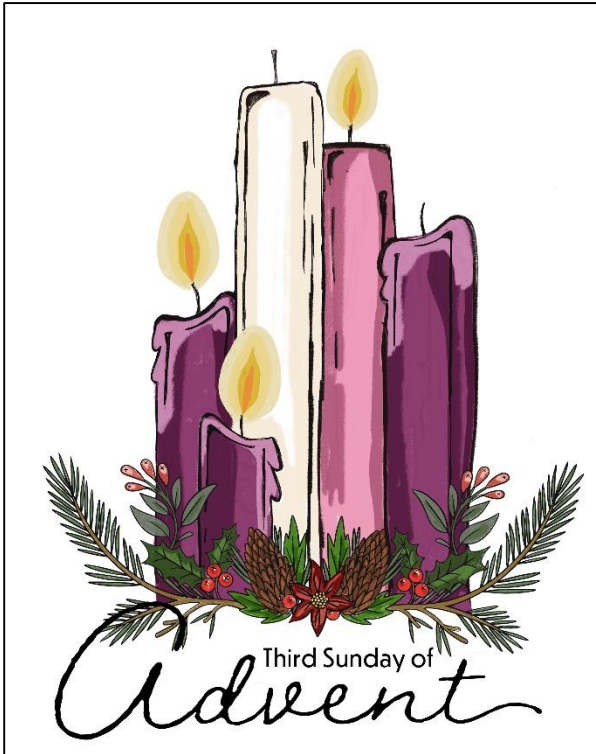


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



*Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Kneel*

**P:** God of mercy,

**C:** **we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

**P:** God of might,

**C:** **we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

**P:** God in our midst,

**C:** **we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

**P:** A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through † Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.

**C:** Amen.

*Stand*

**GATHERING HYMN** *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him  
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion  
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for fa - vored sin - ners slain;  
 robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;  
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 those who set at nought and sold him,  
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:  
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.  
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



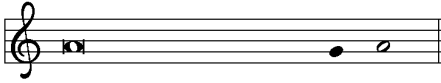
al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you

**KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



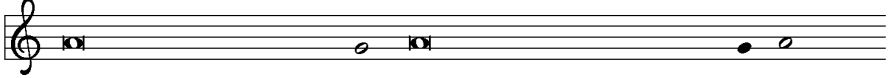
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



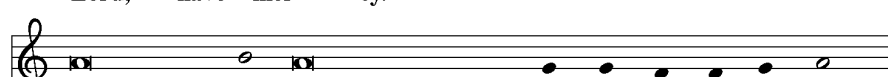
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



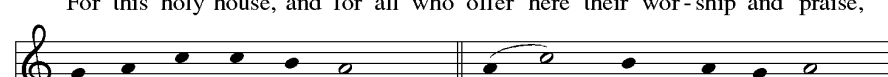
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

*Sit*

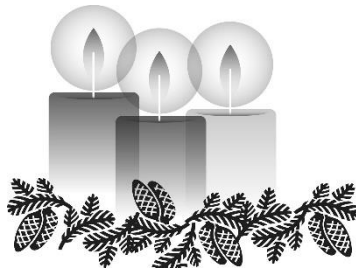
**LIGHTING OF THE WREATH**

**A:** We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the third candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C:** Amen

**ADVENT CHORAL VERSE**

*As the third candle is lit, the choir sings the Advent verse.*



**WORD****FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

**A:** A Reading from Zephaniah:

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Advent Response: Isaiah 2:1-6**

*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*



<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my  
salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you | will draw water  
from the wells | of salvation. R**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's  
name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that  
this name | is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;  
let this be known in | all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. **R**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.*

**A:** A Reading from Philippians:

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**CANTOR:** I am sending my messen- | ger before you, who will prepare  
your | way before you.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather



the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

**SERMON**..... **Pastor Amme**

Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*A brief silence is held after the introduction.*

**P:** As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

*After each petition:*

**P:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

**PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you. **R:** Peace be with you.

Sit

***MEAL***

**OFFERING**

*The Offering is received as the Lord’s table is prepared.*

**ANTHEM**

***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ..... Carl J. Nygard, Jr.**

Stand

**OFFERTORY**

*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 blessing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



