

Messiah Lutheran Church

VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 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

“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Romans 15:4

Every year we celebrate Advent and Christmas, never having seen Jesus Christ, Savior of the World, the one whose birth we look forward to and celebrate. Why? Because we have hope. Not the hope of this world, but the hope of faith, which gives us assurance in things unseen, and which comes from the Word whose birth we celebrate: Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE & PERSONAL DEVOTION (*Quiet Please*)

+CONFESSIOIN 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.

CONFESSION 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.

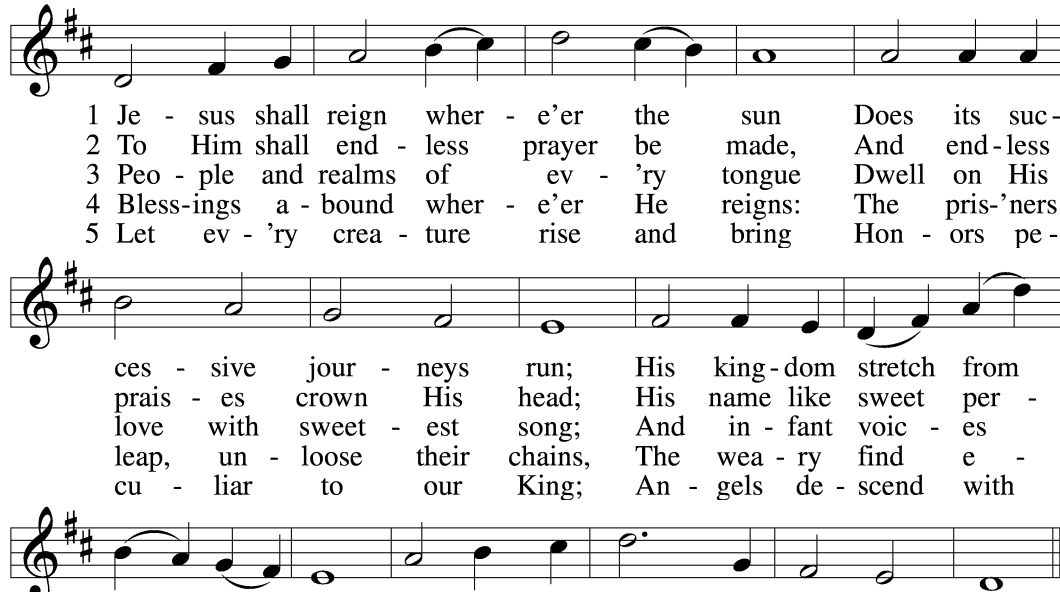
SHARING PEACE:

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

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

ENTRANCE HYMN

832 JESUS SHALL REIGN



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
 2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His
 4 Bless-ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris-'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
 prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es
 leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
 ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793; Text and tune: Public domain

+BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH+

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, many ignore and reject the Lord now, but the day is coming when His majestic voice will fill His enemies with terror. You shall be delivered from your enemies. All who receive the King as He comes to His Zion in Word and Sacrament, all who remain faithful until the end shall then have gladness of heart.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the true hope who comes into the world to give hope to everyone, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for your coming, and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(The second Candle is Lit)

P Lord, Jesus, as we light this candle, we open our hearts to prepare a place for You. Fill us with Your light, that we may share it with the world. Amen.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Verse 1

Light one can-dle for hope, one bright can-dle for hope,
He brings hope to ev-'ry heart He comes! He comes!
Light one can-dle for hope, one bright can-dle for hope,
He brings hope to ev-'ry heart He comes! He comes!
He brings hope to ev-'ry heart He comes! He comes!

Verse 2

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart He comes! He comes!
Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart He comes! He comes!
He brings peace to ev'ry heart He comes! He comes!

