

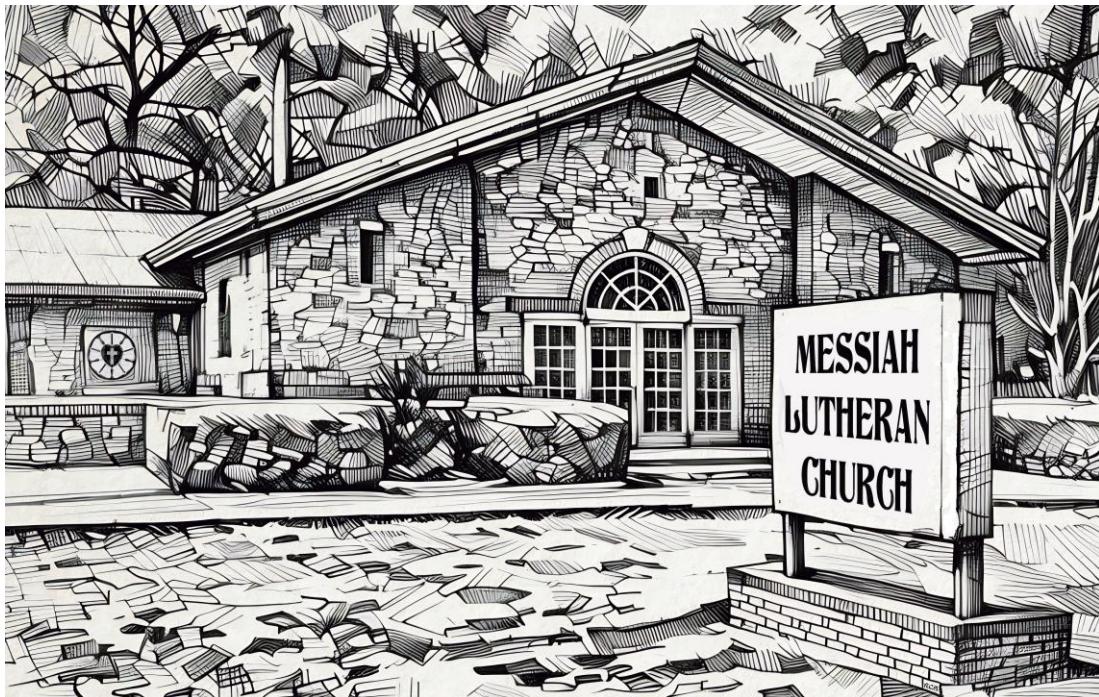
Messiah Lutheran Church

VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

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Office: 229-244-0143 Pastor's Cell: 404-951-6336

Pastor Stephen Wareham
MessiahVLD Pastor@gmail.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH, 2025



“We have found the Messiah”

John 1: 41b

Welcome

We are pleased to meet you and have you visit us today!
Please sign our Guest Book, located in the church entryway (Narthex), as well as the attendance sheet, which can be found in the red folder in each pew. Please let us know how we can assist you in any way.

- **RESTROOMS** are located in the Narthex.
- **QUIET BAGS** are available in the Narthex for older children. We also offer a children's bulletin for ages 3-6 and ages 7-12.

- **QUIET/CALMING ROOM** and a changing table are located near the Fellowship Hall (through the accordion doors behind the choir).
- **INVITATION TO COMMUNION** The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all baptized and prepared Christians who believe Christ is truly present with us in this meal. Trusting in the promises of his Word, “—given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” they intend to grow in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit working through this means of grace toward a more committed life with Jesus and His Church.
- **RECEIVING COMMUNION** Please extend your hand to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Communion Assistant follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup on the communion rail rack. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing “that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ.”
- **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH**

Sundays at 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study in the **Pine Tree House**.

Sundays at 9:30 am: Sunday School: Grades 4th & 5th in the **Pine Tree House**.

Sundays at 9:15 am: Sunday School: Grades 6th – 12th in the **Pine Tree House**.

Tuesdays at 10:00 am: Tuesdays with the Pastor Bible Study in the **Fellowship Hall**.

Tuesday 6:00 pm: Pastor’s Men’s Potluck Bible Study in the **Pine Tree House**.

Tuesday 6:00 pm: Women’s Potluck Bible Study in the **Fellowship Hall**.

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DIVINE SERVICE SETTING TWO

The Mission of Messiah Lutheran is to grow in our relationship with God through worship, education, and service, while sharing Christ’s peace and fellowship with all.

AS WE GATHER

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

Galatians 4:4-5

We are redeemed! No longer do we live in fear of God and His judgement, slaves to sin. Jesus Christ has redeemed us, brought us into God’s family, made us His sons and heirs in his kingdom. Glory to God in the highest!

