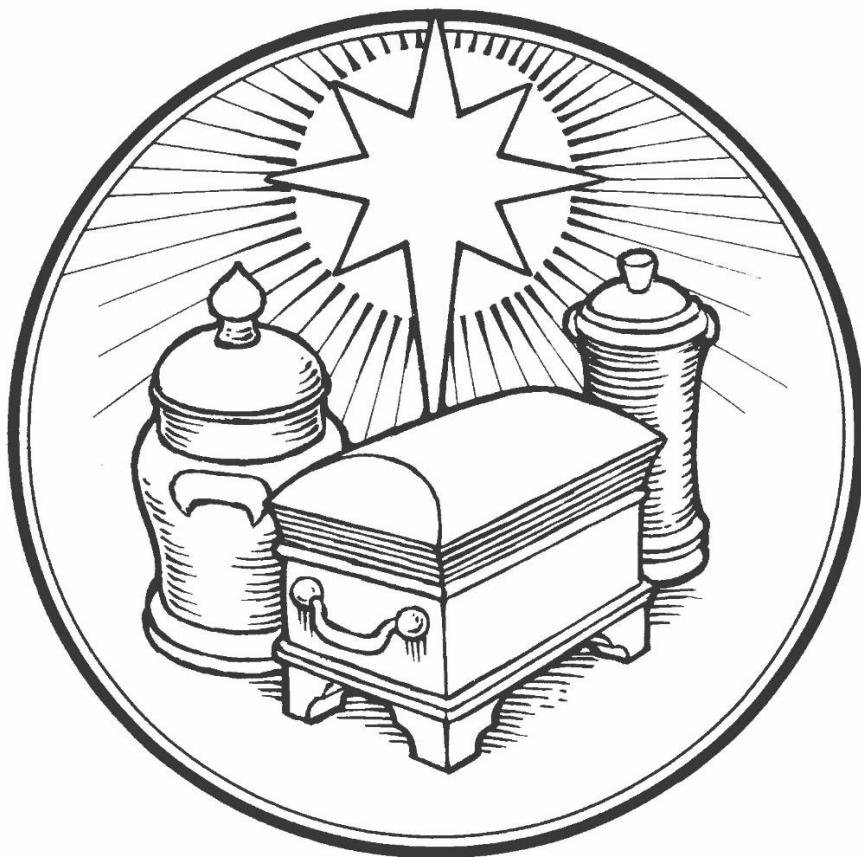


The Epiphany of our Lord



“And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

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 31, 2023

Setting Three – The Epiphany of our Lord

PRELUDE

Elegy – George Thalben-Ball

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.

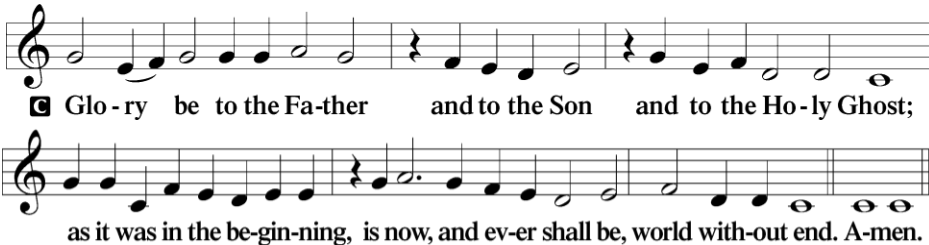
SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 72:1–2, 10–11; antiphon: Liturgical Text



- P** Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.
- C** Give the king your justice, | O God,*
and your righteousness to the | royal son!
- P** May he judge your people with | righteousness,*
and your poor with | justice!
- C** May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him | tribute;*
may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!
- P** May all kings fall down be- | fore him,*
all nations | serve him!
- C** Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.



