

Let
the
PEACE
of Christ
rule in
your hearts

(Col. 3:15)



Messiah
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
Church of the Lutheran Confession
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Hales Corners, Wisconsin 53130
414-427-9337
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December 31, 2023

Christmas 1

Good morning and welcome to our visitors! We appreciate your joining our worship family this morning, and we invite you to sign our guest book. If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor at 414-427-9337.

Choir...8:00 A.M.

Sunday family worship...9:00 A.M.

Sunday school and Bible class follow the service

Today's Worship

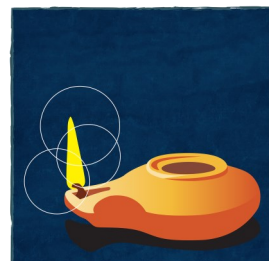
"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Is. 9:6).

Greeting and prayer:

Opening hymn 367: Angels from the Realms of Glory

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful by nature. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST *Gloria in Excelsis*



Prayer of the Day

P: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

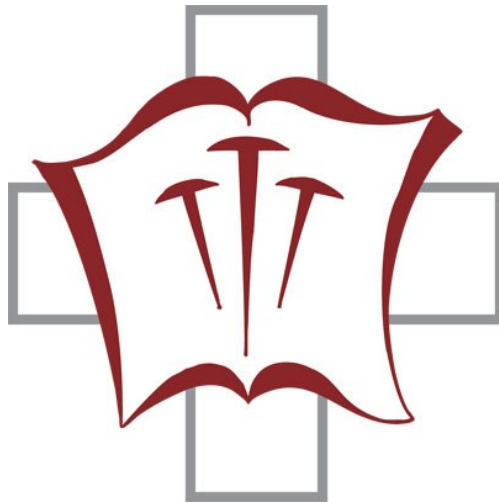
C: Amen.

Old Testament lesson: Isaiah 45:20-25

“Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’

“Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory.”



SING TO THE LORD

Antiphon



Psalm Tone



Sing to the LORD, bless His name;*
Proclaim the good news of His salvation
from day to day.

Declare His glory among the nations,*
His wonders among all peoples.

Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!*
Tremble before Him, all the earth.

Antiphon

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;*
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;

Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it.*
Then all the trees of the woods will
rejoice before the LORD.

For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth.*
He shall judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with His truth.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

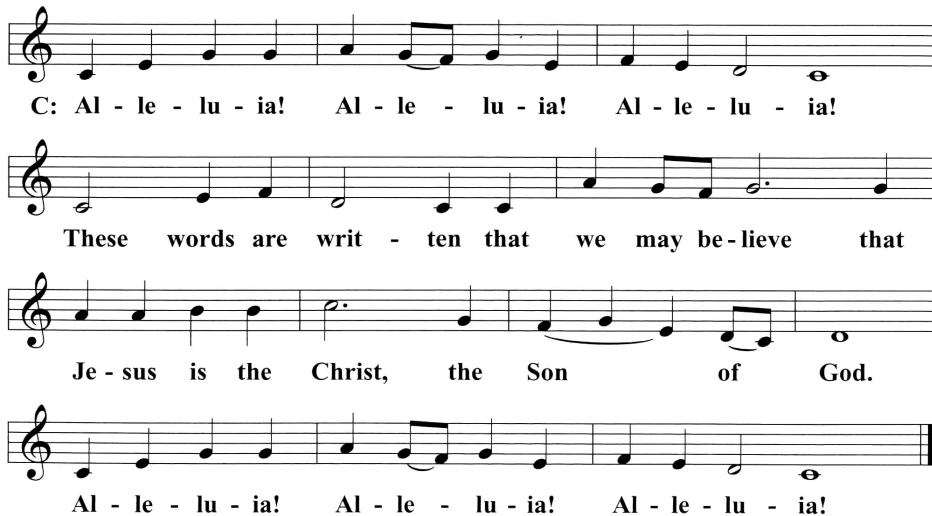
Antiphon

Epistle lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 386: *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

Sermon: Luke 2:25-40

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Christmas is Effective

I. The effect on Simeon

II. The effect on Israel

III. The effect on Anna



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me

not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of

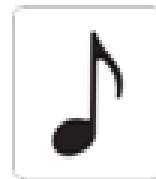
Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Offering

Hymn 390:1,4: *Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*

*Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.*

*Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.*



Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Hymn 519: *In His Temple Now Behold Him*

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing hymn 937: *Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace*

Announcements

Thank you!

