

ASSEMBLY EDITION

HOLDEN
EVENING
PRAYER

MARTY HAUGEN

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Advent IV December 21, 2025

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Cello will play the Melody once. Join on the verse. Verses 7&8

257

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.

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'ly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.

Refrain

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new.

Refrain

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Holden Evening Prayer

Setting by Marty Haugen

Procession

Leader or Assistant

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

You dawn upon us as the morn — ing sun

and guide our feet into the way of peace. Let your light scatter the darkness,

and shine within your peo-ple here.

Morning Hymn

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

mor - ning 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

men.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

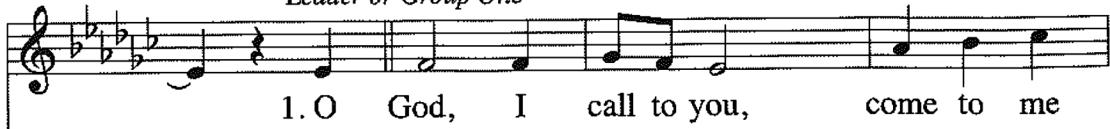
Response: Let us rejoice for the son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us.

GATHERING HYMN — ELW 242 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

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

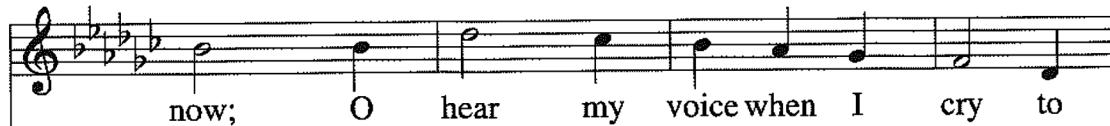


1. O God, I call to you, come to me

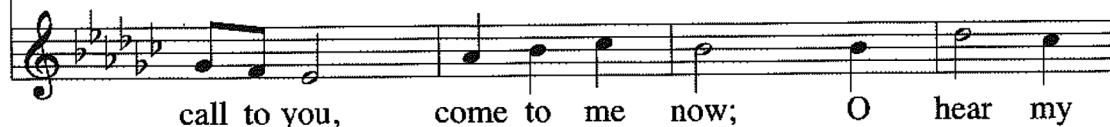
All or Group Two



1. O God, I



now; O hear my voice when I cry to

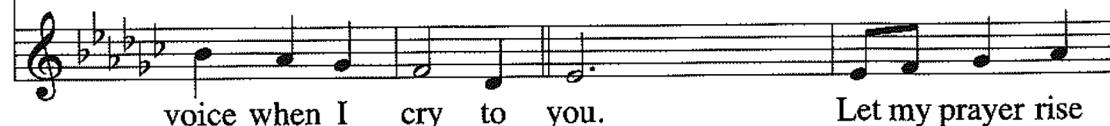


call to you, come to me now; O hear my

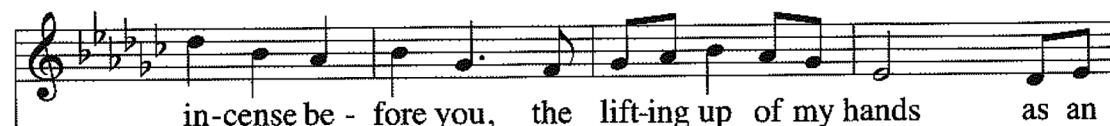
Refrain



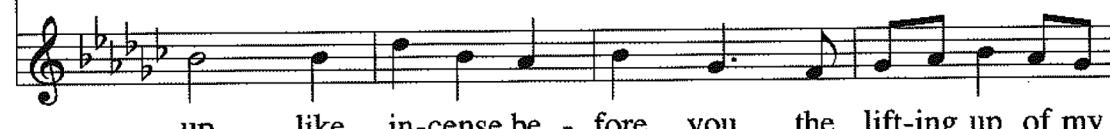
you. Let my prayer rise up like



voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise

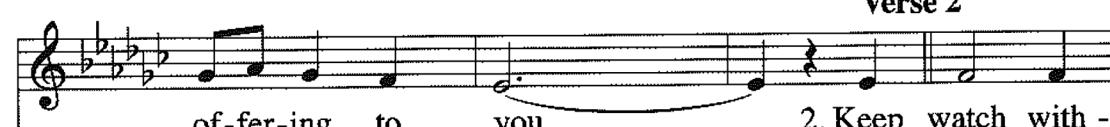


in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

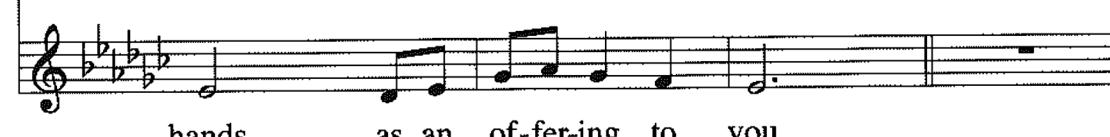


up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

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

CHILDRENS SERMON

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
 stir up your strength and come to help us.

