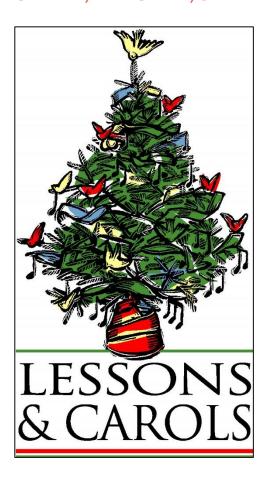
Messiah Lutheran Church GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✤ Holy Communion ✤
 First Sunday after Christmas
 December 29, 2024

December 29, 2024 LESSON AND CAROLS



This service of Lessons and Carols is intended for use on the Sunday closest to Name of Jesus (January 1). It could also be adapted for other times during the Christmas season. The service takes its theme from the Gospel of Luke 2:10-11, focusing on the ways God comes to us in Jesus as Savior (first set of lessons), Christ (second set of lessons), and Lord (third set of lessons).

GATHERING

PRELUDE



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

<u>Messiah Lutheran Church</u> DIALOGUE

- **P**: Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.
- C: Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.
- **P**: Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.
- C: Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing: Glory to God in the highest!
- **P**: Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as a gift.
- C: Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

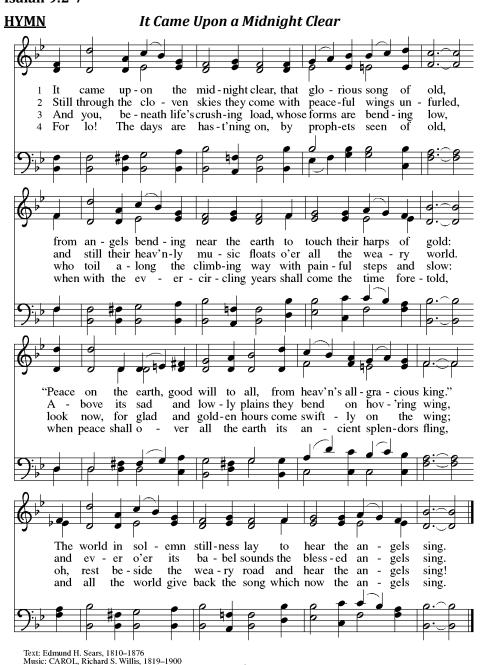
Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7



Messiah Lutheran Church SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-5a

HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem still 0 lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how we lie! see thee 1 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and. gath - ered all a bove si - lent - ly 3 How si - lent - ly, how the won - drous gift giv'n! is 4 0 ho - ly child of Beth-le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by; while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. God im - parts to hu - man hearts the So bless - ings of his heav'n. cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day. shin - eth ev - er - last - ing yet in thy dark streets the light. 0 morn-ing stars, to geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth, -No ear may hear in this world of his com - ing; but, sin, We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell: The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night. God the king, and peace to all and prais - es sing to the earth! re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in. where meek souls will oh. come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Messiah Lutheran Church THIRD READING Luke 1:26-35, 38

<u>HYMN</u> Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly

- Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, virgin mother, wise and mild.
 Sing of God's own Son most holy, who became her little child.
 Fairest child of fairest mother, God the Lord who came to earth, Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.
- 2 Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth. Toil and labor cannot weary love enduring unto death. Constant was the love he gave her, though he went forth from her side, forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, till on Calvary he died.
- Glory be to God the Father; glory be to God the Son; glory be to God the Spirit; glory to the Three in One. From the heart of blessed Mary, from all saints the song ascends, and the church the strain reechoes unto earth's remotest ends.

Text: Roland F. Palmer, 1891-1985



Messiah Lutheran Church FOURTH READING Luke 2:8-16

<u>PSALM:</u> 96 Refrain: Joy to the World, the Lord is Come

Sing to the LORD | a new song; sing to the LORD, | all the earth. ²Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from | day to day. ³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations and God's wonders a- I mong all peoples. ⁴For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised, more to be feared | than all gods. R ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols; but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens. ⁶Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence; power and splendor are in your | sanctuary. ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power. ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. R ⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, | all the earth. ¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples with equity." ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it: let the field be joyful and all that | is therein. ¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD, for you come to | judge the earth. ¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness and the peoples | with your truth. R

HYMN

That Boy-Child of Mary



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000

Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



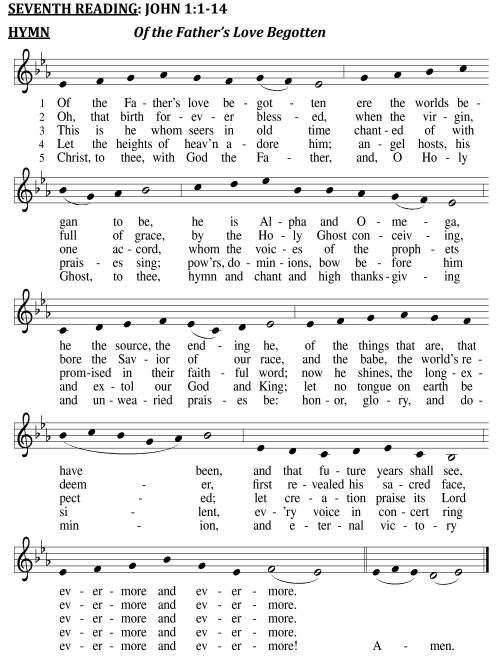
Micah 5:5

HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872



Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- **P**: At this time, the members of the congregation council are asked to present themselves before the altar.
- In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament, you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

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

▶: St. Paul writes: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all.

