

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – "Light One Candle"

(All God's People Sing – 163 Verse 1 & 2)

Light one candle for hope
He brings hope to every heart

one bright candle for hope
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace
He brings peace to every heart

one bright candle for peace
He comes! He comes!

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

✘ PREPARATION ✘

HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway" (LSB 343 - 4 verses)

Prepare the royal highway;
Let ev'ry hill and valley
Then greet the King of Glory

The King of kings is near!
A level road appear!
Foretold in sacred story: *Refrain*

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord,

For He fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see Him coming:
Palm branches strew before Him!
God's promise will not fail you!

Your own eternal king!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

Then fling the gates wide open
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
All lands, bow down before Him!

To greet your promised king!
Its tribute too should bring.
All nations, now adore Him! **Refrain**

His is no earthly kingdom;
His rule is peace and freedom
So let your praise be sounding

It comes from heav'n above.
And justice, truth, and love.
For kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

People: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

People: and in His word I hope.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.

People: Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!

Pastor: Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!

People: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.

Pastor: But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.

People: Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.

Pastor: Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.

People: Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.

Pastor: As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our hope in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our

sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: Verse 3

Pastor: Restore us, O God;

People: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

People: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Pastor: You brought a vine out of Egypt;

People: it took deep root and filled the land.

Pastor: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: let You face shine, that we may be saved!

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Restore us, O God;

People: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

People: that by His coming we may be found in Him, fully redeemed and at peace;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

(The Lord comes to comfort and pardon His people.)

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14

(The Lord is patient toward you.)

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count

slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

(please stand)

(The messenger prepares the way of the Lord.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" 4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (LSB 344 - 5 verses)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Awake and hearken, for he brings

Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
And let us all our hearts prepare

Make straight the way for God within,
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Without Thy grace we waste away

Our refuge and our great reward;
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
Show us the glory of Thy face

And make the fallen strong to stand;
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

(please stand)

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whom with the Father we adore

Whose advent sets Thy people free,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

MESSAGE: "When Silence Becomes Thunder"

Luke 1:13-14, 62-64
Pastor Steve Wagner

OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: “We Give Thee But Thine Own” (LSB 781 - vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray . . .

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in steadfast love sent Your only-begotten Son into this world of sin, we thank You that for His sake You look upon us “without spot or blemish, and at peace.”

People: We praise You for Your patience and rejoice in Your redemption!

Pastor: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (LSB 338 – 2 verses)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
From our fears and sins release us;
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,

Born to set Thy people free;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born to reign in us forever,
By Thine own eternal Spirit
By Thine all-sufficient merit

Born a child and yet a king!
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
Rule in all our hearts alone;
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

For continued healing – Judy Beauford - Steven Haberoth - Linda Fults

For Family and Friends

Prayers for Carol Mencke and for her family as she stands at Heaven's Doorstep.

*Leitko Family ask for prayers for **Katie Finny** who just gave birth (baby is doing well), Katie is having complications, we pray for her full recovery.*

*Jim & Becky Behrens ask for prayers for **Lane Behrens**, the 1-month-old son of **Logan and Ashley Behrens**, grandson of **Jim & Becky Behrens**, as he is home recovering from RSV infection.*

*Prayers have been requested for **Gus Addington** by his family. Gus suffered a season ending torn Achilles tendon in a Boerne High School basketball game. He is scheduled for reconstructive surgery on December 26th. For Gus and his family, we all pray for patience, compassion, inner peace, strength, a skilled medical team, and God's will to lift up Gus beyond this unexpected adversity in his life.*

*Prayers for our **Mission Aviation Family - Will and Jennelle Wolf and their 3 children***

***Rutledge Family** requests prayers for Sister-in-Law **Heather Mulledy** battling breast cancer*

***Mario & Eve Betancourt** requests prayers for **Reese Richeson**, 16-year-old daughter of friends, undergoing treatment for brain cancer*

Donna Cifers** requests prayers for her 89-year-old mother's health issues – **Margaret Chamness

For Messiah's Call Committee and the Pastor God is preparing for us

Prayers for Justice & Peace in the Middle East

For family discord, reconciliation, and healing

Prayers for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for all those with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message

We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 3rd - Steve & Janet Haberoth – in thanksgiving of God's Blessings

Dec. 10th – Bill & Linda Dicke – honoring Linda's Birthday

Dec. 10th – Kathleen Blakely – in memory of mom Polly Mohnke on her 100th Birthday {Dec. 9th}

Dec. 17th – Dennis & Sue Parker – in memory of Doug's Birthday

Dec. 24th – Kim & Maurine Maloy – in memory of those who have gone before us.