KYRIE

Mark 10 :47



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

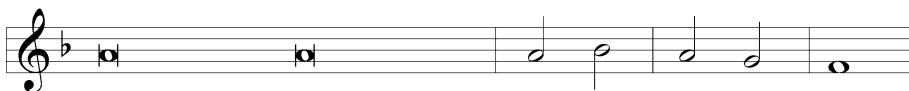
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



□ Glory be to God on high: ■ 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;



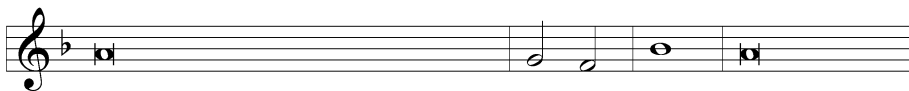
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



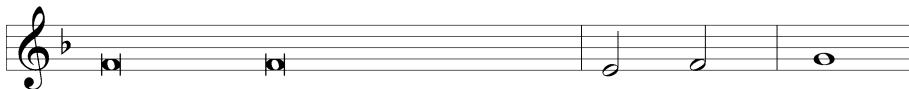
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



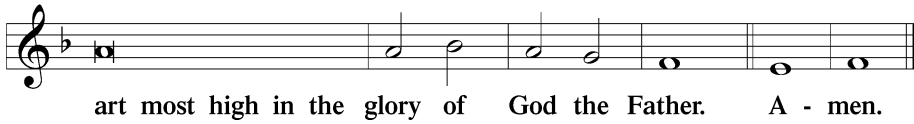
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



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: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
 and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
 and thick darkness the peoples;
 but the LORD will arise upon you,
 and his glory will be seen upon you.
 And nations shall come to your light,
 and kings to the brightness of your rising.
 Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
 they all gather together, they come to you;
 your sons shall come from afar,
 and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
 Then you shall see and be radiant;
 your heart shall thrill and exult,
 because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
 the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
 the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Child is This

LSB 370

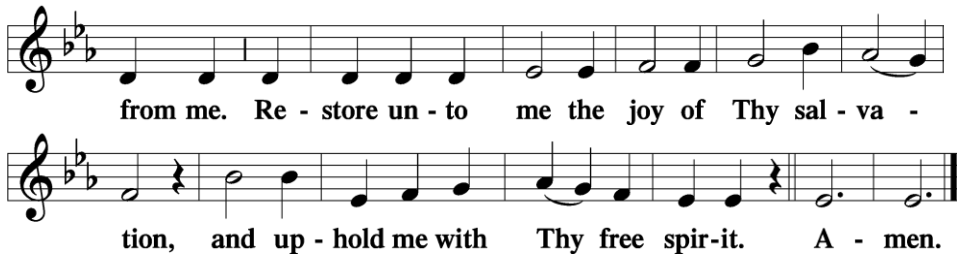
SERMON

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12

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



Sit

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Andante – Ulysses Kay

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.

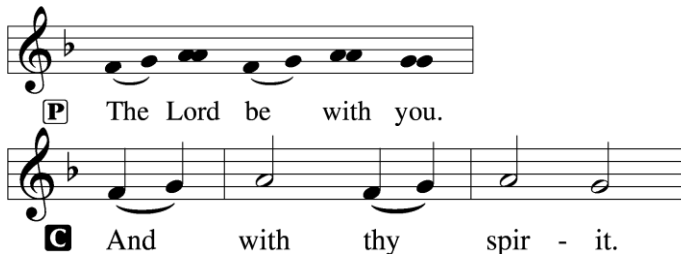
After the prayer has ended the pastor will say:

- 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 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