PRELUDE & PERSONAL DEVOTION (Quiet Please)

+CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION+

Stand

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

EXHORTATION

LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

CONFESSON OF SINS

LSB 151

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **+** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SHARING PEACE:

*Please extend the hand of fellowship to your neighbors with the words:
"The peace of the Lord."*

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

ENTRANCE HYMN

670 YE WATCHERS AND YE HOLY ONES

1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, Bright
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, More
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, Ye
△ 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, Su -

ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, Raise the glad strain:
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, Lead their prais - es:
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia,
per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia,

"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
"Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly Twelve, ye mar - tyrs
al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the

pow'rs, Vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'
Word, Most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the
strong, All saints tri - um - phant, raise the
Son, And God the Spir - it, Three in

choirs: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 Lord: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 song: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 One: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

Text: J. Athelstan L. Riley, 1858–1945, alt; Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623, Köln; Text and tune: Public domain

KYRIE

LSB 168

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.



THIS IS THE FEAST

LSB 155

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

The LORD's Mercy Remembered

Isaiah 63:7-14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go

down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 173



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Flight to Egypt

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, 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.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Herod Kills the Children

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

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

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



HYMN OF THE DAY

389 LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our

glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His

give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

VERSE 5

He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!

How strong the tender Christ Child's love!

No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

VERSE 6

He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

VERSE 7

△ Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Text (sts. 1, 3-7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.; Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561;
Text (sts. 1, 3-7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972; Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

SERMON

PASTOR STEPHEN WAREHAM

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Those to be installed are presented before the altar. The pastor addresses the congregation:

¶ Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture admonishes us that “all things should be done decently and in order.”

To that end, the constitution and bylaws of this congregation establish various offices to which men and women are elected and appointed to serve. In so doing, the Church follows the example of the Early Christian Church as described in Acts, chapter six:

The twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

The apostle Peter writes in his first epistle:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Each officer is named individually according to his or her respective office.

¶ Connie DiMarco has been elected to serve as Church Council President.
¶ James Edmondson has been elected to serve as Council Property Chair.
¶ Beth Bush has been elected to serve as Council Financial Secretary.

The pastor addresses the officers-elect:

¶ You have been chosen to fill specific offices and positions of responsibility at Messiah Lutheran Church. You are to work with the pastor, that our life together in Christ may be orderly and pleasing in His sight.

You are to see that the services of God’s house are held at the proper times, that the Word of God is purely preached and taught according to the Lutheran Confessions, that the Sacraments of Christ are administered according to His institution, that provision is made for the Christian instruction of young and old, that the erring are admonished, and that discipline is maintained.

You are to see that the temporal affairs of the congregation are properly administered and that proper support is provided for the workers of this congregation. You are to assist in caring for the poor and the sick, in cultivating harmony among the members, in promoting the general welfare of the congregation, and in furthering the kingdom of Christ here and throughout the world.

While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you, as office-bearers in His Church, show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the office(s) entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

R *I do.*

The pastor addresses the congregation:

P Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women whom you have selected to serve as officers of Messiah Lutheran Church. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

C **We do.**

The pastor addresses the officers-elect:

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you as officers of Messiah Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the [†] Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your offices that you may be good and faithful stewards to the glory of His name and the good of His people.

C **Amen.**

Stand

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have raised up these servants for work among Your people. We humbly implore You to grant them, by Your Holy Spirit, those gifts needed for the faithful carrying out of their tasks, most especially wisdom, strength, and willing hearts. Let Your blessing rest on this congregation. Strengthen the faith, quicken the love, and enkindle the zeal of its members, that Your name may be glorified and that here and in all places under heaven the kingdom of Your Son may be advanced. We remember with thanksgiving those who have faithfully served Your people and have now completed their time of service. We pray that in the end of days we, with all Your faithful people, may hear the voice of Christ saying: “Come, you who are blessed by My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the [†] Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with

the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life [†] of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, we are the people of Your promise, to whom You have revealed Your Son as Savior and Redeemer. Bless Your Church, that we may enjoy the gift of good and faithful ministers.