Dec. 24th – Terry Chhabra – in loving memory of her parents Randall & Carlotta Burns, Amanda Addington's Grandparents, Gus & Luke's Great Grandparents

Dec. 31st – Bill & Sharon Loren - in thanksgiving for another year of God's blessings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME ... Whoever you are Wherever you have come from we are so glad you are here!

Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!

PEACE TO ALL, NEAR AND FAR - On Wed. Dec. 13th we have two contrasting pursuits of peace.

*These two make the two middle points of the star. First, **Peace is a place a long way away.** Peace is leaving it all behind. Peace is that perfectly calm lake. But God's true peace comes in the middle of the storm when the Savior is in the boat with us. Second, **Peace as the past – if only we could erase it.** If we could rearrange all the pieces of our past, putting some pieces far away, we imagine the peace we seek might finally come. But God come to us where we are and says, "Peace be to you." God "makes peace by the blood of his cross." (Colossians 1:20) Peace comes at the cross where we are completely forgiven. We find peace in God's telling of His Son's story, His death and His resurrection. In that story, we are not just better. In that story, we're forgiven and at peace.*

Pastor's Bible Study in the BEGIN Book - Pastor will continue with The Gospel According to John.

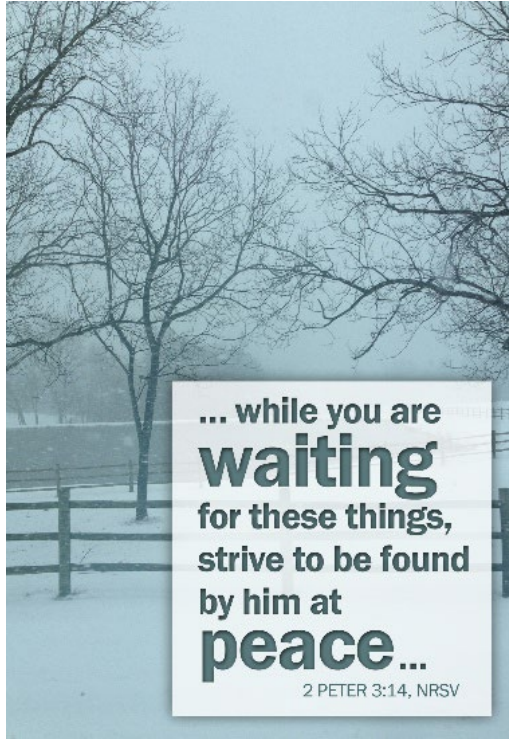
Time & Talent Inventories – It's not too late to turn in your Time & Talent Inventory. Please complete the Time & Talent Sheet and return by Email or paper copy to the Church office. **We have received 20 responses from a congregation of roughly 100 families.**

We need YOU! Messiah is looking for more ushers and ladies are welcome to usher too! Please let Marilyn Mazurek know if you'd like to usher next year, training will be provided. Marilynptx50@gmail.com or text 210 380-1906

Upcoming Events – Detailed information can be found on MLC's website.

- Dec. 17th - **Multigenerational Christmas Card Making and Cookie Decorating** is scheduled, immediately following church service. Lunch will be served! For more information contact Kathy Giardinelli by text at 210-334-8820.

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Christian Decision Making & the End of Life; Biblical Inerrancy; Has Evolution Disproved the Creation Account; Gender Fluidity; Pre-Marital Sex and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.



... while you are
waiting
for these things,
strive to be found
by him at
peace...

2 PETER 3:14, NRSV

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

9401 Dietz Elkhorn

Boerne, Texas 78015

(830) 755-4300

www.messiahboerne.org

Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us Today – December 10, 2023

Elders: Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Coffee: Marilyn Mazurek
Treats: Kathlin Jauregui
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Steve Wagner
Kid's Message: Pastor Steve Wagner
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek
Reader: Alana Kemmy
Ushers: Allen Leitko – Anthony Sansone – Joe Sorensen – Mike Stender
Greeters: Alana Kemmy & Kathlin Jauregui

Serving us Next Wednesday – December 13, 2023

Elders: Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek
Reader: Artie Dolt
Ushers: to be determined
Greeters: Lindy Eschenko & Maurice Doublett

Our Response to God Last Week
Worship Attendance: 105 Sunday School: 27

November 2023 Contributions			
General Fund	\$49,622.54	Building Fund	\$1,875.00
Renovation Fund	\$150.00	Family Life Center	\$4,100.00