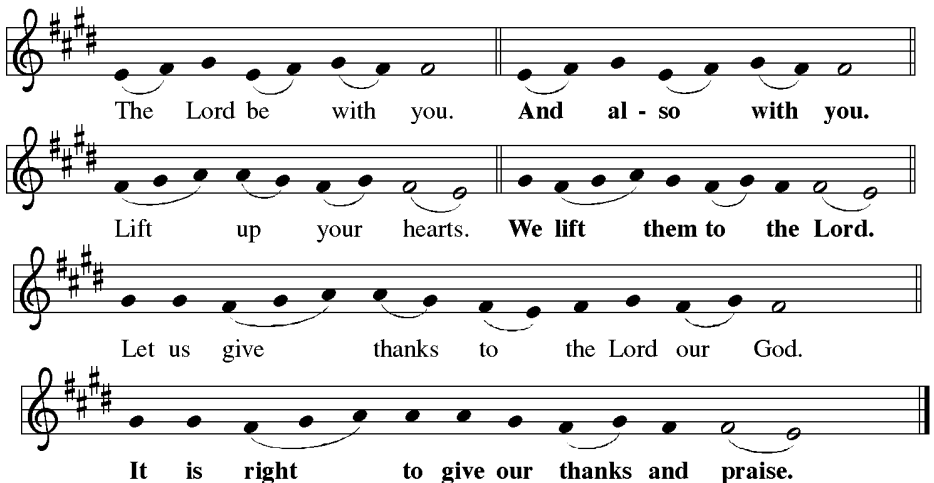
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERING PRAYER

**A:** Let us pray:

**C:** Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

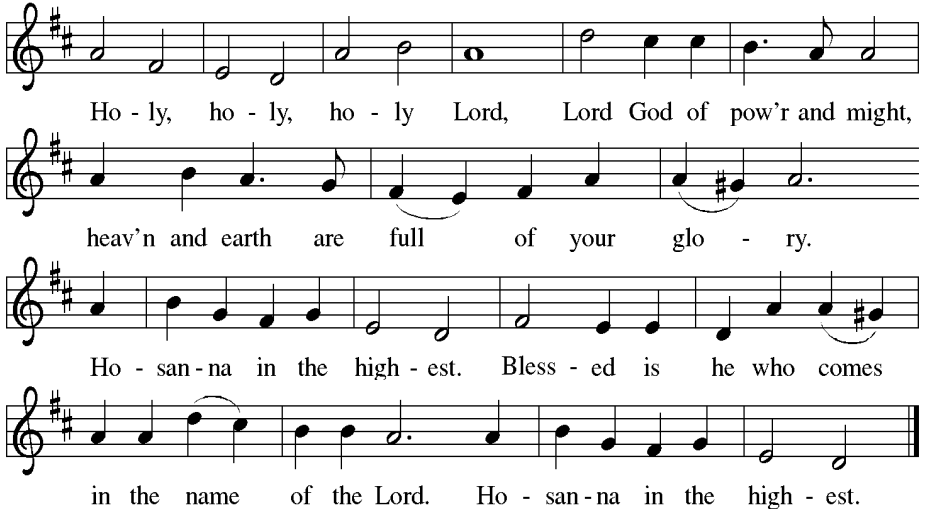
### GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P**: Holy One, the beginning and the end,  
 the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it,  
 and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,  
he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**P:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**P:** With this bread and cup we remember your Word  
dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

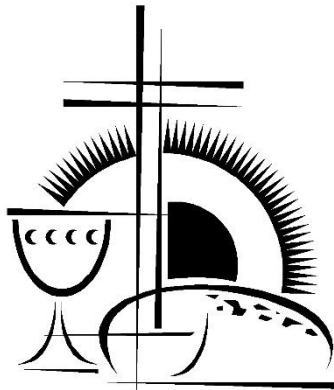
**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P:** Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P:** All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
One God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**



**LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** God feeds us with tender mercy.  
 Come to the table.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

**COMMUNION**

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table.