Prosper Your Word and bring to fruition its proclamation in every place and time. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O God, You give us the gift of each other. Renew our fellowship as the Body of Christ. Grant all things beneficial for husbands and wives, the single, those who desire marriage, and the lonely who yearn to know the comfort of friends and family. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have perfected Your praise. Silence the enemy and the avenger. Turn the hearts of all who, like Herod, would despise children or destroy the unborn for selfish gain. Show Your forgiveness to those who are penitent. Give Your comfort to all women who mourn the loss of infants, and fix our eyes on Christ, who for a time was spared but has shed His blood for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful God, You appoint leaders and give the responsibility of authority. Protect our nation and its leaders. Grant them wisdom in their pursuit of justice. Bring Your gift of peace in the world, and give relief to those who suffer oppression. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty Lord, You are the Great Physician. Grant healing in accordance with Your will for the sick and those who suffer especially _____. Give strength to those who give aid and care for the sick. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P (Special Petitions)

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, in Holy Communion You unite us in the body and blood of Your Son. Enable us to receive this Sacrament with faith and be strengthened by it. Bring soon, O Lord, unity of faith and doctrine so that all divisions may cease and we may be fully one at the altar. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, all that we have comes from You. Give us grateful hearts, that we may receive Your gifts with joy and use them wisely for Your glory. May our worship this day be pleasing in Your sight. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, You are the bringer of true joy. Grant Your Holy Spirit to increase and sustain us in this joy and thanksgiving throughout the days of this Christmas season, until that day when at last Christ returns in His glory as Lord and judge of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Hear us, O Lord, for we are the people of Your promise and the children whom You have redeemed through the salvation accomplished through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

If you'd like to give electronically with your offering, please see the back of the bulletin for details on donating through Zelle or Thrivent.

Stand

*Pleasing
your story
gives
God glory*

OFFERTORY

955 LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

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 now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80; Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010
Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT+

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

LSB 177

C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \ddagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \ddagger blood, which is

shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

PAX DOMINI

LSB 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 180

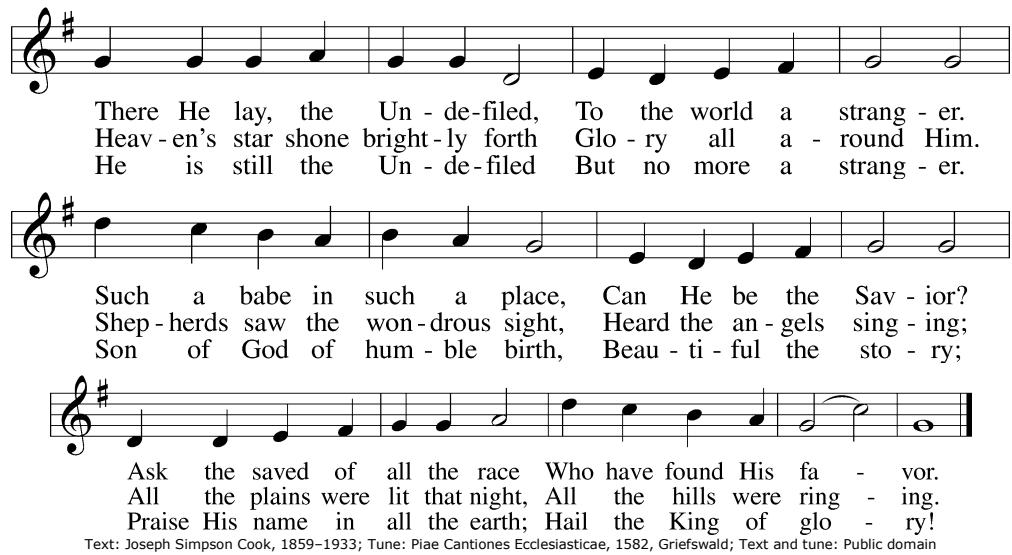
C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

374 GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



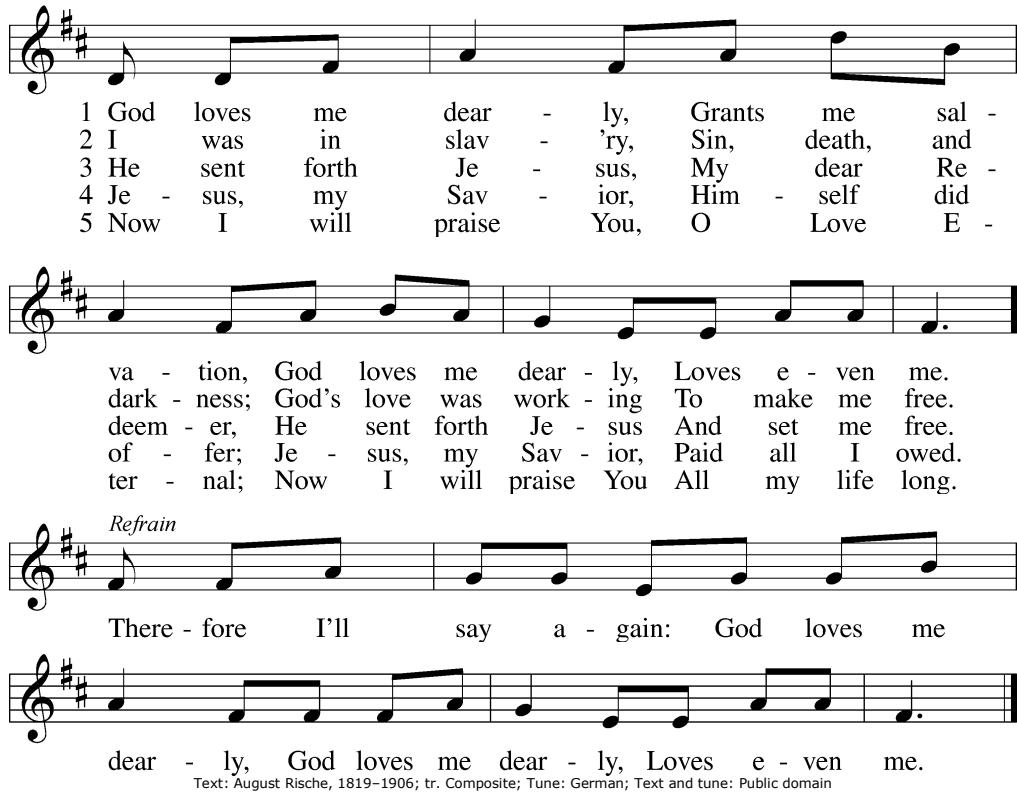
There He lay, the Un - de-filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de-filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859-1933; Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald; Text and tune: Public domain