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather.

You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world.

You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the office to which you have been elected?

- **R**: Yes, by the help of God.
- People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?
- **C**: Yes, by the help of God.
- ℙ: I now declare you installed as members of the congregation council. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.
- C: Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

After each petition

P: God of Grace,

C: receive our prayer

The prayers conclude:

ℙ: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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. 🖪: Peace be with you.

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

Stand

OFFERING HYMN

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

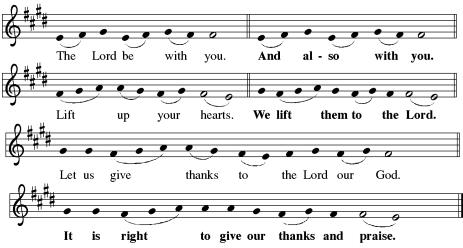
- What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Messiah Lutheran Church OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

C: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

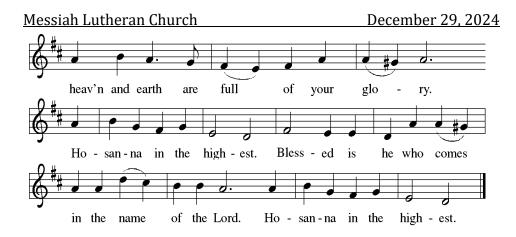
GREAT THANKSGIVING



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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

 P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

 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.

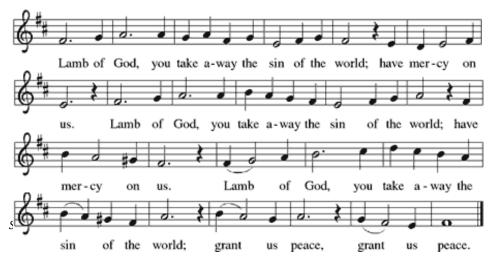
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

<u>LORD'S PRAYER</u>

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

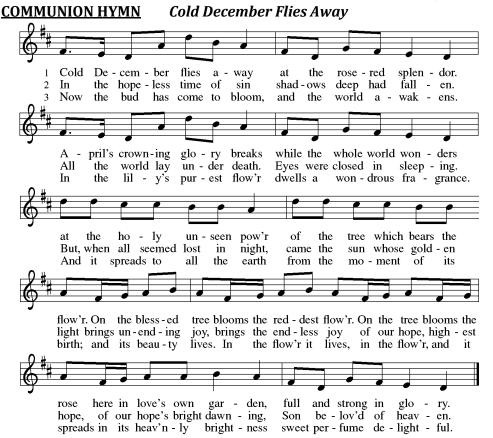
- ℙ: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.
- **C**: Thanks be to God.



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



Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953 Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalonian carol Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.
- A: Merciful God,

we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

- **P**: Let us bless the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.
- P: The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.
- **C**: Amen.





DISMISSAL

- A: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
- **C**: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Larry & Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon

Lay Assistant: Susan Bryan; Communion Asst.: Sherri Holtzman Acolyte: Jonathan Hess; Altar Guild: Vicki Bair, Doris Butt Greeters/Comm. Presenters: Michael and April Gardner Flower Delivery: Marilyn Winter

Readers: Karrah Bair, Anita Bair, Susan Bryan, Dave Bausinger, Carola Storrs, Georgie Ulrich

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones who have died this year.

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.*

This morning we welcome Janet Stroble, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Janet has received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and has been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist

Next Sunday, January 5, we will be un-decorating the church. If you are able please stay after worship and lend a hand. *Thank you.*

Pledge cards and Time & Talent forms will be accepted through December 29.

If you have not already picked up your Poinsettias, please be sure to take them after worship today.

Please Note: No Messenger will be printed/sent on Wednesday, January 1.

<u>OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS</u> 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

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH Rev. A. Bruce Amme, Presiding and Preaching Jared Gist, Organist

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702 (570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Wandering Away

"Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49). Such bold questions for a tween Jesus to press upon his worried parents! Clearly Mary and Joseph face some significant challenges as they sort out how to parent the Son of God.

If you were to wander away from your travel companions in an unfamiliar city, where would they find you? Might you duck away in search of a bookstore or a café or a particular type of museum? Would you gravitate toward a public park or cathedral or riverbank? Might you return to your room for a nap?

We can question the wisdom of wandering away from one's group without giving notice. But perhaps we can also empathize with Jesus' desire to meet his spiritual needs, and with the attraction of a place his spirit feels most at home. He takes himself somewhere he can draw close to God.

We also might identify for ourselves those times and places our spirits feel most at home, the practices in which we draw close to God in unique and personal ways. We can do this alone or with others. We can do this in explicitly sacred spaces; often, we find what we need in communal worship, shared ritual, and the study of scripture. We may also crave nourishment from art, nature, literature, music, rest, creative outlets, silence, movement, meditation, tears, and laughter ... so many things.

Throughout his adult life, Jesus will regularly separate himself from groups to rest and pray because these things refresh his soul. What places and practices renew your spirit? How can you create the space you need for such prayer, reflection, and rest? How can you become as attuned to the needs of your inner life as Jesus was to his?

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