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.**

*The communicant may say: Amen*

**COMMUNION HYMN      O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore you green boughs and fair - est palms;  
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
 4 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 and I, too, will a - dore you with joy - ous songs and psalms.  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er for you with prais - es new  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 and from your name shall nev - er with - hold the hon - or due.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.

5 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,  
 who sit in deepest gloom,  
 who mourn your joys departed  
 and tremble at your doom.  
 Despair not; he is near you,  
 there, standing at the door,  
 who best can help and cheer you  
 and bids you weep no more.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
 a terror to his foes,  
 a light of consolations  
 and blessed hope to those  
 who love the Lord's appearing.  
 O glorious Sun, now come,  
 send forth your beams so cheering  
 and guide us safely home.



*Stand*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray.

Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.

**C:** Amen

***SENDING***

**BLESSING**

**P:** God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**C:** Amen



**SENDING HYMN**     *People, Look East*

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
 Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934  
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**POSTLUDE**

### SERVICE ASSISTANTS

**Ushers:** Charles Luppert, Larry & Donna Britton, Gail O'Brien, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Communion Asst.:** Janet Stroble; **Acolyte:** Karrah Bair; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower  
**Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Mike and Dianne Larson  
**Cantor:** Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

### IN BLESSED MEMORY

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dennis Ream by his wife Sandy, Dennis Jr., Kellie and their families.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Carl E. Fenstermacher on the anniversary of his birthday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, by his daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Thad.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Messiah Church!** It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

**Please join us for our Christmas Dinner, today immediately following worship.**

**We will decorate the church** next Sunday, December 22. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. **Sunday, January 5** immediately following worship we will be un-decorating the church. **Many hands make quick work. Please share your time and talents!**

**ALL white gifts and Christmas basket donations are due this morning.** White Gifts and food baskets will be picked up Saturday, December 21 from 9 am- noon. If you have any questions, please contact Candy Watkins (570)998-4037. *Thank you for your support.*

**Volunteers needed.** We need 6 readers for the Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday, December 29. If you would be interested in reading one of the lessons, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. *Thank you.*

**Please remember** to turn in your Estimate of Giving Pledge Cards and Time and Talent forms. You may place them in the offering plate this morning or at the church office. There are still envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary to be picked up.

### OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

**CLOSED** – Christmas Day – **thru** - New Year's Day, January 1, 2025

**Normal office hours** will resume – Thursday, January 2

9:00 am-3:00 pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** No Messenger will be printed/sent on Wednesday, January 1. *Please have any announcements for December 25 through January 5 to the office by Monday December 23. Thank you.*

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING**  
**JARED GIST, ORGANIST**

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### **Together Rooted in Christ**

The church's preachers and teachers often distinguish between John's baptism and our own baptism into Christ. But perhaps we have sometimes gone too far in supposing they are all that different. Both begin with repentance. Both orient us toward the good news that God forgives our sins and claims us as beloved children. Both call us to "grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God" (*ELW*, p. 227.)

The grace and love of God lavished on us in baptism are not the result of simple mechanics whereby we receive forgiveness because we've pressed the right buttons on the salvation machine. Instead, we live into God's forgiveness in deeply transformative and organic ways, like trees bearing good fruit. That John's baptism is, at its heart, about genuine transformation and living in a new way shaped by God's grace is apparent from the questions people ask him. Called to bear fruits worthy of repentance, they want to know: "What then should we do?" (Luke 3:10).

Advent offers us a wonderful chance to renew the gift of baptism by asking ourselves important questions about our direction in life and our relationships with others. How are you nurturing your prayer and worship life? What are you learning about your relationship with God? How are you growing in faith? How are you caring for others and the world God made? What help or support might you need on your spiritual journey that you're not currently receiving?

John turned people's hearts to God by reorienting them to their community. He encouraged them to share life together by uplifting one another, performing mutual acts of kindness, and nurturing a spirit of thanksgiving. In this season full of expectation, we look to Jesus' coming among us at the same time as we remember that we ourselves have been reborn children of God. In baptism, we have been welcomed into a community of care and support, together rooted in Christ, bearing good fruit, and proclaiming God's good news to all the world.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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