392 GOD LOVES ME DEARLY



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -

va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me
 dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819-1906; tr. Composite; Tune: German; Text and tune: Public domain

393 INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new

Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, An - gels sing-ing, Bells are ring-ing, Tid - ings bring-ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic-ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.; Text and tune: Polish; Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 183

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

671 SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN GLORY

1 Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, Sing the res - ur -
2 Oh, what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing All that eye has
3 Life e - ter - nal! Heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who

rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,
yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing
once was dead. Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!

To the for - mer days be - long. All a - round the
Nev - er that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,
Child of God, lift up your head! Life e - ter - nal!

clouds are break - ing; Soon the storms of time shall
Christ pre - pares it; There on high our wel - come
Oh, what won - ders Crowd on faith; what joy un -

cease; In God's like - ness we a - wak - en,
waits. Ev - ry hum - ble spir - it shares it,
known, When, a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders,

Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
Saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

Text: William J. Irons, 1812-83, alt.; Tune: William B. Roberts, 1947; Text: Public domain; Tune: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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SAINT DAYS, FEAST DAYS, & COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 28th: The Holy Innocents – Martyrs

Wednesday December 31st: Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Thursday, January 1st, Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Friday, January 2nd: J.K. Wilhelm Loehe – Pastor

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday After Christmas

1 Kings 3:4 – 15; Ephesians 1:3 – 14; Luke 2:40 – 52

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1

† THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN †

Church offices and Bible Studies will be closed December 24, 2025-January 5, 2026, as we celebrate the Christmas season. We wish you a blessed holiday.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.”

Galatians 4:4

Jesus was born under the law so that He might fulfill the law in our place. His perfect righteousness is credited to us. And it is this free forgiveness of sins and this crediting of righteousness that sets us free to follow our Lord in godly living. Since we are freed from the law's condemnation, we are freed from any mercenary attitudes. Now that the Lord has shown His love to us in saving us, we freely show our thanks to Him in generosity, humility and kindness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS†

**NEXT SUNDAY – LOOSE CHANGE
HELPS SUPPORT OUR GIVING!**



Looking for an easy way to share a little extra joy?

Your spare change can make a big difference in supporting our ministry and outreach. Every coin counts, and your giving helps us continue the work God has called us to do.

Search the cushions, search the seat,
Your extra change makes giving sweet!
Thank you for sharing cheerfully!

CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF OUR BAZAAR! 🎉

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and community, proceeds from this year's Bazaar were shared with the following ministries and organizations:

- LWML Florida-Georgia District
- Messiah Lutheran Food Pantry
- Jacob's Ladder Therapeutic Riding Center
- ACTO
- Hospice – Camp Lean On Me
- Second Harvest – Kids' Café
- United Way – The Haven
- Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries (Maternity Home)
- QUOLA Community Soup Kitchen
- Shop With A Cop

Thank you for turning fellowship, fun, and faithful giving into meaningful blessings for our community and beyond!

CELEBRATING OUR QUILTERS!

Thanks to the amazing Quilter's Group, 11 beautiful quilts have been donated to the Georgia Sheriff's Boys Ranch—bringing warmth, comfort, and God's love to those who need it most!

Scan the code and take a peek,
Support the mission that we seek.
Every dollar, every share,
Shows our neighbors that we care.



*There he
made his home
in a town called
NAZARETH.*

M A T T H E W 2 : 2 3