

ASSEMBLY EDITION

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

MARTY HAUGEN

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Advent III December 14, 2025

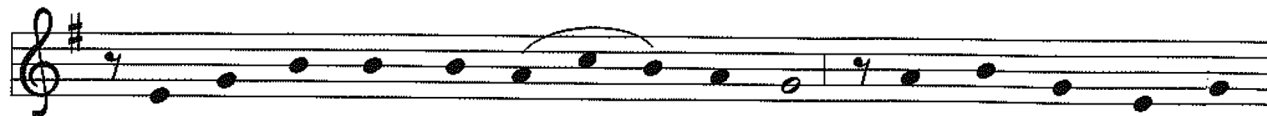
GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Cello will play the melody once. Come in on the verse. Verses 5 and 6

257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



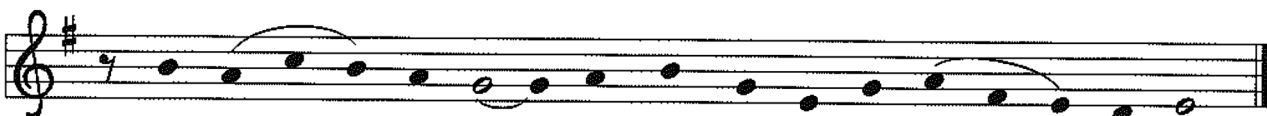
- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



- 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'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

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

- 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

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

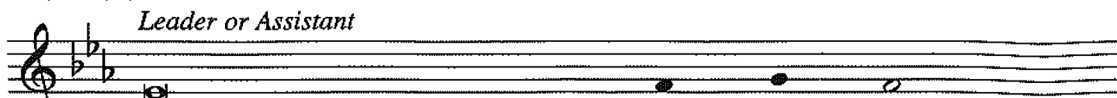
Refrain

Holden Evening Prayer

Setting by Marty Haugen

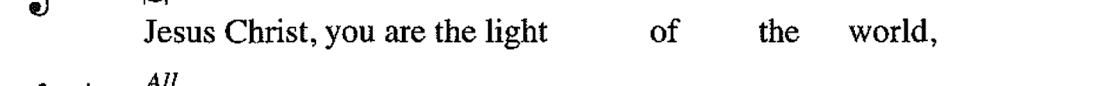
Procession

Leader or Assistant




Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

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



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 g

Leader or Assistant May God be with you all. *All* And al - so with you.
Leader or Assistant Let us sing our thanks to God. *All* 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

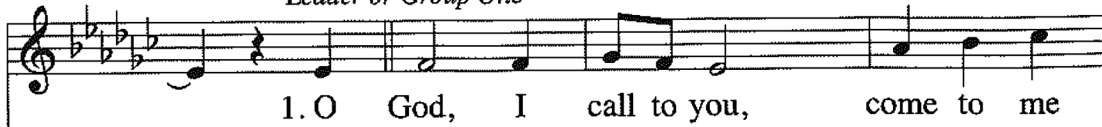
Response: Let us travel on God's Holy Way and enter into Zion with singing.

GATHERING HYMN — Prepare the Royal Highway ELW 264

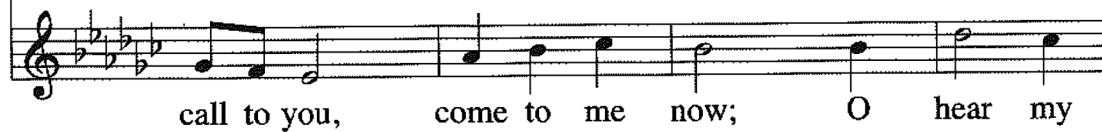
All Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Verse 1

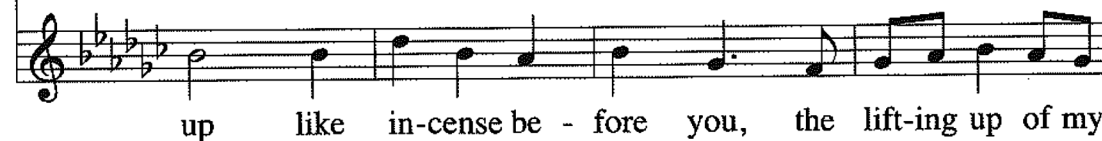
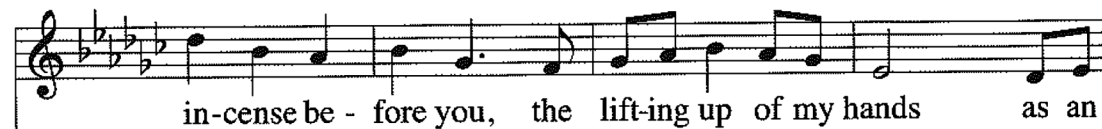
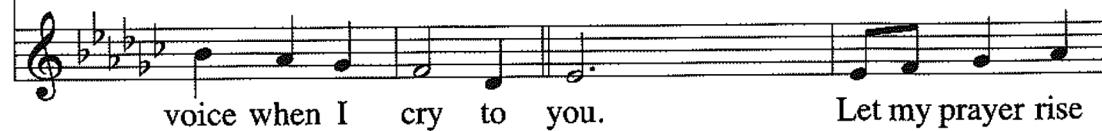
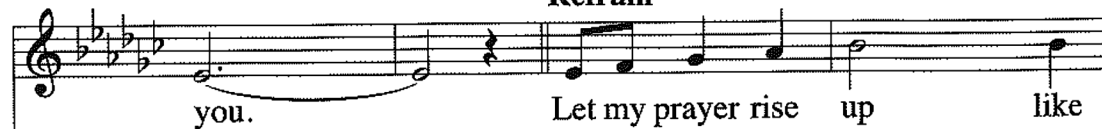
Leader or Group One