#FBC-A017495; This arrangement c 2017 by Hinshaw Music (administered worldwide by Fred Bock Music Company, Inc.); Contributors: Natalie Sleeth, Arr. Heather Sorenson; Tune: Music by Natalie Sleeth; arranged by Heather Sorenson Text: Words by Natalie Sleeth; OneLicense.net #726161

Stand

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.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray.
 Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same 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

Isaiah 11:1–10

The Righteous Reign of the Branch

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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

EPISTLE

Romans 15:4 – 13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 173



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE



HYMN OF THE DAY

344 ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 △ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite; Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621; Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

PASTOR STEPHEN WAREHAM

Stand

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 In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For God's covenant people, that He would teach them to remember His wondrous works and to seek His strength and presence, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For courage to speak Christ to the nations and to teach those still in darkness and death about His gift of light and life; and that God would keep us from being ashamed of His Gospel or intimidated by the opinions of others, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who grow in the faith, that God's Word of encouragement and instruction in endurance would cause them to abound in hope, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For families, that they would faithfully fulfill their vocations to love and forgive one another, even as they grow in the fear, love and trust of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For civil authorities, that they would govern with justice and righteousness as leaders appointed by God to protect the innocent, punish the wicked and work for the common welfare of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those afflicted in body or mind, [*especially* _____,] that they would receive the riches of God's grace, healing according to His will, and grace to carry them through the day of trouble, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P (Special Petitions)

C hear our prayer.

P For all who commune this day, that their hearts would be stirred up to make ready the way of the Lord Jesus, who comes in His body and blood, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P O Lord God, heavenly Father, grant us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful to us and to our salvation, that with confidence in Your will, we may say "amen" to our prayers and live in contentment and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

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

LSB 177

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- 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.

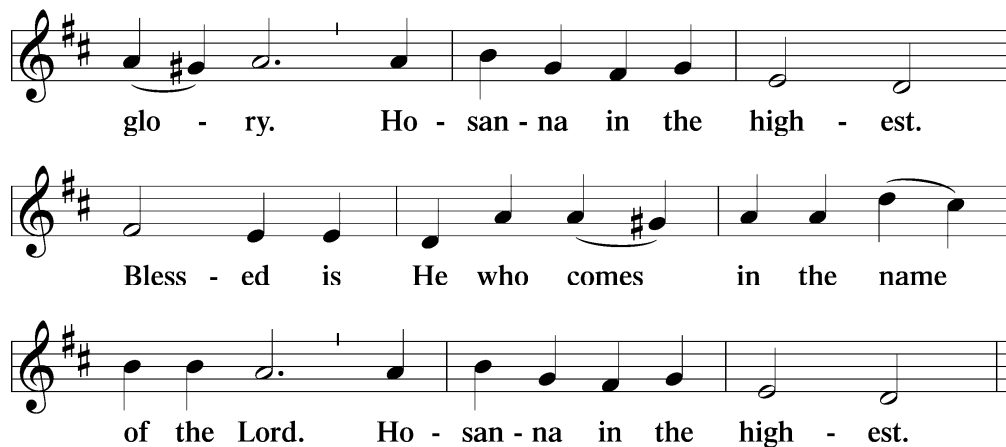
PROPER PREFACE

- 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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



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 ✝ 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 ✝ 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;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

748 BIND US TOGETHER

Refrain Bind us together, Lord Bind us together

With cords that cannot be broken

Bind us together, Lord Bind us together

Bind us together in Love

There is only one God,

There is only one King

There is only one Body,

That is why we sing. *Refrain*

Fit for the glory of God,

Purchased by His precious Blood

Born with the right to be free

Jesus the victory has won. *Refrain*

We are the family of God

We are the promise divine

We are God's chosen desire

We are the glorious new wine. *Refrain*



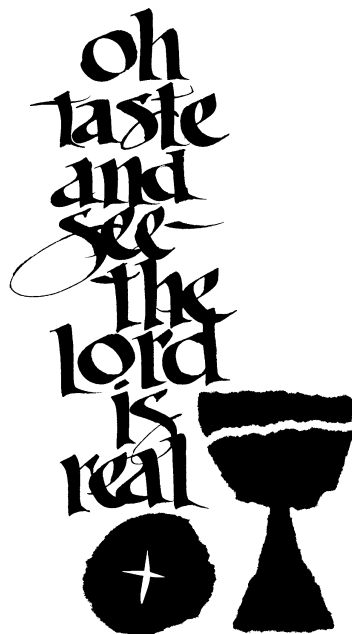
725 CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His

in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958; Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, 1873, Sweden; Text: Public domain; Tune: Public domain



