



ASSEMBLY EDITION

Holden Evening Prayer

MARTY HAUGEN

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Advent I | December 15, 2024

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

*Cello will play the
Melody once. Join on
the verse. Verse 3*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re - joice! Re - joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



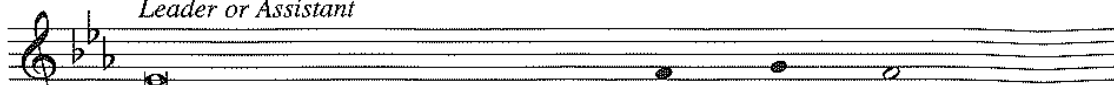
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Holden Evening Prayer

Setting by Marty Haugen

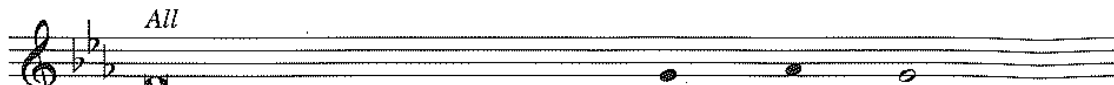
Procession

Leader or Assistant



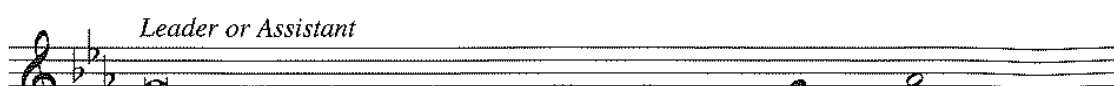
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

All




the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

Leader or Assistant




You dawn upon us as the morn - ing sun



and guide our feet into the way of peace. Let your light scat-ter the darkness,

All



and shine within your peo-ple here.

Morning Hymn

All



1. Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov - ing
 2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
 3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
 blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
 danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
 wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
 jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y

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morning dawns a— round us, we shall raise our songs to
 fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
 God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our
 you. God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
 soul, love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
 way, lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us
 light our hearts a - new.
 free and make us whole.
 on to end - less day.

Thanksgiving

Leader or Assistant *All*

May God be with you all. And al - so with you.

Leader or Assistant *All*

Let us sing our thanks to God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All

A - men.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Psalm 141

Refrain

All

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
 lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Verse 1

Leader or Group One

1. O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two

1. O God, I

now; O hear my voice when I cry to

call to you, come to me now; O hear my

Refrain

you. Let my prayer rise up like

voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise

in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

Verse 2

of-fer-ing to you. 2. Keep watch with -

hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

2. Keep watch with - in me, God; deep in my

love be burn - ing bright.

heart may the light of your love be burn - ing

Refrain

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the

bright. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

Verse 3

3. All praise to the God of all, Cre - a - tor of

you. 3. All praise to the

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of
 God of all, Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to

Refrain

love. Let my prayer rise up like
 Christ and the Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise

in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an
 up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

of-fer-ing to you.
 hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Silence for meditation

Leader May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense,
 and may your presence surround and fill us,
 so that in union with all creation,
 we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

All Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸ as on a day of festival.
- I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my
salvation.

³ **With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this
name is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Come and See

976

What are you look - ing for? Come,
see, come and see. What are you
look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "What are you look - ing for? Come, see, come and see. What are you look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see."

The gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹

Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *ELW 248 People Look East*

Leader A light shines in the darkness

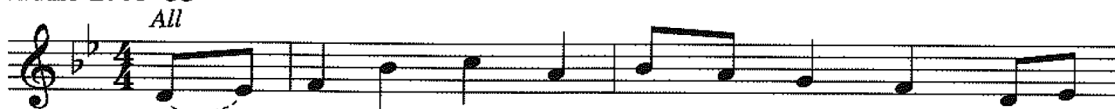
All And the darkness has not overcome it.

