

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Last Sunday of the Church Year**  
*November 26, 2023*

**AS WE GATHER**

Preparing for Christ's return means loving the people around us. Today's Readings reveal that also means living the orthodox life today. Orthodox means "right glory," and today we glorify God for sending His Son, David's descendant, to fulfill the promise in Ezekiel and to care so deeply for us that He died for us. In essence His cross was His throne, loving us to death. We dare not wait to share that news, for Christ has already risen, Paul reminds in the Epistle. Right now the end time in which we live has multiple opportunities to share God's love. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that means caring for the "least of these My brothers" (Matthew 25:40) in their hunger, poverty, and even separation from society. Why? Because the Kingdom has already been graciously prepared for us. Today's Readings encourage us to give God "right glory" by sharing His love.

**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 "Come, Thou Almighty King" (LSB 905 - 4 verses)**

Come, Thou almighty King,	Help us Thy name to sing;
Help us to praise;	Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,	Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.	
Come, Thou incarnate Word,	Gird on Thy mighty sword;
Our prayer attend.	Come and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success,	And let Thy righteousness
On us descend.	
Come, holy Comforter,	Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour!	Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in ev'ry heart,	And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.	

*(please stand)*

To Thee, great One in Three,  
Hence evermore!  
May we in glory see,  
Love and adore.

Eternal praises be  
Thy sov' reign majesty  
And to eternity

## INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our unworthiness and ask His grace and mercy. Through Ezekiel, God said that He would “search for My sheep and will seek them out.”

People: **We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Paul wrote that “God has put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet.”

People: **We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others - the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.

People: **We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who is the one who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

✠ WORD ✠

## INTROIT

Pastor: We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,

People: **the home of righteousness.**

Pastor: Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days;

People: **let me know how fleeting is my life.**

Pastor: You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you.

People: **Each man’s life is but a breath.**

Pastor: But now, Lord, what do I look for?

**People: My hope is in you.**

Pastor: Save me from all my transgressions;

**People: do not make me the scorn of fools.**

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O Lord, listen to my cry for help;

**People: be not deaf to my weeping.**

**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: We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,

**People: the home of righteousness.**

## 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, move us to reflect Your love for us in all that we say and do,

**People: so that Your light shines through us each day until Your Son returns to usher us into Your eternal kingdom;**

Pastor: through the same 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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

*(God will shepherd His people Himself.)*

11 “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed

them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

20 “Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, 22 I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

*(Christ is the first to rise from death; death will be destroyed.)*

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

#### **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46**

*(please stand)*

*(The Christian Life involves loving the people around us.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ 41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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: “The Day Is Surely Drawing Near” (LSB 508 - 7 verses)

The day is surely drawing near  
In all His power shall appear  
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,  
As Scripture long has warned us.

When Jesus, God's anointed,  
As judge whom God appointed.  
And flames on flames shall ravage earth

The final trumpet then shall sound  
And all who rest beneath the ground  
But all who live will in that hour,  
Be changed at His commanding.

And all the earth be shaken,  
Shall from their sleep awaken.  
By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,

The books are opened then to all,  
What each has done, both great and small,  
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen,  
In thoughts and words and actions.

A record truly telling  
When he on earth was dwelling,  
And all be known as they have been

Then woe to those who scorned the Lord  
Who here despised His precious Word  
With shame and trembling they will stand  
To Satan be delivered.

And sought but carnal pleasures,  
And loved their earthly treasures!  
And at the judge's stern command

My Savior paid the debt I owe  
Within the Book of Life I know  
I will not doubt, for I am free,  
There is no condemnation!

And for my sin was smitten;  
My name has now been written.  
And Satan cannot threaten me;

May Christ our intercessor be  
Read from His book that we are free  
Then we shall see Him face to face,  
Which He has purchased for us.

And through His blood and merit  
With all who life inherit.  
With all His saints in that blest place

O Jesus Christ, do not delay,  
We often tremble on our way  
O hear and grant our fervent plea:  
From death and ev'ry evil.

But hasten our salvation;  
In fear and tribulation.  
Come, mighty judge, and set us free

**MESSAGE: "From Now Until Then"**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

### **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.**

**GRACE TO RECEIVE THE WORD**

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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: “Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” (LSB 680 – 5 verses)**

Thine the amen Thine the praise                      Alleluias angels raise  
Thine the everlasting head                              Thine the breaking of the bread  
Thine the glory Thine the story                      Thine the harvest then the cup  
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally                                  Thine the promise let there be  
Thine the vision Thine the tree                      All the earth on bended knee  
Gone the nailing gone the railing                      Gone the pleading gone the cry  
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes                          Thine the table we the guest  
Thine the mercy all from Thee                      Thine the glory yet to be  
Then the ringing and the singing                      Then the end of all the war  
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize                      Thine the wonder full surprise  
Thine the banquet then the praise                      Then the justice of Thy ways  
Thine the glory Thine the story                      Then the welcome to the least  
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night                              No more dying only light  
Thine the river Thine the tree                          Then the Lamb eternally  
Then the holy holy holy                                  Celebration jubilee  
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

**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 . . .**

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

### **For Family and Friends**

Prayers for Family friends of the **Rutledge Family** as they mourn the loss of **Linda Young** and ask for special prayers for Linda's husband **Rich Young, their children and grandchildren**

