



Messiah Lutheran Church

December 28, 2025

Lessons and Carols

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

December 28, 2025 | Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Welcome

Processional Carol: ELW 270 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen**

First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior
⁹ in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ELW 288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Second Lesson: Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, all you angels;**
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,**
and you waters above the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,**
giving them a law that shall not pass away.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
 you sea monsters and all deeps;
⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog,**
 tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
⁹ mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle,**
 creeping things and flying birds;
¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers of the world;
¹² **young men and maidens,**
 old and young together.
¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people**
 and praise for all faithful servants,
 the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

SONG *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming with Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Third Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
 in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again,
 “I will put my trust in him.”

And again,
 “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared

the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

ACS 910 A Stable Lamp is Lighted



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed whose glow shall wake the
 2 This child through Da - vid's cit - y shall ride in tri - umph
 3 Yet he shall be for - sak - en, and yield - ed up to
 4 But now, as at the end - ing, the low is lift - ed



sky; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - 'ry stone shall
 by; the palm shall strew its branch-es, and ev - 'ry stone shall
 die; the sky shall groan and dark - en, and ev - 'ry stone shall
 high; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - 'ry stone shall



cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, and
 cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, though
 cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, for
 cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, in



straw like gold shall shine; a barn shall har - bor
 heav - y, dull, and dumb, and lie with - in the
 hearts made hard by sin: God's blood up - on the
 prais - es of the child by whose de - scent a -



heav - en, a stall be - come a shrine.
 road - way to pave his king - dom come.
 spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain.
 mong us the worlds are rec - on - ciled.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

SONG Rachel's Lament - Jim Johnson

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. (*We pray especially for . . .*)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

What Child Is This (Congregation) with Child of the Poor (Choir)

Congregation: Please sing the words below between choir verses, when directed.

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain: This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. **Refrain**
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. **Refrain**

Offering Prayer

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ELW 286 Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Epiphany Bonfire

January 6 at 6:00 pm. Bring hot drinks and your Christmas Trees to add to the fire.

“Rachel’s Lament”

The song Jim Johnson is singing in worship today is the first of 10 songs on Jim's second CD, "Real Life". It is available from Jim after worship or at the church office. The cost is \$15.00

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, the family of Wes Thompson, Sadie Sceva, Guynema Terry, Josh Wilker and Lexi

the unspoken prayer requests of our congregation

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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