

**Christmas Day**  
*Sing to the Lord a New Song!*  
*December 25, 2023*

**AS WE GATHER**

We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus' coming. Yet the psalms are God's Word during terrible times to people who lived before God's promises were fulfilled in our Savior's coming. The traditional psalm for Christmas Day, Psalm 98, is a psalm of rejoicing. Sing to the Lord a new song! This is a day for praising God, rejoicing with one another, and spreading the joy to all whom we meet!

**HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (LSB 380 – verses 3)**

Hark! The herald angels sing, Peace on earth and mercy mild, Joyful, all ye nations, rise, With the_angelic host proclaim, <b>Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,</b>	"Glory to the newborn King; God and sinners reconciled!" Join the triumph of the skies; "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" <b>Refrain</b> <b>"Glory to the newborn King!"</b>
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Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Late in time behold Him come, Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Pleased as Man with man to dwell,	Christ, the everlasting Lord, Offspring of a virgin's womb. Hail the_incarinate Deity! Jesus, our Immanuel! <b>Refrain</b>
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Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Light and life to all He brings, Mild He lays His glory by, Born to raise the sons of earth,	Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Ris'n with healing in His wings. Born that man no more may die, Born to give them second birth. <b>Refrain</b>
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**INVOCATION**

*(please stand)*

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

People: Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God offers grace and mercy even to us wayward citizens of His kingdom. Let us therefore confess our sins to God in the name of our newborn Savior, so that in forgiving us, He may do yet another marvelous thing.

**People: We confess, heavenly Father, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have not responded to Your love in joyful and daily thanksgiving. We cannot save ourselves; therefore, for Jesus' sake, forgive us, bless us, and increase joy and gladness in us until we sing Your praises with the heavenly host.**

Pastor: Our Savior came to earth to pay for all sins and to restore us to the joys of eternity with those who have gone before us and all the heavenly host. Therefore 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 98:1a, 3-4, 6, antiphon, Verse 2*

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. Almighty God, to whom all creation gives thanks and praises You for fulfilling all Your ancient promises in sending our Savior to rescue us,

**People: grant us such joy that it overflows our thoughts and words into joyful acts of devotion to You and in service to the people around us;**

Pastor: 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: Isaiah 62:10-12

*(The One who comes will redeem His people.)*

10 Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. 11 The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'" 12 They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING: Titus 3:4-7**

*(God saved us so that we might become heirs.)*

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

**HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20** *(Jesus is born within human history.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the

city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## THE NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one**

**Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

**HYMN: “Joy to the World” (LSB – 387 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 comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,

Nor thorns infest the ground;  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far 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 makes the nations prove  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

**MESSAGE: “Let’s Celebrate: Jesus Christ Is the Way”**

**Luke 2:10-11 and John 14:6**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(please be stand)*

**Pastor:** On this joyful day, let us go to God in prayer for all people in their various needs. *“In those days a decree went out.”*

**People:** **Grant guidance to all who make and administer the laws of the nations, that they serve You in their positions, work for justice in all they do, and strive for peace around the world.**

**Pastor:** *“Joseph also went up.”*

**People:** **Give protection for all who travel during this holiday season, gracious Lord. Grant that they reach their destinations and return home in safety and joy.**

**Pastor:** *“He was of the house and lineage of David.”*

**People:** Provide justice to all, including those who have been forgotten by society. Lord Jesus, remind them of Your love for us all.

Pastor: *“The time came for her to give birth.”*

**People:** Bring healing and comfort to all who face illness and grief this day. Grant that families come together in comfort and joy, and that the lonely be surrounded with caring friends. Guide all in the healing professions to use their gifts to Your glory, heavenly Father.

Pastor: *“There were shepherds out in the field.”*

**People:** Strengthen all who work long hours, who tend fields and flocks, and who distribute goods and services, gracious God. Grant that many people find nourishing food, warm clothing, and decent shelter through their efforts.

Pastor: *“Unto you is born . . . a Savior.”*

**People:** We raise songs of praise for the gift of Your Son, heavenly Father. Grant that the Church around the world be filled with the joyful news of our Savior’s birth, spreading the proclamation of glory to God in the highest and peace to God’s people on earth.

Pastor: *“Mary treasured up all these things.”*

**People:** Be with us all, Lord our God, so that the peace and joy we know today will continue into the new year, for we bring all these prayers to Your heavenly throne in the name of our newborn Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. *(please be seated)*

## OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this evening, 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 blesest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE**

*(please stand)*

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in entering human history to pay for all our sins He has bestowed on us eternal life and boundless joy. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**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!

**THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has



no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

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

*(please be seated)*

### **HYMN: "In Christ Alone" CCLI # 1280892**

In Christ alone my hope is found  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
My Comforter my All in All

He is my light my strength my song  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
For every sin on Him was laid

Fullness of God in helpless babe  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
And as He stands in victory  
For I am His and He is mine

Light of the world by darkness slain  
Up from the grave He rose again  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death  
From life's first cry to final breath  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Till He returns or calls me home

This is the power of Christ in me  
Jesus commands my destiny  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

**HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (LSB – 368)**

Angels we have heard on high,  
And the mountains in reply,

Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

*Refrain:            Gloria in excelsis Deo.            Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
What the gladsome tidings be

Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Come, adore on bended knee

Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

**HYMN: “What Child is This” (LSB – 370)**

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,

On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,

Where ox and ass are feeding?  
The silent Word is pleading.  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,

Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
The babe, the son of Mary!

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, Lord our God, that we have beheld our Savior in the Child of Bethlehem, and we pray that You will instill in us such faith that our joy this day will continue until we sing Your praises in the eternity You have prepared for us and all who call to You 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.**

## 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.**

## HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (LSB 388)

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching  
Behold, throughout the heavens

O’er silent flocks by night,  
There shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
Rang out the angel chorus

When lo, above the earth  
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger  
And God sent us salvation

The humble Christ was born;  
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## **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**

**Anthony Sansone** asks for prayers for his Sister, **Diane Hendrix** as she is in the hospital with sepsis as she stands at Heaven's Doorstep.

Prayers for healing for **Ardyne Knappick** as she recovers from a fall

Prayers for **Carol Mencke's family – Ron & Emily Pitchford** as they mourn the loss in their family

Prayers for healing for **Gloria Bloecher** who is recovering from a fall and heart attack

**Leitko Family** ask for prayers for **Katie Finny** recovering from complications in birthing a baby

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

Prayers for **Gus Addington** as he awaits reconstructive surgery of ACL injury on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>

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

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

**Mario & Eve Betancourt** requests prayers for **Reese Richeson,** 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Steve & Janet Haberoth – in thanksgiving of God's Blessings

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Linda Dicke – honoring Linda's Birthday

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

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

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

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Terry Chhabra – in loving memory of her parents Randall & Carlotta Burns,

Amanda Addington's Grandparents, Gus & Luke's Great Grandparents

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – 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!*

**The Nativity of Our Lord: The Diamond Found in the Manger** - Now in our celebration of Christmas, we find there is a diamond in the center of the Advent Star. That diamond rests in the manger of Bethlehem stable. The treasure of the Christmas star therefore is not in the distant heavens but in the stable. Peace is finding the diamond of God's gift in the straw of the manger. That peace becomes His gift to the world. This Christmas peace reminds us to focus on giving thanks for His gifts. By giving thanks, we can begin to step away from the useless treadmill of worry. Peace is placing our cares where they belong, with the One who cares about us. This Christmas, we have the peace that passes understanding, and this gift comes from the God who understands us perfectly. As Mary, Joseph and the shepherds pondered God's gift through the baby born, so we find peace. God's peace is found in the treasure of God's Son, laid in the straw of the manger.

## God's Great Gifts

Thanks be to God for His gift that is too wonderful for words.



Why did he do it? A shack would have sufficed, but he gave us a mansion. Did he have to give the birds a song and the mountains a peak? Was he required to put stripes on the zebra and the hump on the camel? . . . Why wrap creation in such splendor? Why go to such trouble to give such gifts?

Why do you? You do the same. I've seen you searching for a gift. I've seen you stalking the malls and walking the aisles. I'm not talking about the obligatory gifts . . . I'm talking about that extra-special person and that extra-special gift . . . Why do you do it? You do it so the heart will stop. You do it so the jaw will drop. You do it to hear those words of disbelief, "You did this for me!"

That's why you do it. And that is why God did it. Next time a sunrise steals your breath or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless, remain that way. Say nothing and listen as heaven whispers, "Do you like it? I did it just for you."

From The Great House of God by Max Lucado



*Praise the  
LORD!  
Sing to the  
LORD  
a new song.*



*Psalm 149.1*

## **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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[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*

 THE  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Missouri Synod

**Serving us today – December 25, 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:	Tony Giardinelli
Reader:	Artie Dolt
Ushers:	David Theis – Dennis Parker – Maurice Doublett – Tom Bibb
Greeters:	Maurice Doublett

**Serving us next Sunday – December 31, 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:	Rutledge Family
Reader:	Sharon Loren
Ushers:	David Theis – Dennis Parker – Maurice Doublett
Greeters:	Sue Theis & Lindy Eschenko

**Our Response to God Last Week**

<b>November 2023 Contributions</b>			
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$45,920.91</b>	<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$15,008.61</b>
<b>Renovation Fund</b>	<b>\$55,150.00</b>	<b>Family Life Center</b>	<b>\$5,812.50</b>