

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022

AS WE GATHER

The season of Advent reminds us that we as individuals are part of the big picture of salvation planned by our God as we reflect on the coming of Christ to earth for us. We are called to be resolute, as in the words of the hymn “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord” - determined and assured in Christ. We celebrate the season resolutely, sure that in Christ, God has done all that is necessary to keep us in His salvation picture for time and for eternity!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN: “Prepare the Royal Highway” (LSB 343)

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story *Refrain*

*Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord,
 For He fulfills God’s Word!*

God’s people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! *Refrain*

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

INVOCATION

(please stand)

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

People: **Amen**

Pastor: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

People: **let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

People: **Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

Pastor: In them He has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

People: **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

Pastor: Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments!

People: **His heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. Praise the LORD!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

People: **Eternal God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and that sin is ever-present in our lives. O God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin. Redirect and renew us, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, guide us in ways of compassion and love.**

Pastor: 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. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord

Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ☩ peace.

People: Amen.

INTROIT

People: Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.

Women: *I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.*

Men: *O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.*

People: 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.

Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 7:10-17

(please be seated)

(The birth of Immanuel is prophesied.)

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: 11 “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” 13 And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. 17 The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Romans 7:1-5

(Paul greets the saints in Rome with words of blessing.)

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

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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 whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen

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!

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your

only-begotten Son, the long hoped-for Messiah, to bring us salvation. Pour out upon us the gifts of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your blessings joyfully and resolutely serve You in all we do. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation has fulfilled the hope of the prophets and of Your people for countless generations. We thank You for calling us to be Your people in this time and place and for inviting us to Your holy Table. Joined together in the name of our Lord and in the communion of saints, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,

You take the sin of the world away;
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

“In Christ Alone” CCLI*(please be seated)*

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring” (LSB 353)

Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Jesus came to win redemption,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Came with peace from realms on high;
Lowly came on earth to die;
Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy
Jesus comes again in answer
Alleluia! Alleluia!

When our hearts are worn with care;
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Hope to all the world is giv'n.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Comforts us in failing years.

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (LSB 643)

Sent forth by God’s blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

People: Amen

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN: "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" (LSB 348)

The King shall come when morning dawns When beauty gilds the eastern hills	And light triumphant breaks, And life to joy awakes.
Not as of old a little child, But crowned with glory like the sun	To bear and fight and die, That lights the morning sky.
Oh, brighter than the rising morn And left the lonesome place of death	When Christ, victorious, rose Despite the rage of foes.
Oh, brighter than that glorious morn The day when Christ in splendor comes	Shall dawn upon our race And we shall see His face.
The King shall come when morning dawns Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:	And light and beauty brings. Come quickly, King of kings!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Praying for those who mourn loss of loved ones:

Abbey and Dillon Becker

Mike and Debbie Stender;

Laura Sanders

Dennis Parker

Prayers for continued healing:

Becca Kuhlmeier; Artie Dolt; Will Jones; John Soper; Robert Saur; Ed Funk

Rebecca Bottlinger's son Lee and his wife Mandy;

Karen Landinger Brosien's parents and brother, and daughter Amelie;

Kathy Giardinelli's sister Christine Bullock.

Larry and Pam Risley's grandson Lucas.

We pray for Mark as he works as a volunteer at the Dallas processing center Dec. 5-10.

Pray for all on our hearts who are ill, facing life's challenges, traveling, and those who need to hear the gospel, our families and neighbors.



... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6



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!



WORSHIP RESOURCES:

Nursery is not available at this time in the Family Life Center.

Prayer Requests can be texted to (210) 802-9290, we'd love to pray for them today!

DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS



Dec 4th –

Dec 11th – Bill & Linda Dicke – Linda's birthday and thanksgiving for the many blessings received in 2022

Dec 18th – Dennis & Sue Parker – Doug's birthday

Dec 25th – Maloy Family – Ila's birthday & Kim's 70th birthday



**Soup
Supper**

Wednesday Advent Meals at 5:30 pm !

Wed. Dec. 21st will be hosted by the Board of Directors

Advent Worship services will begin at 6:30 pm!



Christmas Eve Family Service – 6:30 pm

Christmas Candlelight Service – 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Service – 10:30 am



New Year's Eve Service – 6:30 pm

New Year's Day Service – 10:30 am



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 – December 18, 2022

Elders:	Dennis Parker & Roger Winkelmann
Coffee:	Shirley Moore
Breakfast:	Shirley Moore
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Ed & Gracie Funk
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Vickie Lautner
AV:	David & Lorrie Wendeborn
Reader:	Alana Kemmy
Ushers:	Maurice Doublet – Larry Rottman – Mike Stender – Tom Bibb
Greeters:	Alana Kemmy
Nursery:	Kathy Bibb & Penny Carter

Serving us This Wednesday – December 21, 2022

Elders:	Dennis Parker & Roger Winkelmann
Soup Supper:	Board of Directors & Missions Committee
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Ed & Gracie Funk
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Joyce Young
AV:	Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek
Reader:	Dennis Parker
Ushers:	
Greeters:	Joe & Verna Sorensen
Nursery:	Kathy Bibb & Penny Carter

Our Response to God Last Week

Worship Attendance: 93 | Sunday School: 30

November 2022 Contributions:

General Fund: \$38,946.54 | Building Fund: \$3,395.00
Family Life Center: \$523.31