

The Nativity of Our Lord



December 25, 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 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

Setting Three – Christmas Day

December 25, 2023

PRELUDE

Offertoire – Jean-Francois Dandrieu

OPENING HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

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.

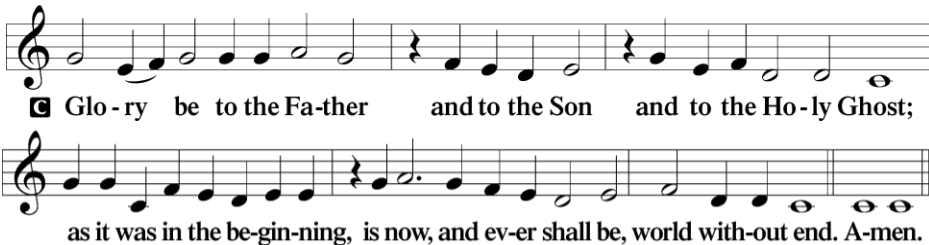
SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

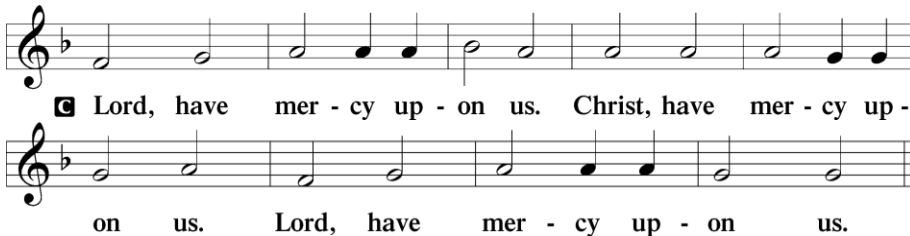


- P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
C and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.
P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.
C The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.
C Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!
P For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
C and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.




KYRIE

Mark 10 :47



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



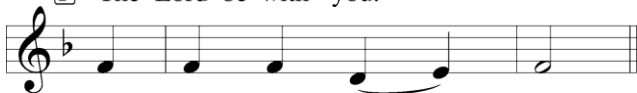
Glory be to God on high: **G**and on earth peace, good - will toward
 men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

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: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Sit

CHOIR

A Virgin Most Pure - arr. Carl Halter

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38

In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384

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

All Praise to Jesus' Name – 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]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
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

☐ 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

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways. **☐** 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, All Ye Faithful	LSB 379
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	LSB 380
What Child is This	LSB 370
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	LSB 393
Away in a Manger	LSB 364

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*

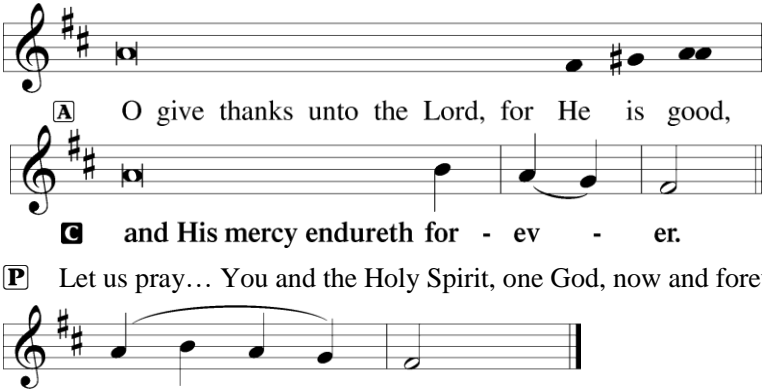
Luke 2:29-32



C 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

Psalms 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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the next two lines. The lyrics are written below the staves, with the first line of each system starting with a 'P' (Psalter) and the second line starting with a 'C' (Credo). The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And with thy spir - it. Bless we the Lord. 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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system contains the first line of lyrics, the second system contains the second line, the third system contains the third line, and the fourth system contains the fourth line. The lyrics are written below the staves, with the first line of each system starting with a 'P' (Psalter) and the fourth line starting with a 'C' (Credo). The lyrics are: '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. A-men, a-men, a - men.'

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

LSB 387

POSTLUDE

Thaxted – Gustav Holst

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.

IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Officiant

Pastor Elliott

Acolyte

Elijah Elliott

Altar Guild

Stephanie Colbert

Elders

Robin Melvin, Andrew Petro

Choir Director

Barbara Sackett

Organist

Noel Channon

Ushers

Curt Colbert, Jim Grant, Robert Lund,

Curt Lassman, Josh & Jim Pemberton

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.