347 COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois; Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS

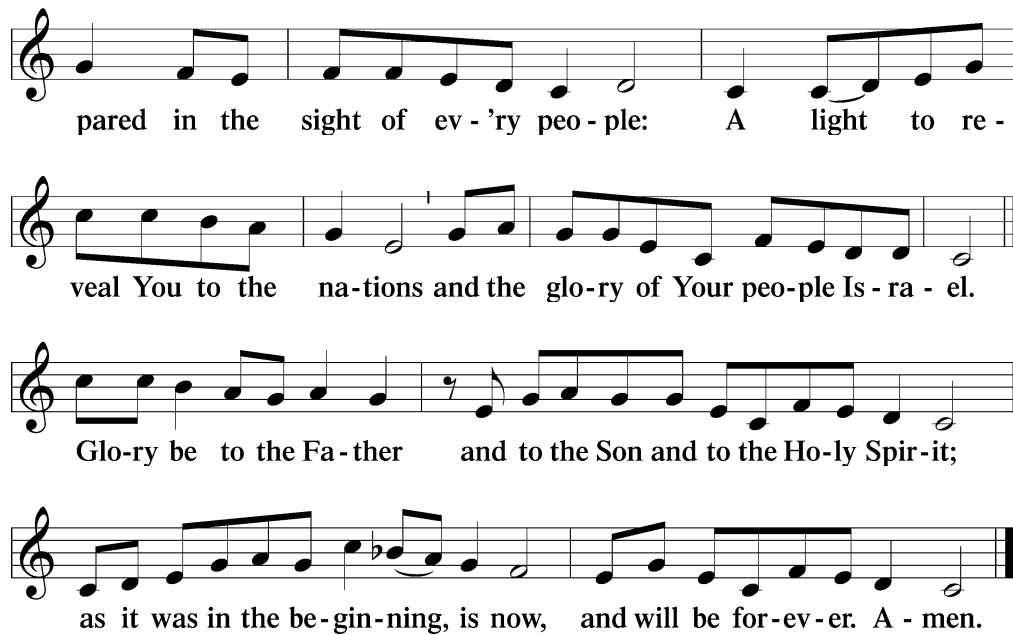
LSB 182



C Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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.

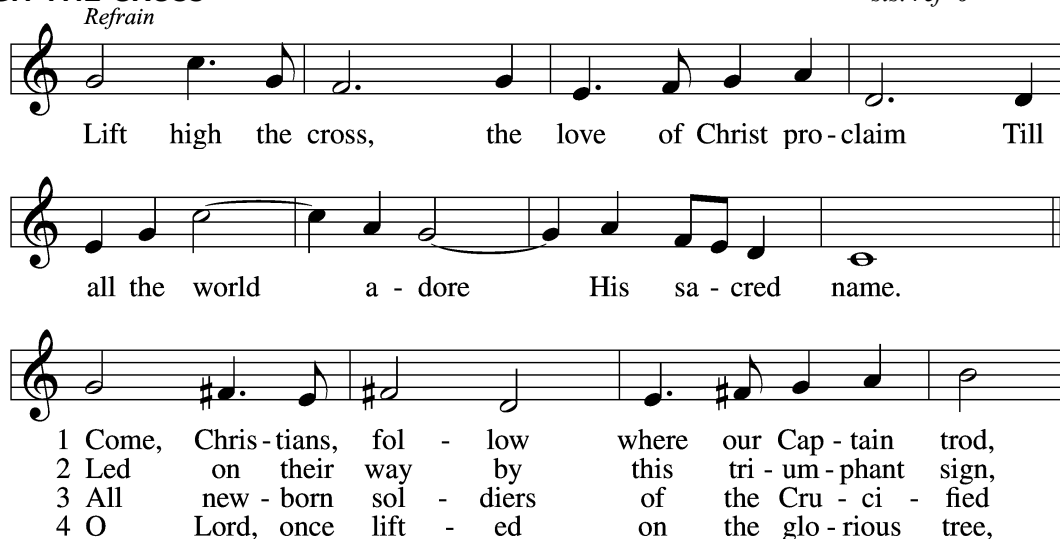
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

