

Messiah Lutheran Church
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We are glad you are worshiping with us! If you are looking for a church home or if you would like a pastoral visit, let us know by giving your contact info to an usher or the Pastor. **Our mission** *Living in God's grace, we reach out to invite & welcome all with God's Love.* **Our welcoming statement** *We welcome people of every age, color, culture and political persuasion, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and ability as we celebrate together our unity in Christ. Messiah is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.*

*According to our Mission Action Plan:
"In all we say and do we ask for God's guidance."*

Sunday, December 1, 2024

GREETING AND INVOCATION: Greeting to you in the name of the triune God, the one whose word always accomplishes: the Shaper of Life, the Savior of Humanity, the Spirit of Renewal.

Prayer of Confession: Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives. And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create the conditions for sin. Let us pray. **God, we want a faith that feels like more than words, but we lack your power to embody goodness. We hear your call to serve others yet feel too worn out to make the food. We hunger to taste justice but fear the burning spice of the meal. We want our place at your table but resist sitting beside a stranger. We have lost our appetites for mere thoughts and prayers, but we fail to match our intentions to our actions. Forgive us and restore us with the healing wholeness of your presence.**

Assurance of Forgiveness: God knows you are imperfect. But God did not invite you here today for what you have done or how you have behaved. God loves you. God always cared much more for you than for your shortcomings. God forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (ELW 254)

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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), **This is the Feast** (ELW p. 149)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: God, we reach for unreasonable hope; **and you** prepare an incomparable future.

WREATH LIGHTING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
(ELW 257, v. 1)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION/PRAYER OF THE DAY

Now that the warmth of God's presence fills this place, we pray that the Spirit will illuminate our lives through the words we hear, the songs we sing, and the pathways of prayer engraved on our hearts.

We pray: **Spirit, you know how shallow hope feels when our faith hides from what is real. Use your holy story to show us the human moments when you worked wonders for your people, so we can find hope in our lives, too.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all ¹ the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your ¹ testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (printed on the back of the bulletin)

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36 (printed on the back of the bulletin)

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (ELW 726)

CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
PEACE

INVITATION TO OFFERING: God, we have turned to you today for a bit of quiet, a sliver of sabbath, a small moment to set down what we carry as we consider your word.

And into this minute of rest you send your prophet with an axe for the root of the tree, and kindling for the burning fire.

Your call to action is surprising. And we are not always ready.

Yet we know we must help build the road where your people travel toward justice. Our offering is received.

OFFERING *We Are an Offering* (ELW 692)

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

We are an offering

All that we have

All that we are

OFFERING PRAYER: Together we pray. Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give. **You set the table with plenty of love.**

Prepare room in your home **for my neighbor and me.**

Prepare a place in your vision **for my neighbor and me.**

Prepare a seat at your table **for my neighbor and me.**

Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give.

You set the table with plenty of love.

GREAT THANKSGIVING, (ELW P.152)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

LAMB OF GOD (ELW 154)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.
Your love is often unrecognizable, unappreciated, gentle and unnoticed.

But in this place we have noticed what others do not see.

We have tasted your unspoken goodness. And now we will magnify your love.

SENDING: Where is the care in this world? Where is the faith we were promised? Where is the hope we desired, when peace moves into our homes, and joy is a constant presence, and justice is for everyone?

God, this world waits to know that your love is more than words.

People of God, you have already shared the advent of God's goodness. You carry the blessing of God, God, the First Whisper, Jesus, the Living Promise, Spirit, the Speaker of Hearts. Now go into this world expecting God's justice and nurturing God's peace.

God, we will magnify your love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *He Came Down* (ELW 253)

1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

2 He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.

4 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Today's Worship Leaders

Ministers and Stewards: Everyone

Pastor: Kristin Boland

Altar Guild: Gail Jenicek and Jane Cook

Parish Assistant: Tracy Martinez Council President: Tom Mitchell

Usher: Tim Cook

Liturgist: Cindi Orley

Choir Director: Tom Yost, Pianist: Joni Chapman

Zoom Asst: Michelle Lampson

Thanks for faithful attendance. November 24, 73 in-house, 16 on YouTube.

Prayers for Healing

Sarah Garrison

Ken Belanger

Duane Dehn

Daniel Saari

Barb

Greg and Allison Gillespie

Karen Novachek

Bill Maki

Toni Pedersen

Mindy Ray

Requested by

Mary Cook

Marne Belanger

Bev Dehn

Bill Luckenbill

Mary Cook

Julie Vadnais

Friends

Karen Maki

Karen Novachek

Margie Motiff

Mary McCord
Barbara Swenson
Keith Holm
Cindy Warren
June Steel
Barb Olson
Marlo Leiete
Donna Compton
Jan Morland

Margie Motiff
Keith Holm
Barbara Swenson
Gail Ballinger
Sue Tenpas
Jared Myers
Bev Dehn
Diane Tetzner
Lorraine Young

**Prayers for Comfort in grief
for the family and friends of:**

Charlotte Nye
Howard Hall
Penny Sandor

Requested by
Jared Myers
Pastor Kristin
Kelly Beirl

Prayers

-Comfort and love to all affected by violence
-June Steel and Wilma Lamken are at The Oaks