



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 am - December 21, 2025

*Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & TEMPLE TALK

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

#### Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion. We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant

In a world full of fear, how do we love boldly?  
We love by standing up for the oppressed, by speaking truth, by offering grace, by showing up.  
Love is more than a feeling—it's an action.  
Today we light the candle of love as a commitment to love boldly, fully, and well.

*Hear these words of the Prophet Micah:*  
*"What does the Lord require of you*  
*but to do justice, and to love kindness,*  
*and to walk humbly with your God?"*  
—Micah 6:8

Thanks be to God! Amen.

#### # 266 "All Earth Is Hopeful" *all verses*



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co - a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our

life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention--all are welcome!

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text. **You are invited to read the bold portions.**

mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our

cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Friends, every day we are given choices—  
the choice to be a friend, to be an ally, to extend a welcoming hand.  
Some days we choose wisely, but from time to time, we inevitably get it wrong.

That is one of the many reasons we need the Prayer of Confession.  
In this moment of prayer, we are able to practice the art of forgiveness.  
So join me in this transformative moment.  
Join me receiving grace. Let us pray.

When you were afraid,  
did I stay by your side?  
Did I offer my hand,  
or did I leave you alone?

When you were afraid,  
did I choose solidarity?  
Did I see your fear,  
or did I only see mine?

**Friend, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.**  
**Fortunately, God offers grace, and we do too.**  
**So take a deep breath, and let's start again.**  
Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

Now we must ask—

when you were afraid,  
did we stay by your side?  
Did we offer our hands,  
or did we leave you alone?

When you were afraid,  
did we choose solidarity?  
Did we see your fear?  
Or did we only see ours?

Friends, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.

Fortunately, God offers grace, and I do too.

So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

**Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.**

**We accept your grace and would love to start again.**

May it be so, with God's help.

**Alleluia, Amen.**

#### GATHERING HYMN

#906 "No Wind at the Window"



1 No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;  
2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.  
3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come:  
4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;



no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;  
Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.  
sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;  
no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.



no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:  
The time for re - deem - ing the world has be - gun,  
both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;  
Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,



just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.  
 and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son."  
 both . . vic - tor and . . vic - tim, both . . yours and di - vine.  
 re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . God I say yes."

## GREETING

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

## KYRIE

**INTRO** **VERSE 1**

$\text{♩} = 74$  Dm F B $\flat$  F Dm C/E F F/C B $\flat$ (#4) Dm F B $\flat$  F

Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

**VERSE 2**

7 Dm C/E F C B $\flat$  B $\flat$  Dm B $\flat$ /F F

Lord, have mer - - cy. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son.

**VERSE 3**

13 Dm C/E F C Gm7 Gm7 B $\flat$ maj7 B $\flat$ /D F

Christ, have mer - - cy. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

19 Dm C/E F C B $\flat$  C F

Lord, have mer - - cy. Lord, have mer - - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Immanuel, We turned off alarm clocks. We poured cups of coffee. We slipped shoes onto our feet and combed back fly-away hairs. We traveled to this room and settled into this space, all in hopes of drawing closer to you. So as we hear your Word read aloud, help us to feel your presence in our midst. For we are reaching out our hands. We are reaching out our hearts. Speak to us now. With hope we pray, **Amen.**

**HANDBELL CHOIR**

"On Jordan's Banks/People, Look East!"

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 41:5-10

<sup>5</sup>The coastlands have seen and are afraid;  
 the ends of the earth tremble;  
 they have drawn near and come.  
<sup>6</sup>Each one helps the other,  
 saying to one another, "Take courage!"  
<sup>7</sup>The artisan encourages the goldsmith,  
 and the one who smooths with the hammer encourages the one who strikes the  
 anvil,  
 saying of the soldering, "It is good,"  
 and they fasten it with nails so that it cannot be moved.  
<sup>8</sup>But you, Israel, my servant,  
 Jacob, whom I have chosen,  
 the offspring of Abraham, my friend;  
<sup>9</sup>you whom I took from the ends of the earth  
 and called from its farthest corners,  
 saying to you, "You are my servant;  
 I have chosen you and not cast you off";  
<sup>10</sup>do not fear, for I am with you;  
 do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
 I will strengthen you; I will help you;  
 I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.****SECOND READING**

Romans 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of  
 God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>  
 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh  
<sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by  
 resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received  
 grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for  
 the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,  
<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please  
stand as  
you are  
comfort-  
able in  
body or  
in spirit.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**CHORUS**

F Gm Dm F/A B $\flat$  F Gm *Last time to Coda*

$\text{♩} = 130$

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

**VERSE**

1, 3 2

7 Dm C Dm C Dm

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

### GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

Please be  
seated

## SERMON

**MEDITATIVE MUSIC** *(instrumental)*

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

## APOSTLES’ CREED

Please stand  
as you are  
comfortable  
in body or  
spirit.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah’s coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill, especially... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be  
Seated.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" *Celebration Choir*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Please  
stand as  
you are  
comfortable  
in body  
or spirit.

