

Messiah Lutheran Church
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The Messiah office reopens January 5; Tuesday – Friday from 10am – 4pm for limited church-related matters. Note the use of hand sanitizer and wearing of masks is required for anyone entering the building.

Worship for Sunday, January 3, 2021
2nd Sunday of Christmas

Musician: Elaine Serfas

Reader: Garth Ulrich

Camera: Merv Bender

As we are not worshipping in-person at this time, online Worship Services are live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. You can view this live by going to the Messiah Lutheran Church Prince Albert YouTube page and look for “live” feed. If there are technical issues, the recorded service will be available on Messiah Facebook page and Website by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns: We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.

Announcements:

Eternity for TODAY (daily scripture reading) for January/February/March are available at the Messiah office. Please phone or email if you would like a booklet.

Meatballs ... a small, hardworking team prepared meatballs in December so we were able to fill the many orders that had been placed throughout the last couple of months. We still have 12 containers frozen and available for sale (9 with sweet/sour sauce, and 3 without sauce) - \$15/container. If you would like to purchase any, please contact Cheryl at 306.961.2967 or phone / email the Messiah office.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

God of goodness and loving kindness,
we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.
We have turned away from your invitation to new life.
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,
those we know and those known only to you,
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work,
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#275 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" vs. 1 & 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
¹³who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.
¹⁴God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.
¹⁶God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
¹⁷God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?
¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.
¹⁹God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.
²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

A reading from Ephesians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW, p. 151 (Setting Four)

GOSPEL: John 1: 1-10

The holy gospel according to John in the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: "Christmas According to Kids"

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#296 "What Child is This?"

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER

God blesses us through prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

We pray with thanksgiving for the gifts have been given to continue the ministry of Messiah.
Let us pray,

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

...

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day through the Word made flesh.

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW#292 "Love Has Come"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.