The Annunciation
Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38

Leader An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

CONGREGATION STANDS

The Magnificat
Luke 1:46-55



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



spir - it re-joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum-ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your kind-ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom-ised to



weak and low-ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!
Sar - ah and A - bra-ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

3. LITANY AND PRAYERS

Intercessions

All
A *repeat continuously* B

Hmm. God of mer-cy, hold us in love.

A *Leader or Assistant* B

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:
2. For peace and sal - va - tion, we pray to you:
3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo - ples:
4. For us, who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos - pel:
6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la - bor in ser-vice to oth - ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish - es all of cre - a - tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan - ger:
10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer - cy:

A *Leader or Assistant*

Help us, com-fort us, all of our days:

All

Keep us, hold us, gra - cious God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a
har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

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Closing Prayers

Leader Great and merciful God,
source and ground of all goodness and life,
give to your people the peace that passes all understanding,
and the will to live your gospel of mercy and justice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Leader God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Final Blessing

Leader or Assistant *All*

Let us bless our God: Praise and thanks to you.

All

May God, Cre - a - tor, bless us and keep us, may

Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our

guide and path for all of our days. *All* A - men.

Announcements

**Special Offering for December is
Freedom in Christ
Prison Ministries**

Women's Bible Study is suspended until Spring.

Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm we will continue the Advent study, "The Weary World Rejoices" with Pastor Ben. The dates are December 3, December 10, and December 17.

TODAY

The Worship and Family Life Committees have joined forces to provide a light lunch of Sloppy Joes, Salad, Fruit, and Dessert—Peppermint or Vanilla Hot Fudge Sundaes & Cookies immediately following Morning Worship.

A musical treat is added with a 'Round the Table Sing of holiday favorites including Deck the Halls, Jingle Bells, and The Twelve Days of Christmas.

There's no charge. Please stay and join in the fun.

December 20 at 6:00 pm Calvary Episcopal has invited us to join them at their church for "The Longest Night" service. Both Dick Crofts and Pastor Ben will be participating musically.

We look forward to adorning our sanctuary with poinsettias again this year. As in the past, members and friends fund this project to honor and memorialize loved ones. Should you wish to make such a donation, please complete a form, found on the hymnal bookcase, with the appropriate information. These donors and names will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias are \$20 again this year. **If you have donated for a poinsettia, please check in with Dianne so she can be sure your information is correct. Thanks!**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATION FORM

Please submit this form, with payment, \$20 each, to the church office or the offering plate. Note Poinsettia on your check, please.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

A list of dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

We have two remaining positions on Council to be filled - Stewardship and Outreach

The Stewardship Chair helps the church recognize the gifts we have been given and how we might steward those gifts in service of the church and the world. This person would, with the help of their committee and Pastor Ben, oversee the fall stewardship campaign, invite congregation members to share with the church why they give to the church, and collect the pledges of our members. Could this be you?

The Outreach Chair helps the church reach beyond its walls for the sake of sharing the good news we celebrate on Sundays. This person would work with Pastor Ben and the rest of council to communicate our welcome and how best to "get the word out". They would help organize our special offering schedule and offer service opportunities for members in Red Lodge. Could this be you?

These are two important positions and the people that fill them would receive the full support of council and the congregation. Being part of Messiah's church council is working with other members dedicated to the thriving of the church and God's children. This is the work of every church member, but we invite you to take up one of these two positions and lead us in doing the work we're to which we are called.

Prayer Requests

For prayer requests, contact the church office at 406-446-2430 or redlodgemessiah@gmail.com or write your requests in the Prayer request book with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

This month the people of Messiah are praying for Melinda Berry, Brook Feister, the family of Jim Koski, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Rob Loney, Paul Odegaard, Carlos Ramalho, the family of Dolly Stuber, and David Tilton

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In an effort to make Messiah comfortable and welcoming for everyone we ask that you refrain from using strong personal scents or perfumes.

Thank you.

Live by faith . Share Christ's Love . Be a Voice for Hope