

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 9, 2023

AS WE GATHER

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.” When we hear these words of the prophet Zechariah in the season of Advent, we are evermore ready to rejoice, especially as Christmas approaches. But to hear these words now in the middle of summer may strike us as a little more challenging. The pressures and doldrums of daily life can wear away momentary joys. In fact, the call to rejoice can seem pointless echoing against the hard walls of a prison of our own making. No matter how many Christmases we have celebrated, like the apostle Paul, we may continue to feel trapped by our unrelenting sinfulness. True joy comes only as we receive the comforting words of our Lord, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Herein is the goal of Christmas. Here today by means of the Word of God and the receiving of His body and blood, God gives you faith to believe and to receive eternal salvation. By God’s Word, even today “it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.” For here is where true joy is found.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Hark the Glad Sound” (LSB – 349 all 4 verses)

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne

The Savior promised long;
And ev’ry voice a song.

He comes the pris’ners to release,
The gates of brass before Him burst,

In Satan’s bondage held.
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
And with the treasures of His grace

The bleeding soul to cure,
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring

Thy welcome shall proclaim,
With Thy beloved name.

INVOCATION

(please stand)

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: With the apostle Paul today we admit, “I do not understand my own actions.

People: **For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.”**

Pastor: At the invitation of God our Savior, let us bring our weariness and burdens to Him, that His forgiveness may rescue us and restore to us the joy of His salvation.

People: **For if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and cannot free ourselves. Even though we rejoice at the joy of Christmas, daily our sins of thought, word, and deed cause us grief. We have forgotten You even when we needed You the most. Our love for our neighbors has faded. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we come at His invitation seeking the true rest of the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**

Pastor: “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ 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

Pastor: The Lord has made his salvation known

People: **and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: **for he has done marvelous things**

Pastor: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

People: **all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Pastor: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
People: burst into jubilant song with music;
Pastor: with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn –
People: shout for joy before the Lord, the King.
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: The Lord has made his salvation known
People: and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

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. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: Zechariah 9:9-12

(The coming of Zion's King.)

9 Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is righteous and endowed with salvation, Humble, and

mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 And I will eliminate the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war will be eliminated. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth. 11 As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. 12 Return to the stronghold, you prisoners who have the hope; This very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: Romans 7:14-25a

(Release from the law of sin.)

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing that I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:25-30

*(The Father revealed in the Son.)
(please stand)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

25 At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE APOSTLE 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 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” (LSB – 699 all 3 verses)

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
I came to Jesus as I was,
I found in Him a resting place,

“Come, unto Me and rest;
Thy head upon my breast.”
So weary, worn, and sad;
And He had made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
The living water; thirsty one,
I came to Jesus, and I drank
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,

“Behold, I freely give
Stoop down and drink and live.”
Of that life giving stream;
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise
I looked to Jesus, and I found
And in that light of life I'll walk

“I am this dark world’s light,
And all thy day be bright.”
In Him my star, my sun;
Till trav-ling days are done.

MESSAGE: “The Yoke’s on You”

Matthew 11:25-30

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 blestest 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: Be merciful to us, O Lord, and hear our prayers. Grant to us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and be steadfast in the confession of Christ; 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.

GRACE FOR THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us Pray. Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 "Joy to the World" (LSB – 387 all 4 verses)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let ev-ry heart, prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing

Let earth receive her King;
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy

Let men their songs employ,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
He come to make His blessings flow
For as the curse is found

Nor thorns infest the ground;
For as the curse is found
For as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love

And make the nations prove
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Prayers for continued healing

**Judy Beauford - Ed Funk - Ed Mycock -
Robert Saur - Josh Sagebiel - Snookie Moore**

Almighty God, You have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in Your Son's name. Mercifully incline Your ears to us who have now made our prayers & supplications to You, and grant that those things that we have faithfully asked according to Your will we may receive to meet our need and bring glory to You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For Family and Friends –

David & Lorrie prayers of thanksgiving and praise for healthy baby boy **Theodore James**

Wendeborn born to **Alex & Jenny Wendeborn** and grandparents, **David & Lorrie Wendeborn.**

Ed & Carol Mycock offer thanksgiving and praise for the safe arrival of **Harper Claire Mycock**, daughter of **Josh & Kylie Mycock** and Grandparents – **Ed & Carol Mycock.**

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**

Debra Beard's daughter-in-law **Sarah** and husband **Jake**

Roger Winkelmann requests prayers for his sister, **Linda** trying new medicine for Parkinson's.

