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December 15, 2024

Advent 3



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 130 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

**Greeting and prayer:** (Pastor)

**Advent Candle Lighting - #3 JOY**

We light this candle to remember that Christ is the bringer of true and everlasting JOY. God wants us all to have this JOY that is not dependent on our circumstances or our feelings, but by our status as His loved and forgiven children in Christ! We light this candle to remind us to spread this joyful good news far and wide.



**Opening Hymn: 354 *Arise, O Christian People***

LSB 354

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

(Worship Supplement, p. 12)

**Invocation**

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

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

**G** Amen.

**Confession and Absolution**

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**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.

**G** **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 upon 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. Through faith in Him, which was created in you by the Holy Spirit, you are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C** Amen.

**Kyrie** *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life. W.S. p. 13*

**Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.**

**"The Magnificat"** *Mary's song of praise after the annunciation Latin for "Magnifies" (a word of praise) LSB 935*



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!  
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His might!  
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!



Un-num-bered bless-ings, give my spir-it voice;  
 Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
 Pow'rs and do-min-ions lay their glo-ry by;  
 Firm is His prom-ise, and His mer-cy sure.



Ten-der to me the prom-ise of His Word;  
 His mer-cy sure, from age to age the same;  
 Proud hearts and stub-born wills are put to flight,  
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



In God my Sav-ior shall my heart re-joice.  
 His ho-ly name, the Lord, the Might-y One.  
 The hun-gry fed, the hum-ble lift-ed high.  
 To chil-dren's chil-dren and for-ev-er-more!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024 Tune: Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949  
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## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## First Reading

*Zephaniah 3:14-17 (NKJV) (Responsive)*

**P** Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel!

**G** Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

**P** The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy.

**G** The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more.

**P** In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

**G** "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.

**P** The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save;

**G** He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love,  
He will rejoice over you with singing."

## Second Reading

*Luke 1:26-45 (NKJV)*

**P** The second reading is from Luke 1:26-45.

**G** Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> "And He

*will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*


<sup>34</sup> *Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"* <sup>35</sup> *And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.* <sup>36</sup> *"Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.* <sup>37</sup> *"For with God nothing will be impossible."* <sup>38</sup> *Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

<sup>39</sup> *Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah,* <sup>40</sup> *and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.* <sup>41</sup> *And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.* <sup>42</sup> *Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"* <sup>43</sup> *"But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"* <sup>44</sup> *"For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.* <sup>45</sup> *"Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."*

**P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

## **Alleluia and Verse**

*When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"*

 **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**These words are written that we may believe**  
**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Apostles' Creed** *We boldly confess what we believe.*

*W.S. p. 15*

**C** **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 sits 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 of the Day: 356 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came***

LSB 356

**Sermon Text: Luke 1:46-55 (NKJV)**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. <sup>48</sup> For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. <sup>49</sup> For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. <sup>50</sup> And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, <sup>55</sup> As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."

**Sermon Theme: "Christmas Traditions" – Christmas Carols**

† What is your favorite Christmas carol/Christmas hymn?

What are some reasons it is it your favorite?

† In what way(s) is Mary's "song" also our "song"? (see especially **v. 46-49**)

## Offertory

W.S. p. 16

♪ ***Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Your presence,  
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.  
Uphold with Your Spirit free.***

## **Sermon Hymn: 934 *My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord***

LSB 934

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

### **Choir Song: “*There’s a Voice in the Wilderness*”**

There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;  
Make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!

O Christians, you bring good tidings; get up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.  
Like the flow’rs of the field they perish; the grass their works decay.  
The pow’r and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.

But the Word of our God is eternal; the arm of the Lord is strong.  
He stands in the midst of the nations, and he shall right the wrong.  
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, the lambs shall gently hold,  
To pastures of peace shall lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

## Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

### Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

### Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

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



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

### Closing Hymn: 362 O Sing of Christ *(please stand for last verse)*

LSB 362

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## Announcements



**Welcome!** We welcome all our visitors this morning.  
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today:  
12/15/24

**Choir Practice – 8am**

**Worship – 9am**

**Church Photo Updates – 10am** (see announcement below)

**Children's Christmas Eve Practice** (sanctuary) & **Bible Class – 10:15am**



This Week: Tuesday – **Sunday School Teachers Meeting** (via Zoom) – **7pm**  
Wednesday – **Messiah School Children’s Program @ The Villa** (Greenfield) - **10am**  
**Wed. Advent Worship #3 – 6:30pm**  
Thursday - **Messiah School Children’s Program @ New Perspective** (Franklin)–**11am**  
Friday – **Noon Dismissal at Messiah Lutheran School** (Christmas Break begins)

