

Fourth Sunday in Advent



“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

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 FOR 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.



DIVINE SERVICE

December 24, 2023

Setting Three – Fourth Sunday in Advent

PRELUDE

Nowell No. 3 – Louis Claude Daquin

OPENING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

Stand

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

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.

Psalms 124:8

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

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

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

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.

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 ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

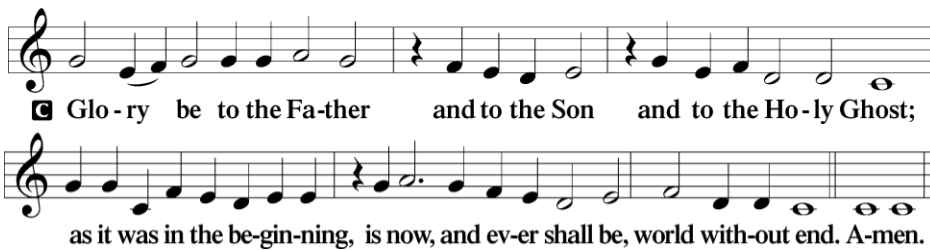
SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 19:1, 4–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a



- P** Shower, O heavens, | from above,*
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
- C** let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;*
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.
- P** The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,*
and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.
- C** Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the
end | of the world.*
In them he has set a tent | for the sun,
- P** which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.
- C** Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,*
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.
- P** Shower, O heavens, | from above,*
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
- C** let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;*
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.



KYRIE

Mark 10 :47



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22



P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray: 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.



G A - men.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

SERMON

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



C 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 Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Duetto – J.S. Bach

Please pass your worship attendance card toward the center aisle for the ushers to collect.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition of the prayer;

- P** Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

After the prayer has ended the pastor will say:

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of The Lord*

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways. **C** A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION *Please review our communion practices at the end of the bulletin.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	LSB 357
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	LSB 621
O Lord, We Praise Thee	LSB 617
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	LSB 359

Stand

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ *Song of Simeon*

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.
P Let us pray... You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C A - men.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22; Psalm 103:1

P The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spir - it.
A Bless we the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make

His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

POSTLUDE

Allegro in C Major – J.S. Bach

A PRAYER FOR AFTER WORSHIP

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness of my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in the faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US this evening for our candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7:00pm. There will also be Christmas Day service tomorrow morning at 9:00am. Merry Christmas, the Lord has come!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - Fill your heart with joy while awaiting the Savior's birth! Come to the children's Christmas service TODAY during the Education Hour. The service is in the Sanctuary this year and coffee, and treats will be served following the service downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

HEARTHSTONE AT GREEN LAKE - In a just published national survey by Newsweek magazine, The Hearthstone (a mission we support financially) was voted #10 in the country and #1 in the State of Washington for Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs). Messiah is a founding congregation in the mid-1960s of "Lutheran Retirement Home of Greater Seattle" - aka The Hearthstone. If you have questions, check out the Newsweek website, or talk to Lee Cohrs, Harry Edmon or Ann Melvin.

SPARE CALENDAR DONATION - If you receive 2024 Calendars in mailed solicitations that you do not need, will you please leave them on the social ministry table in the narthex. They will be taken to LMS care centers where residents have need of one. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE - Need a Christmas card that talks about the real reason for Christmas? We have lots for just \$1.00 each. Money goes to missions we support.

ISSUES ETC. You can listen 24/7 to sacred talk and music for the 12 days of Christmas at issuesetc.org, lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, TuneIn, Apple HomePod, and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

CONCORDIA CORNER

Ways to Help: **Prayers:** Pray for our teachers, students, and families as we build community, grow student confidence, and help them achieve academic standards all in a Christ-centered, grace filled environment. Thank you for all your support and prayers this year- we appreciate your partnership! **Share the News:** We have openings! Guide friends, neighbors, and those you meet to our website to find out about our unique personalized learning and project based learning experiences for Kindergarten-8th Grade.

Job Opportunities: We are hiring a part-time afternoon preschool teacher (1pm - 5:30pm). Contact Pam at preschool@concordiaseattle.com. We are also hiring a Music Teacher. Contact Principal Malone at cmalone@concordiaseattle.com.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Today - Christmas Eve
9:00 am Divine Service
10:30 am Children's Christmas Program
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Monday
9:00 am Christmas Day Service

Thursday
7:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday
10:30 am Young Adults Group

Next Sunday - New Year's Eve
9:00 am Divine Service
10:30 am Education Hour

STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Last Thursday Bible Study: No Class
Last Sunday: 138
Education Hour: 48
Sunday School: 29
Tuesday Bible Study: 13
Wednesday Advent: 65

IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Officiant
Pastor Elliott

Acolyte
Gabby Strege

Altar Guild
Donna & Jack Holdridge

Elders
Lee Cohrs, Josh Pemberton

Organist
Noel Channon

Ushers
Dave Paeth, Don Dunavant, Susan
Maslo, BJ Coy

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

1 Corinthians 11:28-29

The Lord's Supper is joyfully celebrated here today. At the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ delivers His true body and blood to us. His gifts of body and blood—given in, with, and under the bread and wine—bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other, in this life and in the next.

Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith, which is confessed at this altar. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament are asked first to speak with the pastor, an elder, or an usher.

When you have examined yourself according to Christ's bidding (1 Corinthians 11:28), come to His Supper rejoicing, as Jesus instructed, knowing that our Lord meets you at His altar with joy.

Those wanting to come to the altar for a blessing rather than the Holy Supper are asked to cross their arms over their chest. We also invite your children up for a blessing in remembrance of their baptism. Gluten-free host are available upon request.