Jim Minica requests prayers for his sister, **Linda Rose**

For family discord, reconciliation, and healing

For Messiah's Learning Teams and Call Committee

We pray for discernment of the police officials who face massively increased populations and increases in crime while they remain on a tight budget.

Prayers for all on our hearts 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.

JULY ALTAR FLOWERS

July 2nd – Rebecca Bottlinger – Commemorating the Declaration of Independence by the Constitutional Congress dated July 4, 1776

July 2nd – Mark & Melissa Rutledge – celebrating 27 years of marriage

July 9th - Russ & Margaret Leachman – celebrating 35 years of marriage

July 16th – Dan & Donna Cifers – in honor of Donna's Mom – Margaret Chamness

July 23rd - Steve & Janet Haberoth – thanksgiving for God's Blessings

July 23rd – Bill & Linda Dicke – the blessing of Grandbabies

July 30th - Mike & Debbie Stender - celebrating 51 years of marriage

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!

We Believe, Teach and Confess - Today we continue Pastor's Course for Adult Instruction in the Lutheran Christian Faith. We welcome all who are considering joining Messiah as well as anyone seeking additional information on what we believe.

Pastoral Nominations - the period for nominating a pastor you would like District to consider including in the call to Messiah, is now open. If you would like to nominate a pastor who you believe might be a good fit for Messiah, please fill out a Pastoral Nomination Form. You can request one from the church office or pick up a hard copy on the table set up for our Sunday services. A copy was also sent out to everyone who received the July newsletter. Fill out the form and return it to the church office. The period for nominations will continue until we are ready to send our call package to the District office, probably toward the end of August. When we are closer to submitting our package, we'll set a definitive close date.

Many have asked if there is still a need for financial resources in addition to the already generous donations that have been given for the Refurbishment Project. Yes, there is opportunity for congregational support for: Audio-Visual new speakers, projectors - New narthex furnishings - Repair and updating of our sanctuary air-conditioning/heating systems – tree trimming and landscape update. Anyone interested in sharing in meeting those needs can earmark donations to “Refurbishment.”

Additionally, manpower will be needed in the near future: Be on watch for workday announcements for (once a date has been set): Grounds yardwork/cleanup - Move in Day help - Dedication & Community Celebration Day. Questions: contact David Wendeborn.

Messiah's Next Adult Game Day is the third Saturday July 15th at 2pm in the Family Life Center! Come join us! Bring drinks, snacks, games, and friends!

Messiah's Ladies Time Out - Our Messiah Ladies Time Out Summer Lunch will now be at the new El Chaparral in Boerne on Old San Antonio Road at 11am on July 20th! El Cazador is closing its doors on July 15th so anyone wanting to join Hal and I for lunch there on Thursday, July 13th at 11am, let me know! All are welcome!

Willie's Spirit Night is July 11th to benefit Operation Christmas Child. Let Willie's know that you're there to benefit Operation Christmas Child and 15% of your check will help reach children around the world with the Gospel through shoeboxes. Don't forget to invite friends for a great time of fellowship between 11:00 am-10:00 pm.

Issues, Etc. - TRUTH, GOODNESS & BEAUTY hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: End Times Teachings, What Is Real Science? The Vocation of Midwife, Pastoral Care and more. You can listen to the interview at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app or your favorite podcast provider.



For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:30

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 – July 9, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Verna Sorensen
Treats: Anne Zumm & Lindy Eschenko
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Tony Giardinelli
Reader: Maurice Doublet, II
Ushers: Mike Stender – Russell Leachman – Tom Bibb – Tony Giardinelli
Greeters: David & Sharon Sattler & Kathy Giardinelli

Serving us Next Sunday – July 16, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Marilyn Mazurek
Treats: Vonda Petmecky
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: Sharon Sattler
Ushers: Allen Leitko – David Theis – Maurice Doublet – Harold Moore
Greeters: Sue Theis & David & Sharon Sattler

Our Response to God Last Week
Worship Attendance: 78 | Sunday School: 35

June 2023 Contributions			
General Fund	\$44,490.94	Building Fund	\$3,740.00
Renovation Fund	\$51,629.79	Family Life Center	\$3,486.46