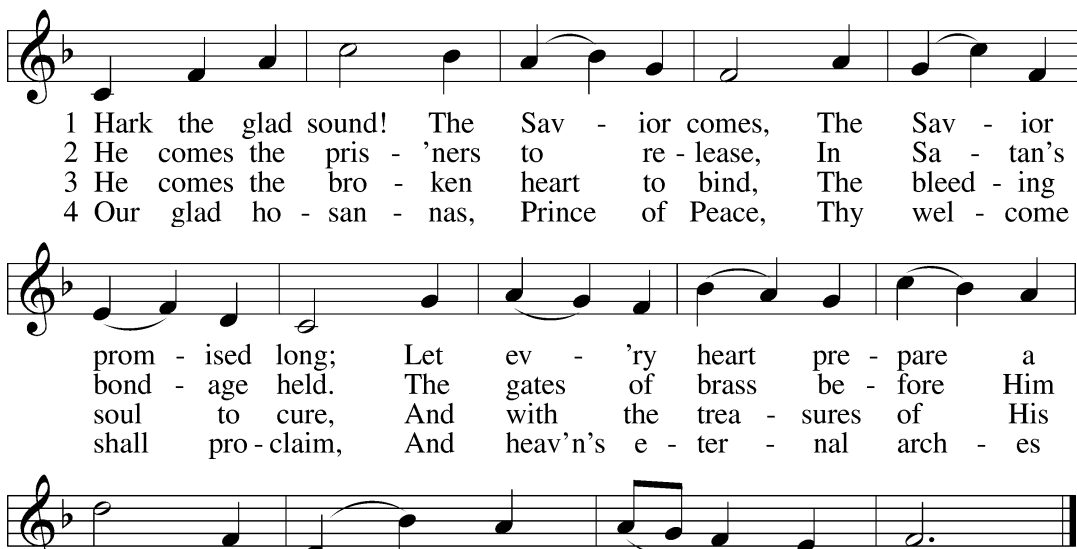


[C] A - men.

Sit

HYMN TO DEPART

349 HARK THE GLAD SOUND



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE

Enite, Enite – arr. Frank Desby

IN OUR SERVICE TODAY

Officiant

Pastor Elliott

Altar Guild

Stephanie Colbert

Organist

Noel Channon

Ushers

Harry Edmon, Dusty Sholdt, Andrew

Petro, Josiah Koehn, Mark Jorgensen

Acolyte

Theo Petro