

# Messiah Lutheran Church

VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

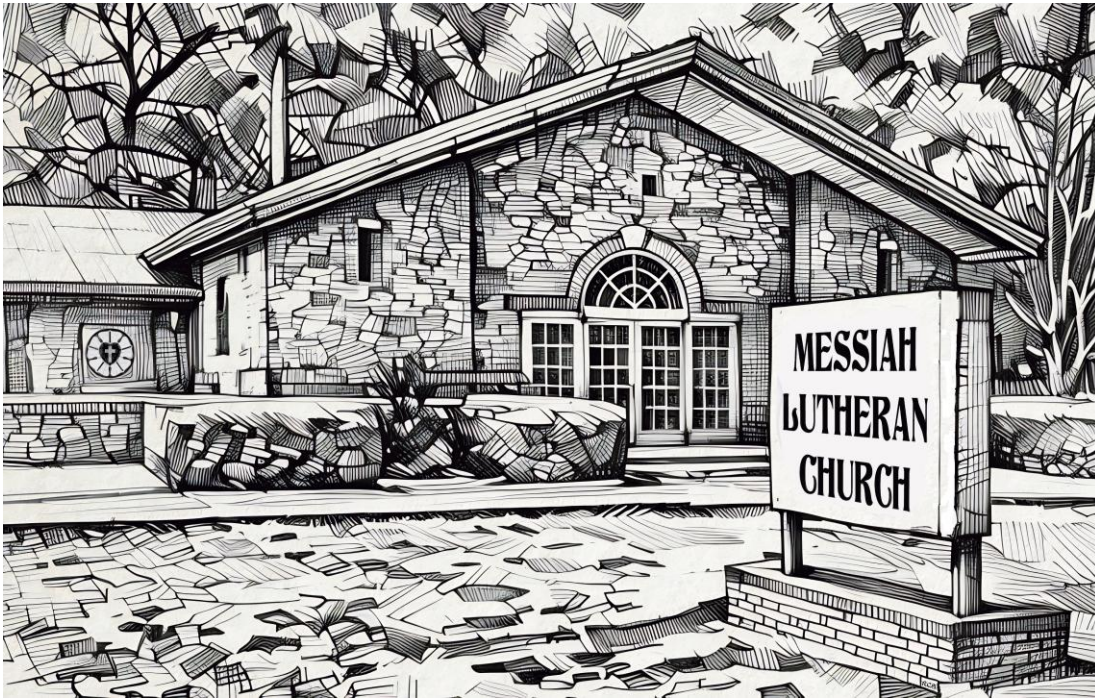
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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**



*"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 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> in the **Pine Tree House**.  
 Sundays at 9:15 am: Sunday School: Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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 THIRD 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

*“You, too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”*

*James 5:8*

Advent is a time of patience and duality for the church. On one hand, we look forward to and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior of all, on Christmas morning. On the other, Advent is a time to look forward to Jesus’ second coming, when creation will be renewed and Christ’s Kingdom will reign eternal!

### 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.*

## 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

#### 849 PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955; Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia  
Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972; 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 third Candle is Lit)*

**P** The Lord Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this wreath for use in His Church throughout this holy season of Advent.

**C** 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!

#### *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!

#### *Verse 3*

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

### 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 Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 35:1–10*

##### **The Ransomed Shall Return**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. 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. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**



#### **EPISTLE**

*James 5:7–11*

##### **Patience in Suffering**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

<sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not

grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 173



## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-15

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

<sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

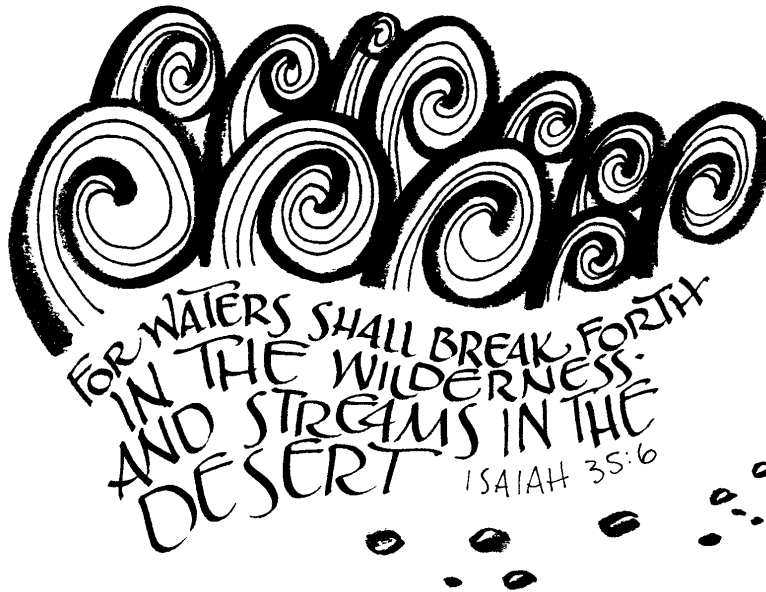
<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



