

First Sunday after Christmas



Messiah Lutheran Church
December 29, 2019

(440) 331-2405
MessiahChurchFairview.org

To our Guests: Welcome!

May the God who led you here today refresh you with his grace and peace in Christ Jesus as you spend this hour with us. We're glad you're here.

Some helpful things to know

- **Let us know that you were here.** You'll find a visitor's card in the pew rack that you can fill out and either hand to an usher or drop in the offering plate.



- **Restless children?** Nursery care is available during the late Sunday morning services. We also have a room where parents can tend to little ones while watching and listening to the service. Ask an usher for directions.

- **Large print bulletins and personal audio receivers** are available at Sunday services for any who may find them helpful. Don't hesitate to ask an usher.

- **May you commune at Messiah?** Yes, if you're a baptized communicant elsewhere and are able to respond with joyful confidence when Christ invites you to meet him in the sacrament here. As he says of the bread, "This is my body," and of the cup, "This is my blood"; and of both he says, "given and shed *for you.*"

- **Our communion procedures:** the sacrament is distributed at the head of the aisle. Come forward as the usher directs. For receiving the wine, two cups are available, one to drink from and a second to dip the host in. Follow your preference. If you choose not to commune but would like even so to receive a blessing, approach the pastor or assisting minister with your arms crossed. For a gluten-free host, quietly ask the pastor.

First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 8:30 & 10 am

*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 Song

“What Child Is This?” #296

Baptism (10)

Greeting (8:30 only)

In the beginning was the Word

and the Word was with God, and Word was God

In the Word was life,

and the life was the light of all people

The Word was in the world, and the world did not know him.

He came to his own people, and his people did not receive him.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name

He gave power to become children of God.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

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

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

And also with you.

Gloria



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

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

You may be seated

The Word of God

First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

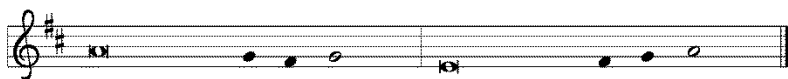
Psalm

148:7-14

Cantor sings refrain; All sing refrain



Cantor sings verses in regular print; All sing verses in bold print



you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²**young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. Refrain**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and
heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. | Hallelujah! Refrain**

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation “Angels We Have Heard on High,” #289 stanza 3

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

At the announcement of the Gospel:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

Pastor Bridger

Stand as you are able

Song of the Day

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” #272

Confession of Faith (8:30 only)

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

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.

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.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy. . .
. . . **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

*Greet those around you with these or similar words
You may be seated*

Offering

“What Child Is This?” Tom Fettke

Stand as you are able

The first Noel the angel did say
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
 Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,
 full rev'rently upon their knee,
 and offered there in his presence
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
 Born is the King of Israel.

God of abundance,
 You have blessed us with these gifts. Grant us patience and hope as
 we commit them to your service for the care and redemption of all
 that you have made; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord’s Supper

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord. . .now and forever. **Amen.**

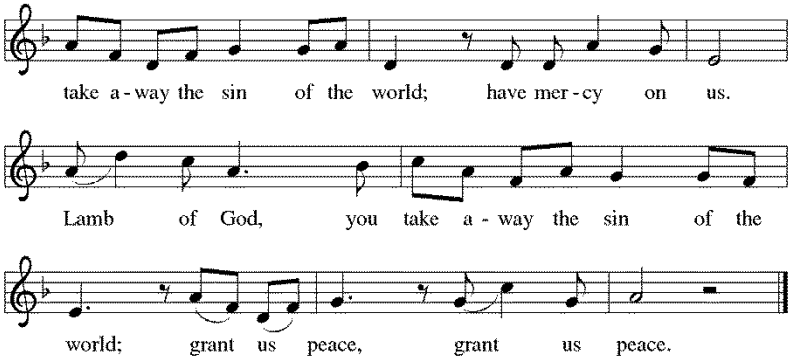
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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

You may be seated

To learn how we distribute communion, see the inside front cover.

Communion

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.

“From Heaven Above”

#268

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

#294

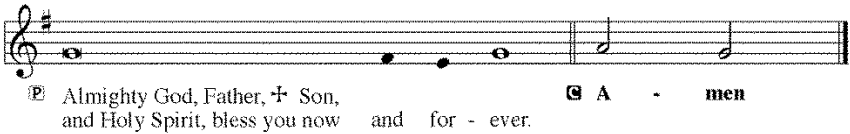
Stand as you are able

Post Communion Prayer

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. **Amen.**

Sending

Blessing



Almighty God, Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for - ever. **A - men**

Sending Song

“Angels from the Realms of Glory,” #275

Go in peace. Serve the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” Sharon Wilson

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Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Pr. Bridger

Presiding Minister – Pr. Burce

Assisting Ministers – Nancy Richter (8:30); Dave Lamar (10)

Lectors – Ruth King (8:30); James Quayle (10)

Communion Assistants – Kent Skurkey, Christa Turnbull, Lee Vysoky (8:30);
James Quayle, Bob Stoddard, Linda Stoddard (10)

Acolytes – Bryce Neumann (8:30);
Antonio Medina, Ella Pierse (10)

Organist – Connie Triplett

Cantor – Brad Paton (8:30); Trudy Gustke (10)

Deacons – Joe Frantz, Trish Kvasnicka(8:30);
Carolyn Flanagan, Bob Trapp (10)

Greeters – Ann & Bob Kreps (10)

Ushers – Joe King (8:30);
Julia Ellerbruch, Dana Quayle, Craig Stinard (10)

Trustee – Craig Stinard

Altar Guild – Bonnie Price, Martha Trapp

Nursery –Cathy Brewer, Noah Brewer (10)

In our Prayers

- ✦ The Church's witness to the life and promise of Christ
- ✦ All who ache for an end to war and violence
- ✦ The world's refugees, longing for home
- ✦ All who suffer today from the governance of cruel and selfish rules
- ✦ Cole Waugh, baptized today
- ✦ The ill: Becky Eicher, Sue Nerlinger, Phil Neumann, Rae Szabo

This Week's Commemorations

December 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 2—WILHELM LOEHE, d. 1872, pastor in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, and one of the most remarkable figures in the history of Lutheran missions. Through the Neuendettelsau Mission Society Loehle recruited, trained, and sent missionaries to North America, Australia, Brazil, and the Ukraine. He played a major role in the shaping of Midwestern Lutheranism. Neuendettelsau missionaries eventually reached Africa and New Guinea.

God's Word for Next Week 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.

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Senior Pastor– Jerome Burce

Associate Pastor – Seth Bridger

Pastoral Assistant – Ruth Mortensen

Music Director – Connie Triplett

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator – Darlene Waugh

Pierstorff Memorial Fund Director – Martin Uhle



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.