

Messiah Lutheran Church
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Messiah office hours
December 21, 22 & 23: 10am - 2 pm
Closed December 24 - 31

Worship for Sunday, December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Worship Service: In person and live broadcast on-line, begins at 10:30am. The wearing of masks is mandatory, and 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 website.

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.



We offer our condolences, thoughts and prayers to Stirling and Marion Hopkins, and to the Hopkins family, on the passing of their sister-in-law and aunt, Joan Hopkins, who passed away on December 5. Joan's memorial service took place on December 14.

We offer our condolences, thoughts and prayers to Einar Rinholm and family, on the passing of their wife and mother, Sonja Rinholm, who passed away December 14, 2021. There will be a private family funeral which will be live-streamed on the MacKenzie Funeral Home portal on Saturday, December 18 at 1:30 p.m.

This Week:

Today: Sunday School at 11:45am, right after Worship Service on Zoom (call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran for the link). This is the LAST DAY for 2021. Sunday School will resume January 9, 2022, and resource packets can be picked up after January 4.



Confirmation & Youth Christmas Party tonight @ 7pm on Zoom

Youth and families will have received an email with the info and the link. If you haven't picked up the Christmas resource party pack, you can still do so after church on Sunday, or contact Pastor Fran to arrange another time. If you did not receive the email, please let Pastor Fran know and it can be sent out again.

- Tuesday, **December 21** @ 7pm – Longest Night Meditative Service in-person AND live-streamed on the Messiah YouTube channel
- **December 24** @ 7:30 pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- **December 25** @ 10:30 am - Christmas Day Service (no live stream)
- **December 26** @ 10:30 am – 1st Sunday of Christmas

The Longest Night Meditative Service: The Christmas season can be a difficult time for many, particularly if the season carries unhappy memories or if there has been a loss around this time of year. It can also be a difficult season for those who are overwhelmed with stresses, worries or fears. This meditative service is an opportunity to acknowledge all of our feelings, to pray, to be still, to breathe deeply, to hear the music, and to listen to God's word as it gives us comfort and peace, even on the longest night.

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



Mitten Tree: Two boxes have been set up for the "mitten tree" collection of mitts, toques, scarfs and gloves, in the Narthex and in the entry by the office. These articles are given to a community school for children without these necessities.

Memorial Christmas Tree: REMEMBERING: During Advent, decorations are 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 into Messiah and would like a decoration prepared, please contact the office with your information.

Food Bank Donations: Throughout Advent, we ask that you bring food and other items to church to be donated to the Food Bank. As well as Sunday mornings, these items can be dropped off at Messiah during office hours. A handout with food suggestions can be picked up in the Narthex.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief: The Gifts from the Heart catalogue provides meaningful and tangible gifts that will share God's love with the world. There is something to inspire and delight your friends and family members. No matter which gift you choose, the gifts you give are saving and changing lives. Please give a Gift from the Heart today. View the catalogue online, pick up a copy at Messiah or contact CLWR at 1.800.661.2597.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1-4

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, 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. 147

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW, p. 149 "This is the Feast"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

A reading from Micah.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

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

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

A reading from Hebrews.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW p. 151

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

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

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "Celebrating with Family"

SERMON: "The Power of a Song"

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#251 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING: Gordon Dixon, "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING, ELW, p. 152

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-p. 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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 (instrumental)

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: ELW#264 "Prepare the Royal Highway", vs. 1, 3 & 4

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. Thanks be to God.