Church Cleaning: Team #6 (12/14-12/20); Team #7 (12/21-27)

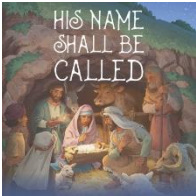
Next Sunday: **Choir Practice – 8am**  
12/22/24 **Worship – 9am**  
**Children’s Christmas Eve Practice** (sanctuary) & **Bible Class – 10:15am**  
**Lunch & Children’s Gift Exchange / Final Christmas Program Practice – 11am**

### **Church Photo Board Updates – TODAY – Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** –

We are updating the photo board in the entryway and will be taking photos after the service today, Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Hannah Barthels will be taking the photos and she and Lisa Lisak have a list of people who either aren’t on the board yet or need their photo updated because of new family members, etc., but anyone is welcome to come get a new photo taken if you’d like one. Families with children who will be practicing for the Christmas Eve service should be ready to go first. Photos will be taken in pastor’s office. New photos will be added to the board, Lord willing, after the New Year. If you have questions please contact Hannah Barthels.



### **Wed. Advent Worship - 12/18 @ 6:30pm** - Make plans to join us for our final Wed. Advent



Worship Service of the season **at 6:30pm this Wednesday**. Our series this year is entitled: “His Name Shall Be Called.” We are examining the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 - “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Everlasting Father,” and “Prince of Peace.” We will learn how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

**Door Locks / Key Fob Issues** – Recently the electronic church door locks went through a software update which inadvertently caused a malfunction and the loss of our key fob information. Most of the key fob numbers have been re-entered into the system and should be working now. If you are having trouble getting your key fob to work on the church entry doors please email your name and the first 5 digits of your key fob number (located on the back of the fob) to the Board of Property at [property@messiahhc.org](mailto:property@messiahhc.org).



(Note: You can test your fob at either door. If the panel flashed red & green that indicates that your fob needs to be reset.)

**ILC Professor Christmas Gifts** – One way by which we praise God and express our thanks for the gift of His Son is through our gifts of love to others. With that in mind, we would like to gather a gift for the 12 professors who serve our church body at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire. Monetary gifts may be placed in the box on the hall counter. Make checks out to “Messiah.” The deadline is Dec. 25th.

**Pastoral “Get to Know Each Other” Visits / Pastor Luke’s Contact Info** – I would like to have a “face to face” visit, which would include a short devotion, with each family and/or individual in the congregation over the next few months. Wherever is most convenient and comfortable for you will work just fine for me (my office, your home, a coffee shop, etc.). Feel free to contact me via email, text, or phone call if you know of a day and time that will work for you. If I don’t hear from you, rest assured, I will be contacting you! I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know each other better soon! In Christ, Pastor Luke

**Pastor’s Contact Info**

Email: [LBerthal@messiahhc.org](mailto:LBerthal@messiahhc.org) † Cell: **402-389-2147** † Church Office: **414-427-9337**

**CLC Call News** - Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN has **received** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has **returned** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

## Bible Readings:

12/15	Amos 7-9; Revelation 7
12/16	Obadiah; Revelation 8
12/17	Jonah; Revelation 9
12/18	Micah 1-3; Revelation 10
12/19	Micah 4-5; Revelation 11
12/20	Micah 6-7; Revelation 12
12/21	Nahum; Revelation 13



SCAN FOR  
ONLINE  
OFFERING

## December Ushers

Andrew Albrecht  
Mike Plockelman  
Alex Saunders

**December Slideshow**  
Eric Williams

## Cleaning Team 12/21-12/27

J/L Lisak  
E/J Nelson  
E/H Williams  
B/B Naumann  
M/A Whiting

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings*:	\$9,829.95	\$177,217.23
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,571.29	\$197,139.67
Over (Under) Budget:	\$1,258.66	(\$19,922.44)
ILC Building Fund:	\$50.00	\$900.00
MSAF:	\$30.00	\$260.00

\*Includes E-giving 11/16-11/30: \$2,387.95  
**Attendance Last Sun. (12/8): 117 / Wed. Advent 1 (12/4): 77**

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