## HYMN OF THE DAY

### 349 HARK THE GLAD SOUND

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51; Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820; 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  $\pm$  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, You are the source of all joy. Even the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad at Your appearance. Sustain us in the time of waiting for Your will and purpose to unfold in these latter days. Give us patience under trials and hope that endures the changes and chances of this mortal life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** O God, You have sent messengers to prepare the way of Your Son's coming. Grant us ears to hear and hearts to believe the words delivered by pastors and all who bear Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Gracious Lord, You have instituted the home to be a refuge for husbands and wives and a place of growth and safety for children. Look with favor upon the homes of our land, and grant that the faith might be delivered from one generation to the next. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Almighty God, give guidance to those entrusted with positions of leadership in government. Protect service men and women who defend us against the enemies of our nation, and those who enact and enforce laws that protect us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** O Lord, our God, the prophet Isaiah looked for the day when blind eyes would see, deaf ears would hear, lame legs would leap and mute tongues would sing. Until the final day of restoration, draw near to all who have requested our prayers, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_], and give them healing according to Your gracious will. Bind up those who grieve, that they may look for the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** (Special Petitions)
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Merciful Lord, You give strength to those who are anxious. Give us hearts that trust in You at all times. Grant us courage to confront our doubts and fears with Your Word, and give us strength to fulfill our vocations of worship, witness, prayer and works of mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** With great jubilation, O Lord, we rejoice at Your Son's gracious visitation in His body and blood in the fellowship of this altar. Grant us faith to receive Him worthily as He comes in this foretaste of the Lamb's marriage feast. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** O God, Your love invites us to rejoice in Your goodness. In every circumstance of life, teach us the joy that comes from knowing Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and eagerly expecting His gracious visitation; through the same 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

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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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

### 357 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*  
Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

#### VERSE 5

O come, Thou 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

#### VERSE 6

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

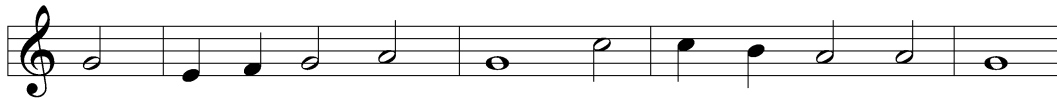
#### VERSE 7

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain



## 649 BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
 4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer bit - ter pain;  
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.  
 And per - fect love and friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872, alt.; Text and tune: Public domain

## 515 REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



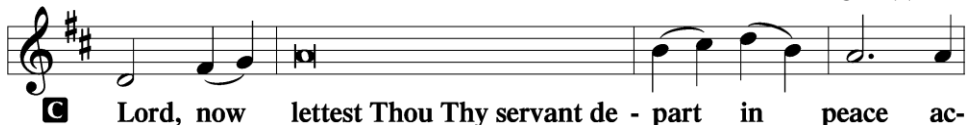
Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.  
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.; Tune: Swedish; Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199



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.

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

### 338 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

1 Come, Thou long-ex-pected Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!  
 From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
 Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.; Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven; Text and tune: Public domain

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7:10 – 17; Romans 1:1 – 7; Matthew 1:18 – 25

## SAINT DAYS, FEAST DAYS, & COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men

Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: Adam & Eve – Our First Parents

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>: Katharina von Bora Luther – Lutheran Reformer

*“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 †

<b>TUES</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Bible Study with Pastor</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>11 – 3</b>	<b>Loaves &amp; Fishes Food Pantry – <i>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!</i></b>
	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Advent Midweek Worship</b>
	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Advent Dinner</b>
	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Advent Midweek Worship</b>

## STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

*“Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’”*

*Isaiah 35:4*

The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flow from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.



