



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Nativity of our Lord**

*Christmas Eve, 2025*

*Pastor Ben Cherland*

## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

*Greetings and welcome to Christmas Eve at Messiah Lutheran.*

*It is a joy to gather with you!*

*We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper tonight  
and graciously invite you to this feast in the warmth*

*and welcome of Christ himself*

*who is the host of this meal and who wants to see you fed.*

## **GATHERING**

**PRELUDE** *(See Announcements for Music Selections)*

**INTROIT**      **O Who's That Yonder?**    Wilson

**GATHERING HYMN ELW 283 *O Come, All Ye Faithful***

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## **WORD**

## **CHILDREN SERMON**

**Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9** A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the

calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze together, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

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

### ***ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing v. 1***

**Luke 1:26-35, 38** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### ***HYMN ELW 251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness v. 1***

**Luke 2:1-7** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## HYMN *ELW 278 Away in a Manger* (Interlude between verses)

**Luke 2:8-14** <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

## HYMN *ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Luke 2:15-20** <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## SERMON

## HYMN *ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem* vs. 1 & 4

### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Holy God, Immanuel, we praise you in the beauty and warmth of this night. Through most common people and places you have come among us to illuminate our lives by your love. Be with us now as we remember your great gift of love in Jesus and help us to bear that love to this wearied world. You who made the stars of the heavens, mold us in the hope that shines upon us in Jesus, our bright morning star, come at last. Amen.

## MEAL

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN *ELW 271 I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve***

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **EUCARISTIC PRAYER | WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

##### **THE 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.**

### **COMMUNION**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## **SENDING**

**John 1:1-14, 16-18** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. The

## **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*(As you pass the flame, please tilt only the candle you are lighting.)*

## **HYMN *ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night!***

## **BLESSING**

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN *ELW 267 Joy to the World*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, and Merry Christmas!  
**Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **The Prelude**

Angels, We Have Heard on High (Krug)  
O Holy Night (Kelley)  
He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child (Kelley)  
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (Ijames)  
Ding Dong Merrily on High (LeDoux)  
Jesu Bambino (Yon)

Messiah Chimes & Handbells  
Bonnie Eichenberger, piano  
Ben Cherland, cello  
Richard Crofts, organ  
Dianne Milleson, Pastor Ben Cherland, vocals

#### Memorial and Honor Dedications

Barbara Marquardt: Memorial Garden Fund in memory of Howard Marquardt  
Dolly Koski: poinsettia in loving memory of Jim Koski  
Jackie Cordill: poinsettia in loving memory of Dolly Stuber  
Jackie Cordill: poinsettia in honor of DJ Rosekelly.  
Maria Gibson: poinsettia in honor of her family both by blood and love  
Maria Gibson: poinsettia in honor of Brian and Sheena Langeliers,  
in loving memory of Lynn  
Pastor Ben Cherland: poinsettia in loving memory of Carl Cherland  
Elisabeth Cherland: poinsettia in loving memory of Carl Cherland  
Meredith Cherland: poinsettia in memory of Carl Cherland  
DJ Rosekelly: poinsettias in loving memory of Dick Rosekelly  
Todd and Linda Daily: poinsettia in loving memory of Shyrl Daily  
Suzi Hansen: poinsettias in loving memory of Alan Hansen

## 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](mailto: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.

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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*