God of trembling hearts and trembling hands, we bring these offerings—fragments of our lives, symbols of our hope—trusting that you will bless and multiply them for work that casts out fear and makes room for love. As we now draw near to your table, remind us that generosity is not just a moment but a way of life, and that your good news is louder than fear. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and it is necessary —

... and join their unending hymn:



♩ = 84    F    Dm7    Am    C    B♭    F

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

5 Heav - en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -

8 est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

11 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

15

...As we eat this bread and drink from this cup,  
we remember the mystery at the heart of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

... Until that day when every fear is undone,  
and every table is filled,  
and every voice sings again:

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMNS

## “Lamb of God”

Please be  
seated.

♩ = 74 Dm F B♭ F Dm C/E F

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, mi - se - re - re

4 C B♭ Dm

no - - bis. Lamb of God, You take a - way the

8 B♭/F F Dm C/E F C Gm7

sins of the world, mi - se - re - re no - - bis.

13 B♭maj7 B♭/D F Dm C/E F C

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, do - na no - bis pa -

17 B♭ C F

cem, do - na no - bis pa - - - - cem.

#901 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

#905 “We Are Waiting for Jesus”

## BENEDICTION

Please  
stand as  
you are  
comforta-  
ble in body  
or spirit.  
Benedic-  
tion: God  
blesses us and  
sends us in  
mission to the  
world.

Whatever fear you carry,  
you do not carry it alone.

Go—

with love that speaks louder than fear,  
with hands open to grace,  
with just enough courage for today.

The good news is still true.

God is still here.

You are not alone.

In the name of the One who calls you, +

walks with you,  
and goes ahead of you—  
go in peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

“Prepare The Way” *by Nick Hebert*

**INTRO** **VERSE 1**

$\text{♩} = 94$  E Esus E Esus E

1. Pre - pare the way of the Lord.

6 Esus E Esus C#m

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord.

10 A E B B

Come and wor - ship Him, let His King - dom in. 1. Pre (King) - dom in. Make

**CHORUS**

E/G# A C#m B E/G# A

straight in the des - ert a high - way for God. Each moun - tain made low, each

17 C#m B E/G# A C#m B

val - ley raised up. The Lord God Al - might - y will nev - er be stopped. His

**VERSE 2**

20 F#m A B E Esus

glo - ry will be re - vealed. 2. Je - sus Christ is the Lord.

25 E Esus C#m A

Je - sus Christ is the Lord. Je - sus Christ is the Lord. Come and wor -

**CHORUS**

29   
 ship Him, let His King - dom in. (King) - dom in. Make straight in the des - ert a

33   
 high - way for God. Each moun - tain made low, each val - ley raised up. The

36   
 Lord God Al - might - y will nev - er be stopped. His glo - ry will be re - vealed.

**INSTRUMENTAL****BRIDGE**

40   
 Come see the Lamb of God

47   
 lift - ed high. Make room in your heart, the King is a - live.

52   
 Come (King) is a - live. Make straight in the des - ert a

57   
 high - way for God. Each moun - tain made low, each val - ley raised up. The

60   
 Lord God Al - might - y will nev - er be stopped. His glo - ry will be re - vealed. Make

64 2 TAG

F#m A B F#m A B

glo - ry will be re - vealed. His glo - ry will be re - vealed. Pre -

ENDING

E Esus E Esus

pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre -

73 C#m A E B

pare the way of the Lord. Come and wor - ship Him. Pre - pare the way of the Lord..

77 E

## SENDING

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE





## Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church



### Children belong in worship!

Worship kits and a nursery space is available. God rejoices in the joyful noise of children and so do we!



### God calls us to welcome everyone!

Messiah seeks to be a welcoming community and to share the love of God with our neighbors. If you are new, please introduce yourself to our pastors.



### Worship should be accessible!

Hearing devices (and T-Coil) and large print bulletins are available. We invite you to sit or stand as you are comfortable. All gender and family restroom facilities are available on the first level, please see signs in the Narthex.



### All are welcome at Jesus' table!

During communion grape juice and gluten-free options are available. Those not wishing to commune may come forward for a blessing. Those not able to come forward may receive communion in their pew, please notify the usher.



### God calls us to pray!

Private prayer requests may be made by writing them on the back of the Welcome Card. If you would like to be added to the prayer list or receive a pastoral care visit, please contact the church office.

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Preacher:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Mike Hill
Reader:	Marina Shinkarenko
Ushers:	Amy Diedrich, Jill Luoma
Communion Assistants:	Mike & Joan Hill, Sandy Lindberg, Gayle Mack
Greeters:	Marina Shinkarenko, Ellen Symons
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jon Banitt
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Leslie Williams
Nursery:	Jamie Dodge
Flower Delivery:	

#### Acknowledgements:

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Thank you for your generosity!

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**venmo**