

First Sunday after Christmas



Messiah Lutheran Church
December 27, 2020

(440) 331-2405
MessiahChurchFairview.org

To our Guests: Welcome!

Worship Patterns in Pandemic Days

God be praised for every person here this morning and for all who are with us in spirit as they watch and pray at home. God strengthen us all through his word and promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The continued threat of coronavirus infection requires us to change our habits during the time we spend together. Please follow these rules to keep each other safe:

On entering—

- Masks are required. Please be sure to wear one.
- Sit only in pews marked with a bow.
- Keep the spacing rod between you and your family and the person or family at the other end.
- Greet each from a distance.

During the service—

- Refrain from singing. Instead, listen to the singers in the balcony and follow the words in the bulletin.
- When we share the Peace, do not hug or shake hands except with members of your own family. Wave or bow to the people around you.
- Offering plates will not be passed. If you missed the basket on your way in, place it there when you leave.

During communion—

- Keep a safe distance from the person in front of you as you approach.
- Hold out your cupped hands for the host. The pastor will not place this in your mouth or extended fingers.
- For the wine, take a plastic cup from the top of the music stand, and hold it steady as the pastor fills it. Deposit the plastic cup in the receptacle as you return to your place.

As you leave—

- Unless you need the elevator, exit through front doors only.
- Feel free to gather on the front lawn for conversation, keeping safe distances.

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*The congregation is invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type*

Prelude

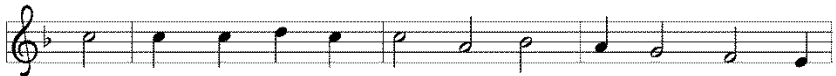
“From Heaven Above,” J. S. Bach

Stand as you are able

Gathering Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming,” #272

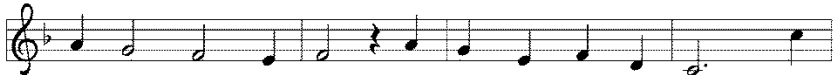
stanzas 1-3



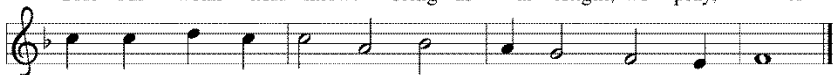
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Greeting

L In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L In the Word was life,

C and the life was the light of all people.

L The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth. John 1

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

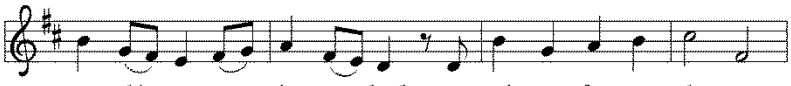
Hymn of Praise



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



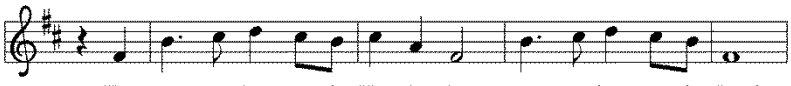
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



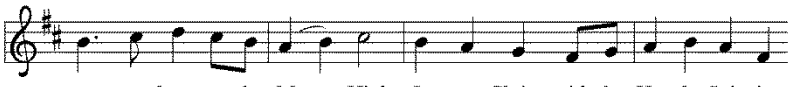
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Word of God

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

⁶²¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

148:1-6

By the Singers



¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

**4Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,
**6who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

“O Lord, Now Let Your Servant,” #313

Stanza 1

O Lord, now let your servant
depart in heav'nly peace,
for I have seen the glory
of your redeeming grace:
a light to lead the nations
unto your holy hill,
the glory of your people,
your chosen Israel.

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

At the announcement of the Gospel:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

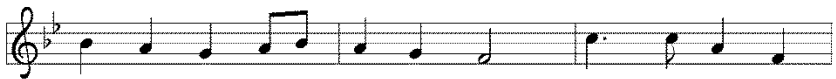
Pastor Bridger



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther



his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Nicene Creed

A We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

C **Amen.**

A We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He

will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

C Amen.

A We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy. . .

C Hear our prayer.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Greet those around you with these or similar words, after which you may be seated in prayerful silence as the altar is prepared. Stand again as you are able at the pastor's invitation

Presentation of the Offering

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming,”
Gilbert Martin

A Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you bless us with gifts beyond deserving. Accept these tokens of our thanks and use them for the saving purposes of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.

C Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

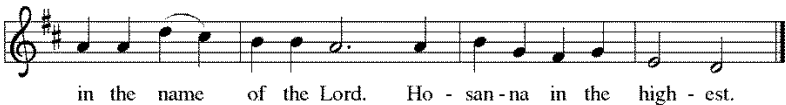
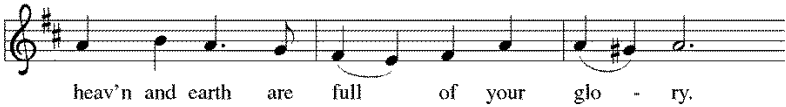
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

By the singers—



P Holy God, the Beginning and the End, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

P Gracious Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit . . . now and forever.

C Amen.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen. *You may be seated*

Communion

By the singers—



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

When all have communed, stand as you are able

A Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious Father, for this foretaste of the age to come when hunger is no more, and every heart is filled with joy. Send us now in the strength of this promise to spend our days as signs of hope for all creation, and as agents of your life-giving love in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“What Child Is This?” Jerry Ray

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Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Pastor Bridger

Presiding Minister – Pastor Burce

Assisting Minister – Nancy Richter

Acolyte – Kaitlyn Carlin

Singers – John Hayduk, Darla Neumann

Organist – Connie Triplett

Deacon – Bob Trapp

Sound Technician – Jared Waugaman

Altar Guild – Tiffany Advani

In Our Prayers

- Those remembering departed loved ones in this Christmas Season
- † The family of Mary Weber
- The ill: Eddie DiFiore, Keith and Colene Monson, Marie Seiler, Violet Webb, Eleanor Weindorf

This Week's Commemorations

Dec. 27—ST. JOHN, son of Zebedee, member of Jesus' inner circle of disciples, and source or author of the Gospel and epistles that bear his name.

Dec. 28—THE HOLY INNOCENTS, that is, the children of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by Herod in his effort to eliminate “the newborn king” (Matt. 2).

January 3 Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Senior Pastor – Jerome Burce

Associate Pastor – Seth Bridger

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Pastoral Assistant – Ruth Mortensen

Music Director – Connie Triplett

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorff Memorial Fund Director – Darlene Waugh



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Drawing in to Christ. Building up in Christ. Sending out for Christ.

To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.