C 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,



bles - ed is He, bles - 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

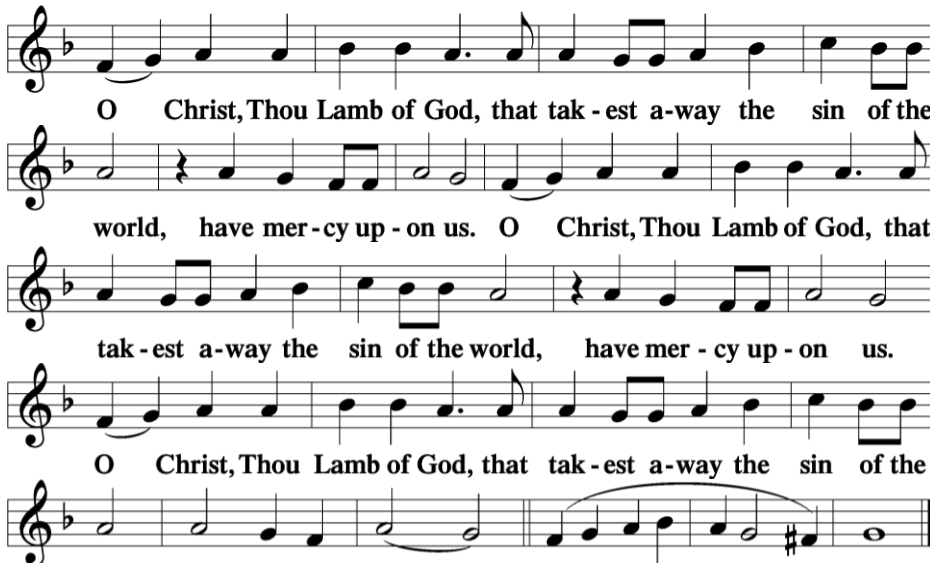
John 20:19



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

Arise and Shine in Splendor	LSB 396
As with Gladness Men of Old	LSB 397
O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright	LSB 395
O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is	LSB 372

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

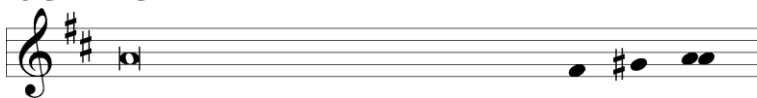


The musical score for "Nunc Dimittis" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

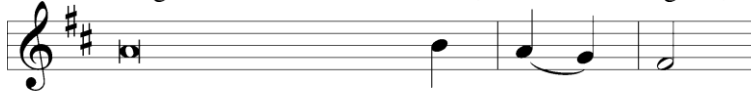
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to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



G and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray... You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22; Psalm 103:1



P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spir - it.

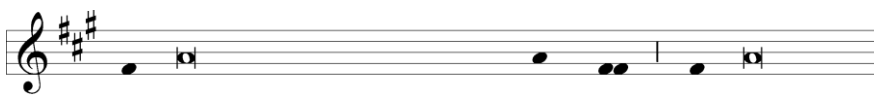


A Bless we the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

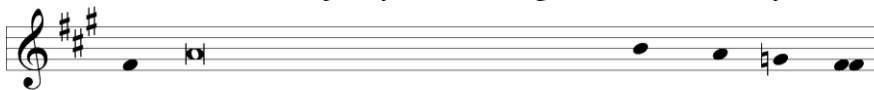
Numbers 6:24-26



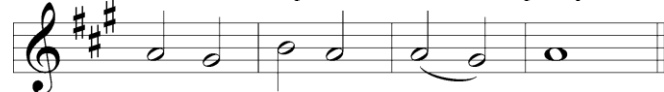
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



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



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



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

POSTLUDE

Ecce Sacardos – Anton Bruckner

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

WOMEN'S ONLINE BIBLE STUDY takes place tomorrow, January 1st at 7:30pm, and is every first and third Monday of the month! Contact Ann Melvin for zoom link and questions.

QUILTING DAY will be on Wednesday, January 24th at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. No sewing experience is necessary. Bring your own lunch. For further information contact Jean Mindemann.

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.

ISSUES ETC. Study God's Word in 2024! LCMS Stewardship has encouraged Lutherans to spend 1% every day (14 minutes) in God's Word and prayer. The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily, 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon is currently leading a study on the Book of Colossians. You can listen at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app or your favorite podcast provider.

CHRISTMAS & GREETING CARDS - Plenty of cards for any occasion located in the Narthex, all for \$1.00 each! The money goes to missions we support.

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

Monday
7:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tuesday
10:00 am Bible Study

Wednesday
7:00 pm Ensemble

Thursday
7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Choir

Next Sunday
9:00 am Divine Service
10:30 am Education Hour

STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Last Thursday Bible Study: No Class
Last Sunday: 148
Education Hour: No Class
Sunday School: 32
Tuesday Bible Study: No Class
Candlelight Service: 163
Christmas Day: 79

IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Officiant
Pastor Elliott

Acolyte
Daniel Elliott

Altar Guild
Cheryl Taylor, Dawn Plumb

Elders
Mark Jorgensen, Josh Pemberton

Organist
Noel Channon

Ushers
Lee Cohrs, Bob Guthrie, Jim Kohring,
Destiny Aguayo, Justin & Larry Bourn,
Tyler & Rebecca Rath

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.