We thank the Board of Elders: Mr. Eric Williams, Mr. Erik Nelson, and Mr. Ted Quade for conducting the services today. Thank you, as well, for all the prayers for my heart ablation last week. They were certainly heard and answered. The six hour procedure went well, and I returned home Friday afternoon. No heavy exertion for a week, but otherwise I'm free to resume my normal schedule. In Christ,
Pastor.

New Year's Eve service tonight

There is no better way to close out the old year and look ahead to the new than by praising the unchanging, eternal God who sent His Son to be our Savior. Our service tonight begins at 6:30. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

Wednesday Bible class

The Wednesday Bible class will resume at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10. We will continue the study of the New Testament book of James.

Your help is appreciated

When we gather for worship we are in the presence of our Creator and Savior God, and so we strive to show respect and honor him in our order of service, and also by refraining from things which might be distracting to ourselves or others. "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name" (1 Chron. 16:29). With that in mind, the Board of Elders is asking that drinks not be brought into the sanctuary at the Sunday morning service.

Hosts needed

Seminary student Paul Agentin will be conducting the service on Feb. 4 while Pastor and Sue are on vacation. He and his wife and three young children would appreciate housing the night before. See Eric Williams if you are able to help.

Nominations for delegates

An election for congregational delegates to the Great Lakes Delegate Conference and the 2024 CLC Convention will be held at the voters meeting on Jan. 28. The delegate conference will be held June 3-4, 2024 and the CLC Convention June 20-24. Voting members of Messiah are eligible to serve. Contact Eric Williams if you would be willing to be nominated.

Looking Ahead...

♣Today:

6:30 P.M: New Year's Eve service with Holy Communion.

♣January 9th:

6:00 P.M: Bd. of Elders.

♣January 10th:

6:30 P.M: Bible class.

7:30 P.M: Sunday school teachers.

♣January 11th:

6:00 P.M: Bd. of Property.

♣January 18th:

6:00 P.M: Church council.

♣January 28th:

11:15 A.M: Quarterly voters meeting.



Auditors needed

Two voting members are needed to audit the congregation's financial records. No experience needed. Training will be provided. Contact Jim Lisak if you would be willing to help.

The best part of the day

Just as Mary put aside everything else to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him, so for us too daily time in the Word can be the best part of the day. The readings printed in the bulletin will take you through the entire Bible in 2024. Each day has both an Old Testament and New Testament reading.

Activity committee January-March

The activity committee is asked to meet next Sunday after Sunday school/Bible class to take down Christmas decorations and to plan for the quarter. Committee members are:

Ian and Kristin Stewart (contacts)

Josh and Kelsey Rodebaugh (contacts)

David Traub

Melanie Gerbitz

Kyle and Bethany Ackerman

Mark and Tamara Mueller

Catherine Santori

Tim and Gwen Koch

John and Lisa Marita

Mike and Betsy Cutler

Mark and Amanda Whiting

Rachel Koch

Mike and Eileen Traub

Ethan Gurgel

James Schaser

<i>Bible Readings:</i>	
12/31	Rev 19-22
1/1	Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1
1/2	Genesis 3-5; Matthew 2
1/3	Genesis 6-8; Matthew 3
1/4	Genesis 9-11; Matthew 4
1/5	Genesis 12-14; Matthew 5:1-26
1/6	Genesis 15-17; Matthew 5:27-48

<i>January Ushers</i>	<i>Cleaning Teams 1/5-1/12</i>	
Eric Weaver Armando Hart Brian Naumann	Church:	Plockelman Davis
<i>January Slideshow</i> Sam Lisak	School:	Whiting

<i>Fruits of Faith</i>	<i>Last Week:</i>	<i>To Date:</i>
Budgetary Offerings:	\$9,473.80	\$201,689.20
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,380.21	\$215,376.01
Over (Under) Budget:	\$1,093.59	(\$13,686.81)
Missions:	\$35.00	\$2,151.75
MDF:	\$105.00	\$940.00
Kinship:	\$50.00	\$972.56
CDSIF:	\$35.00	\$135.00
MSAF:	\$90.00	\$854.75

<i>Attendance Last Sunday: 113, 116 Christmas Day: 138</i>
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