³ Restore us, O God;
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. R**

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Come and See

976

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major (two treble clef staves and one bass clef staff) with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The first staff begins with a dotted half note, followed by a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics are: "What are you looking for? Come, see, come and see. What are you looking for? Come and see. Come and see." The second staff begins with a dotted half note, followed by a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics are: "What are you looking for? Come, see, come and see. What are you looking for? Come and see. Come and see." The third staff begins with a dotted half note, followed by a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics are: "What are you looking for? Come, see, come and see. What are you looking for? Come and see. Come and see."

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

SERMON

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 246 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!*

Leader A light shines in the darkness.

All And the darkness has not overcome it.

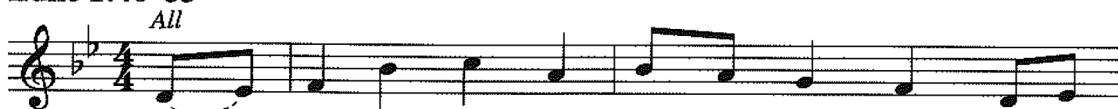
The Annunciation
Luke 1:26–28, 30–32, 38

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.

D.C.

3. LITANY AND PRAYERS

Intercessions

All

A *repeat continuously*

God of mercy, hold us in love.

A

Leader or Assistant

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:

B

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

949 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps

trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain

Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;

chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in B-flat major (two flats) and common time. The music features eighth and sixteenth note patterns. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two lines of lyrics are followed by a repeat sign with a '1' above it, indicating a return to the first section. The third line of lyrics begins with a repeat sign with a '2' above it, indicating a continuation of the section.

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

All

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

Announcements

Special Offering for December is CART

Christmas Memorial Dedications

There is still time to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one or make a donation to the Memorial Garden in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Forms are at the back of the sanctuary. The names of your loved ones will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Children's Mission Fair

Today's fellowship hour brings a light lunch of ham rolls, green salad, fruit, and ice cream for all. We'll follow that with the singing of favorites such as Jingle Bells, Deck the Halls, and The 12 Days of Christmas—around the tables. Plan to join in the fun! AND, please check out the Children's Mission Fair. In this season of giving and receiving, our children have been concerned with giving. Through ELCA's GOOD GIFTS (God's Global Barnyard), a family in Tanzania receives 10 chicks for a gift of \$10. For \$15, a rooster is added. This is the project our children have chosen. In the Gathering Space, there is a display of ornaments, baked goods, honey, and other items that the children have helped create. Please shop there and support our children as they model for us the Christmas spirit of giving.

Pop-Up Choir at Messiah!

All singers are invited to the sanctuary on Sunday, December 28, at 9:00 AM. We will learn a simple, beautiful arrangement of "What Child is This?" and offer music during worship that day. Any questions? Contact Bonnie at 406-570-2923 or bonnie.eichenberger@gmail.com.

Donation Toward The Kids Shoppe

Messiah Lutheran Church received a generous donation of \$750.00 from the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation for "putting on this great event" - Christmas Kids Shoppe. What a surprise! We do buy many gifts, especially for men and boys and all those bags, so these dollars will help with next year's Christmas Shoppe.

Epiphany Bonfire

Epiphany Bonfire will be January 6th at 6 pm.
Bring hot drinks and dress for the weather.

Prayer Requests

Hebrews 4:16: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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
Vince and Mary Ames,

Claudia B, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner,
Doug & Mary Lair, Lois Miller, Ande Odegaard, Jackie Odegaard,
Carlos Ramalho, the family of Dick Rosekelly, Pam Tuscher, Sadie Sceva,
Guynema Terry, Josh Wilker and Lexi

Please remember the unspoken prayer requests of our congregation as well.

**Messiah Lutheran Church
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redlodgemessiah@gmail.com, 406-446-2430**

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