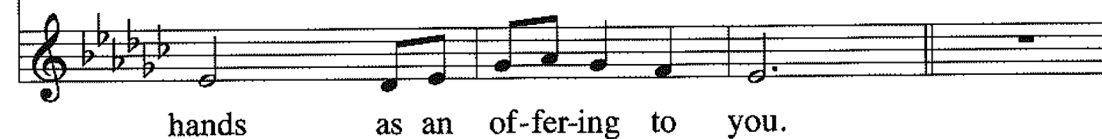
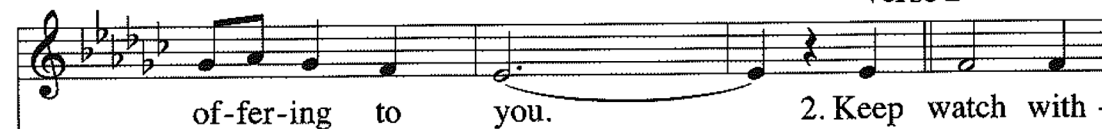
All or Group Two



Refrain



Verse 2



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 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.]]
- ³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
- ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- ⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
- ⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Psalm 146:5-10

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**
who keeps promises forever;
⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are**
bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ¹ of the
wicked.
¹⁰ **The LORD shall ¹ reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord, **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.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O, Lord

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

The holy gospel according to Matthew

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² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O, Christ

SERMON

Please Remain Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

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

All



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

D.C.

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]



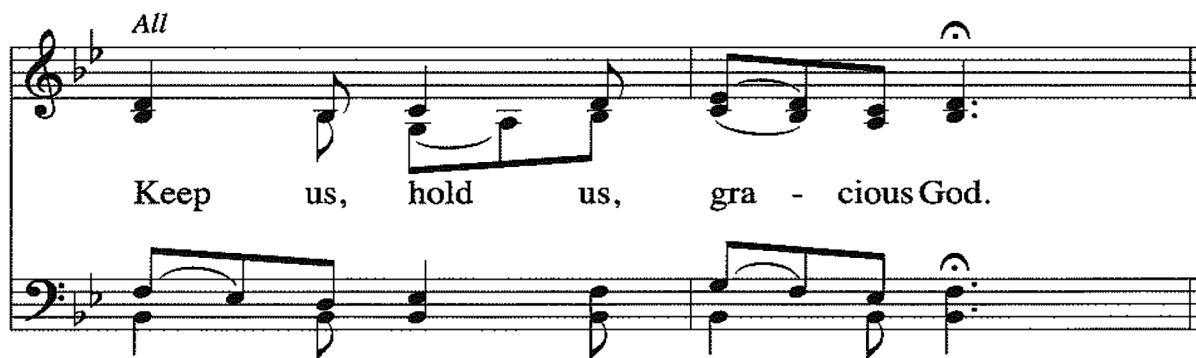
1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:
2. For peace and sal - va - tion, we pray to you:
3. For peace be-tween na - tions, for peace be-tween peo - ples:
4. For us, who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos - pel:
6. For all those who gov-ern, that 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

OFFERING HYMN Canticle of the Turning *ELW 723*

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 *it*

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
CART**

Trades of Hope pop up bazaar

Shaila is here this Sunday with Trades of Hope Fair Trade items for sale. This is a great opportunity to get your Christmas Shopping done.

Midweek Advent Soup and Bread Services

December 17—Calvary Episcopal Church at noon

Help the Homeless in Billings, Montana

A message from Teri Wilker

I am collecting items for a program at Bethlehem Lutheran Church to help the homeless people of Billings, Montana.

Please donate if you have extra men's coats, boots, sleeping bags, blankets and tarps. Items may be brought to Messiah in Red Lodge, and I will pick them up.

God Bless! Teri Wilker

Memorial Donations for Christmas

This year, you will have the opportunity to purchase a poinsettia for the sanctuary or make a donation of any amount to the Memorial Garden Fund in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias will be in place next Sunday, December 21. You will find an order blank at the back of the church to be completed and returned with payment of \$25.00 per plant. If you choose to make a donation to the Memorial Garden Fund, please note the amount of the donation on your form. Donors' names and those of the honored or remembered will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Christmas Kids Shoppe

Again this year's Christmas Kids Shoppe was quite successful. 164 kids shopped and left with 767 gifts wrapped, tagged and bagged for their family members. And so many cookies were enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone. We had great help from setting up on Thursday to putting out all the gifts on Friday to going "shopping" with the kids on Saturday as well as taking down and putting away and storing leftovers in the shed. WHEW!!!

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 many unspoken prayer requests of our congregation as well.

**Messiah Lutheran Church
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Red Lodge, MT 59068
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