Prayers for **Linda Dicke and family** as they mourn the loss of **Bill Dicke**

**Debra Beard** requests prayers for **Jenny Heth's** healing following a double mastectomy

Prayers for **Mark Giardinelli** as he starts training with the **Mission Aviation Fellowship** ministry

Prayers for the **MAF Family - Will and Jennelle Wolf and their 3 children**

Prayers for **Rolf Schulz and wife, Linda Schulz**

**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**

**Sally Gutierrez Beltran** asks for prayer for her husband **Felix** for salvation, deliverance from alcohol and restoration of their marriage

**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.***

### **NOVEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS**

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Steve & Janet Haberoth – in thanksgiving of God's Blessings

Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – Dennis & Sue Parker – celebrating 56 years of marriage

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – Kathleen Jauregui – Jason's Birthday

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – John & Debra Beard – celebrating 25 years of marriage

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Linda Dicke – thanksgiving for God's blessings

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – Pam Fields – in memory of Ed Fields

## **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!*

**LOOK UP! THE STAR OF PEACE DRAWS NEAR** - On Wed. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> we begin our Advent journey with the most common way to seek peace: possessions. This is the top of our star, the most obvious pursuit of peace, shooting upward without an end in sight. The Advent season knows all about seeking more things. Shopping is in full swing and the promise is that if only we had all the right things, then we would be complete and at peace. To counter that pursuit of peace by gathering more & more, God intersects us with the words of contentment from Paul. "Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content." (1 Tim. 6:6-8) Join all who have heard His invitation and have followed His star. In Him we have a lasting 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.**

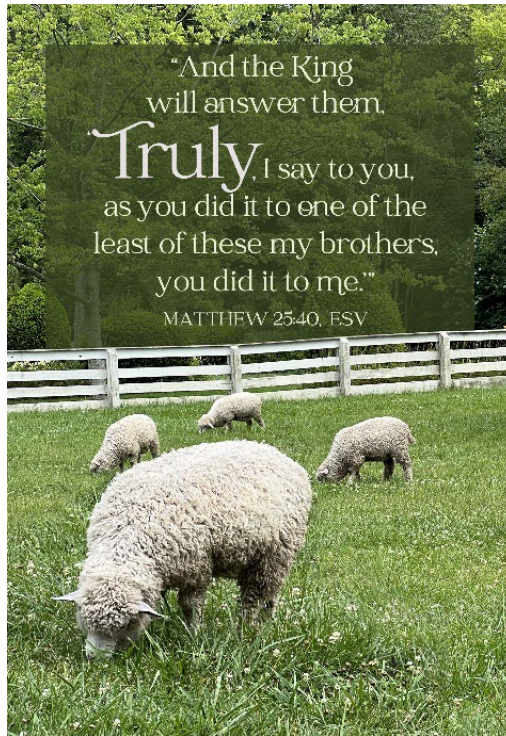
**Decorating Messiah for Christmas TODAY** - following the Worship Service we will stay to Decorate the Church. **Remember "Many hands lighten the load."**

**Messiah's Annual Adult Christmas Party** sponsored by the Fellowship Committee tickets are on sale **TODAY, NEXT SUNDAY and DEC. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - \$10.00 each. The Party is Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 pm includes Fabulous Food and drinks, Merry Music and Caroling Sing-along, Door Prizes, Fellowship & Fun! Plus - a **"Special Thing"** for the **Men of Messiah!**

**The Friends Of Our Preschool** Volunteers will be hosting a Christmas Blessings Luncheon for the staff of Messiah's Kids Preschool on Thu., Dec. 7th in the Family Life Center. We look forward to sharing time with Preschool Director, Gina Huskey, and her dedicated staff! It is always a blessing and a joy!

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

- Dec. 2nd - **Messiah's Adult Game Day** at 2:00 pm at the home of Hal & Lindy Eschenko!
- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – **Ladies Day Out Lunch** at 11:00 am gift exchange and lunch at Albe Vita. RSVP to Lindy Eschenko or sign up at church!! Gift exchange is always optional \$10-15.
- 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.



## **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*Boerne, Texas 78015*

*(830) 755-4300*

*[www.messiahboerne.org](http://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 Next Sunday – November 26, 2023**

Elders: Allen Leitko & Larry Risley  
Coffee: Janis & Joyce Meier  
Treats: Joyce & Janis Meier  
Tellers: Anthony Sansone  
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy  
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren  
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren  
Musician: Bob Shoaf  
AV: David & Lorrie Wendeborn  
Reader: Kathy Rottman  
Ushers: Ernie Mazurek – Hal Eschenko – Mike Lang – Tony Giardinelli  
Greeters: Verna Sorensen & Lindy Eschenko

**Serving us Next Sunday – December 3, 2023**

Elders: Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann  
Coffee: Sue Parker  
Treats: Sue Parker  
Tellers: Anthony Sansone  
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy  
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren  
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren  
Musician: Bob Shoaf  
AV: OPEN  
Reader: Dennis Parker  
Ushers: Allen Leitko – Anthony Sansone – Joe Sorensen – Mike Stender  
Greeters: Sue Theis

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

<b>October 2023 Contributions</b>			
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$49,622.54</b>	<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$1,875.00</b>
<b>Renovation Fund</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>Family Life Center</b>	<b>\$4,100.00</b>