



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

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 am - December 14, 2025

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In a world full of fear, how do we find joy?

We find joy in connection, in laughter, in honest conversation, in acts of kindness.

Joy does not shy away from hard truths.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder that joy is real, even in struggle.

Hear these words of the Prophet Isaiah:

*"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing."
—Isaiah 35:1–2*

Thanks be to God! Amen.

266 "All Earth Is Hopeful" verses 1 and 4

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



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

The presid-
 ing minister
 will read the
 sections in
 plain text.
**You are
 invited to
 read the
 bold por-
 tions.**

Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on.

But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all.

So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray.

Courageous God,
 you invite us to live into our call.
 You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
 Instead of responding with a resounding "yes,"
 we often hide our face.
 We dig our heels in.
 We look for someone else to volunteer.
 Spark courage in us.
 Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
 Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone.
 You invite us forward.
 With baby steps we hope,

**we pray,
Amen.**

Family of faith,
no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day.
So join me in declaring this good news:
We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.
May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call.
Amen.

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

Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed the children act it out.

The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray, **Amen.**

Please
be seat-
ed

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Come Little Children”

Stella Rector, *Violinist*

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
 and before you were born I consecrated you;
 I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a
 boy.” ⁷ But the Lord said to me,
 “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
 for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
 and you shall speak whatever I command you.
⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
 for I am with you to deliver you,
 says the LORD.”
⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,
 “Now I have put my words in your mouth.
¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
 to pluck up and to pull down,
 to destroy and to overthrow,
 to build and to plant.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

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

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please
stand as
you are
comforta-
ble in body
or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be
seated

SERMON

MEDITATIVE MUSIC *(instrumental)*

"Love Has Come"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your prom-

Please
stand as
you are
comforta-
ble in body
or spirit.

ise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for . . . In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. 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

Sunday School Program

OFFERING PRAYER

Please
stand as
you are
comfort-
able 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 B♭ F C Dm B♭maj7 F/C Csus

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

8 F B♭ F C Dm

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

11 B♭maj7 F/C C Dm F F/A B♭maj7 F/C C F

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. —

...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.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, mi - se - re - re
no - - bis. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sins of the world, mi - se - re - re no - - bis.
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, do - na no - bis pa -
cem, do - na no - bis pa - - - - cem.

#265 “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

#251 “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

BENEDICTION

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

Benediction:
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 $\text{♩} = 94$ E Esus E Esus E

1. Pre - pare the way of the Lord.

6 Esus E Esus C \sharp 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 \sharp A C \sharp m B E/G \sharp A
 straight in the des - ert a high - way for God. Each moun - tain made low, each

17 C \sharp m B E/G \sharp A C \sharp m B
 val - ley raised up. The Lord God Al - might - y will nev - er be stopped. His

VERSE 2 F \sharp m A B E Esus
 glo - ry will be re - vealed. 2. Je - sus Christ is the Lord.

25 E Esus C \sharp 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.

CHORUS

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 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.

Preacher:	Pr. Molly Hunter
Liturgist:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Jeanne Groos
Reader:	Josh MacIvor-Andersen
Ushers:	Amy Diedrich, Jean Reynolds
Communion Assistants:	Sandy Lindberg, Bronce Reece, Gayle Van Osdol
Greeters:	Milt & Boli Soderberg
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Kathy Godec
Nursery:	Mylee Muscoe
Flower Delivery:	Kathy Godec

Acknowledgements:

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Thank you for your generosity!

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