

Serving us Today – December 24, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Elders: Dennis Parker & Roger Winkelmann
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Ed & Gracie Funk
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Joyce Young
AV: David & Lorrie Wendeborn
Reader: Dennis Parker
Ushers:
Greeters:
Nursery: Kathy Bibb & Penny Carter

Serving us Today – December 24, 2022 at 10:00 pm

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Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Ed & Gracie Funk
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
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Musician: Joyce Young
Reader: Sharon Loren
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Our Response to God Last Week

Worship Attendance: 82 | Sunday School: 34

November 2022 Contributions:
General Fund: \$38,946.54 | Building Fund: \$3,395.00
Family Life Center: \$523.31



Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV

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*



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Christmas Eve – 6:30 pm Service

December 24, 2022

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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(please be seated)

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

AS WE GATHER

The original title of the Christmas carol “In dulci jubilo” (LSB 386, “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”) was interpreted by the famous French organist and composer Marcel Dupre as “In Quiet Joy.” Another familiar hymn tells of the birth of the Savior in the words “How silently the wondrous gift is given!” (LSB 361:3). Though there were moments of rage and loud opposition through His earthly ministry, many of our Lord’s activities happened in the quiet and stillness of His presence. Indeed, even as He accomplished His goal, He entered Jerusalem in quiet humility, suffered obediently, closed His eyes and breathed His last in death, and finally was laid in the stone-cold silence of a tomb. There are times for loud praise and rejoicing, but this night let us gather in quiet joy contemplating the mystery that, in this little babe in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, fulfilled God’s ancient promise of redemption and peace for all who would be drawn in the silence of the Spirit of God through His Word and blessed Sacraments.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

Pastor: On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

People: **Serve the LORD with gladness!**

Pastor: Come into His presence with singing!

People: **Know that the LORD, He is God!**

Pastor: It is He who made us, and we are His;

People: **we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

People: **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

Pastor: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

People: **and His faithfulness to all generations.** *(The candles are lit.)*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379)

(please stand)

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: **Refrain**

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes; Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God
In the highest: **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n! Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen**

“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 O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior’s birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessèd Christmas morn. **Refrain**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through 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.**

CLOSING HYMN: “Joy to the World” (LSB 387)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

“What Child is This” (LSB 370)

(please be seated)

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,
The babe, the son of Mary!

On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
While shepherds watch are keeping?
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

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!

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LSB 361)

O little town of Bethlehem,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The hopes and fears of all the years

How still we see thee lie!
The silent stars go by;
The everlasting light.
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
O morning stars, together
And praises sing to God the king

And, gathered all above
Their watch of wond’ring love.
Proclaim the holy birth,
And peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently
So God imparts to human hearts
No ear may hear His coming;
Where meek souls will receive Him, still

The wondrous gift is giv’n!
The blessings of His heav’n.
But in this world of sin,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
We hear the Christmas angels
O come to us, abide with us,

Descend to us, we pray;
Be born in us today.
The great glad tidings tell;
Our Lord Immanuel!

Pastor: In dulci jubilo! In quiet joy! In quiet joy, we gather this evening, this very special night.

People: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Pastor: We gather from our busy lives, our hurried routines, the loud noises of life,

People: in quiet joy.

Pastor: We bring our wearied bodies, our troubled hearts, our restless souls in hope,

People: in quiet joy.

Pastor: God is here, the LORD is in His holy temple;

People: let all the earth keep silence before Him.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the silence of this moment, let us prepare ourselves, and confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know - the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed - but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: In the silence of this night, by the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and in quiet joy.

People: Amen.

INTROIT

Pastor: When all was still, and it was midnight, your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne. Sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Pastor: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

People: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

Pastor: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

People: Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.

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: When all was still, and it was midnight, your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; 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)*

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

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

Pastor: It is truly meet, 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 the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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 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, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

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

MESSAGE: “A Vision of Great Joy for All”

Luke 2:10-12

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

(please be seated)

[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:

(please stand)

“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!

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

(A great light for the people walking in darkness.)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Titus 2:11-14

(The grace of God has appeared.)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

(The Messiah is born in Bethlehem.)

(please stand)

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

People: **Glory be to Thee, 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 great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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 Thee, 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (LSB 380) *(please be seated)*

Hark! The herald angels sing, Peace on earth and mercy mild, Joyful, all ye nations, rise, With the angelic host proclaim,	"Glory to the newborn King; God and sinners reconciled!" Join the triumph of the skies; "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" <i>Refrain</i>
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*Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

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 incarnate Deity! Jesus, our Immanuel! <i>Refrain</i>
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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. <i>Refrain</i>
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