837 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

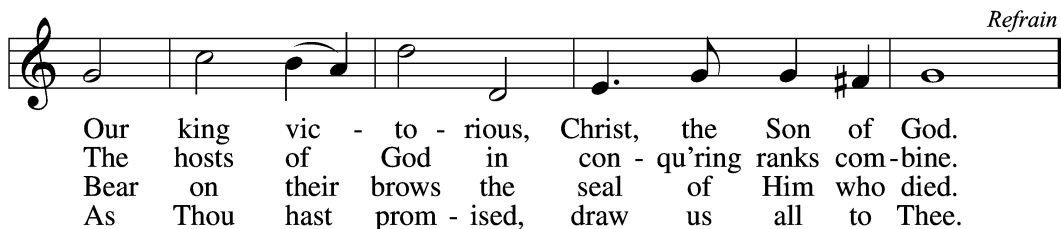
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Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



VERSE 5

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
 Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

VERSE 6

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
 Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt.; Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 35:1 – 10; James 5:7 – 11; Matthew 11:2 – 15

SAINT DAYS, FEAST DAYS, & COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 7th: Ambrose of Milan – Pastor & Hymnwriter

Saturday, December 13th: Lucia – Martyr

“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 †

MON	6:00	Church Council Meeting
TUES	10:00	Bible Study with Pastor
	11:00	Joyful Noise & LWML Holiday Lunch: Red Lobster
	6:00	Men's Potluck Bible Study
WED	12:00	Advent Midweek Worship
	6:00	Advent Dinner
	7:00	Advent Midweek Worship
THURS	9 - 12	<u>NO QUILTERS GROUP</u> – holiday break 'til 1/8/2026

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”
Matthew 3:1-2

John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus' ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

† ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS †

YOU'RE INVITED TO A NIGHT OF HOLIDAY MUSIC!

Bob Hubbard would love for our Messiah family to join him at the **Azalea Winds Holiday Concert!** **Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 PM**, at the **Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta: 215 W North Street**. Come enjoy beautiful seasonal music, support Bob and the Azalea Winds, and soak in the joy of the holidays. **He truly hopes to see you there!**

🎵 YOU'RE INVITED TO A BEAUTIFUL EVENING OF MUSIC! 🎵

The Valdosta Choral Guild will present their Christmas concert at **First Methodist Church downtown** — a wonderful way to begin the season with joy and harmony!

Join us on:

- **Saturday, December 7 at 4:00 PM**
- **Sunday, December 8 at 7:00 PM**

Tickets are available from **Kay**, or you can purchase them at the door. Be sure to check out the poster on the narthex table for more details. Come and celebrate the sounds of the season! 🌲 ✨

🍷 LWML & JOYFUL NOISE HOLIDAY LUNCH *

This December, **LWML** and **Joyful Noise** are *joining forces* for a fun and festive holiday lunch! **Tuesday, December 9th 11 AM at Red Lobster: 1179 N Saint Augustine Rd**

If you'd like to join, please let **Nan Boyd** know **by November 26th** so they can reserve enough seats. **Join in for fellowship, food, and a little holiday cheer!**

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