

Messiah Lutheran Church
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Messiah office hours: Tuesday – Thursday 10am - 2 pm; Friday 10am – 12 noon

Worship for Sunday, December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion

Assisting with Worship: Thank you for your assistance with the service.

Sunday Worship Service: In person and live broadcast on-line, begins at 10:30am. Pre-registration is not required, but the wearing of masks is mandatory. Covid vaccinations and hand sanitizing are encouraged. Offering is collected as you enter the Sanctuary. The service is taped for later viewing on the Messiah Facebook page and website.

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns:
For all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.



Today: Sunday School at 11:45am, right after Worship Service on Zoom (call Messiah office or Pastor Fran for the link).

This Week:

Confirmation: Tonight at 7 pm

Wednesday: Bible study at 7pm – Lectionary Bible Study continues in the Hybrid format (both in-person and on Zoom). For more info ask Pastor Fran.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief: CLWR invites you to pray for the people of British Columbia, and to consider making a gift to support recovery efforts. CLWR is accepting donations on its website at clwr.org/BCfloods, by phone or mail. See the newsletter for more information.



Mitten Tree: We have set up two boxes in lieu of the tree for “mitten tree” collection of mitts, toques, scarfs and gloves. A box will be in the Narthex and another in the entry by the Messiah office under the coat rack. Most years, these articles are given to a community school to give to children without these necessities.

Memorial Christmas Tree:

🌲 REMEMBERING: During Advent a decoration will be provided to hang on the Memorial Christmas Tree. You can also write the names of those you wish to remember on the attached card. After Christmas the decorations will be available to take home. If you will not be at Messiah and would like a decoration prepared, please contact the office with your information.

Christmas Hampers for Families in Saskatchewan Rivers Schools: Again this year, Messiah Lutheran Church will be donating Christmas Food Hampers to families of children attending Saskatchewan Rivers Schools. We are accepting donations of food items or a monetary gift to fill five hampers. Food items may be dropped off in a designated box in the entrance by the Messiah office and monetary donations can be dropped off or e-transferred. We would like these items by December 10, as they need to be put together and ready for the schools to pick up prior to the school Christmas break. Please see the larger announcement in the December Newsletter. Thank you!

Food Bank Donations: On Sunday, December 5, and throughout Advent, we ask that you bring food and other items to Messiah for donation to the Food Bank. You can bring them to worship services or drop off at Messiah during office hours. Please refer to last week’s bulletin or the November/December newsletter for suggestions. Thank you.

Advent Devotions: Prepare your heart and soul for Christmas, with a prayer! I’ll email you a concise, meaningful prayer each morning, along with a picture to ponder and a bit of scripture to meditate upon. It’s free, and your email address remains confidential. Click on this link: <https://mailchi.mp/telus/advent-2021-landing-page> or send me an email with “subscribe” in the title: pbprayer@telus.net
Advent blessings to you! Rev. Bruce Ehler

Poinsettias for Christmas: If you would like to donate a **Poinsettia** for the Christmas services; please drop your plant off to the Messiah office no later than Wednesday, December 22, by 12 noon. If you are donating a Poinsettia in memory of someone, please phone (leave a message) or email the Messiah office by noon, December 22.

Cards for Canadian Military: When filling out your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address: A Canadian Forces Member: PO Box 5140 Stn Forces, Belleville ON K8N 5W6. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards will be sent overseas to these wonderful, special people, who have sacrificed so much.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1 & 2

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.

HYMN: ELW# 262 "Wait for the Lord" 2X

THE GREETING

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

KYRIE: ELW, p. 184

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW, p. 187 "This is the Feast"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray, stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,

⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW p. 188 Setting 8

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke in the third chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "Helping at Christmas and always"

SERMON: "Location, location, location!"

Silence for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#249 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence, praying Hear us O God, and responding Your mercy is great.

...

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you.
We share a sign of that peace.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#808 "Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song" vs. 1 & 2

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray, God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY-ELW, p. 188, Setting 8

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, unite us Holy Spirit, as we share the body and blood Of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

To whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, Now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. 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

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW#487 "What Feast of Love"

ELW#474 "Bread of Life from Heaven"

TABLE BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now and unto everlasting life. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,

the long-expected Savior fill you with love,

the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

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

Three-Fold Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG: ACS#905 "We are Waiting for Jesus"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.