

Christmas Eve



Messiah Lutheran Church
December 24, 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 cup from the basket, remove it from its bag, and hold it steady as the pastor fills it. Deposit the cup and bag 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.

Christmas Eve

December 24, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

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

Prelude

“Sing We Now of Christmas,” Kristin Campbell
“From Heaven Above,” Raymond Haan
“Carol of the Bells,” Stuart Carlson
“Oh Come, Little Children,” Anna Laura Page
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” Stuart Carlson

Confession and Forgiveness

Remain seated

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P When the fullness of time had come God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children (Gal. 4:4-5). With hope and confidence in the Gospel of this holy night, let us confess our sins.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

A Almighty God, Father of love and compassion: We confess that we have disobeyed you in thought, word and deed. We have wandered from your presence. We have loved the works of darkness. We have grieved your heart. For Jesus' sake forgive us. Save us from our sins, and bring us at last to the joy of life eternal.

P Is this also your confession? If so, say “Amen.”

P “For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.” As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God grant you the power of the Holy Spirit to hear his Word and believe it, to rejoice in his forgiveness, and to grow into the fullness of our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Stand as you are able



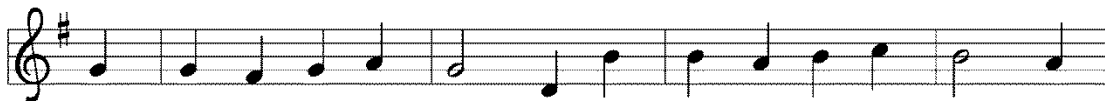
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



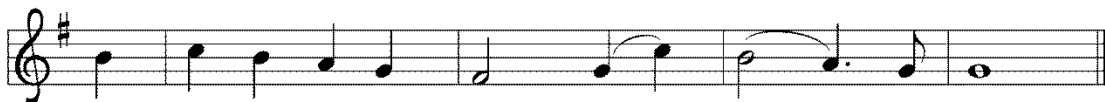
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

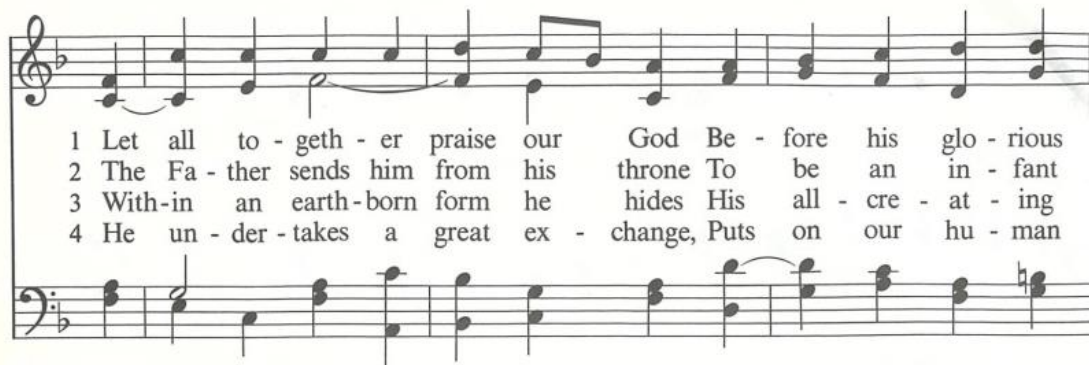
Greeting

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

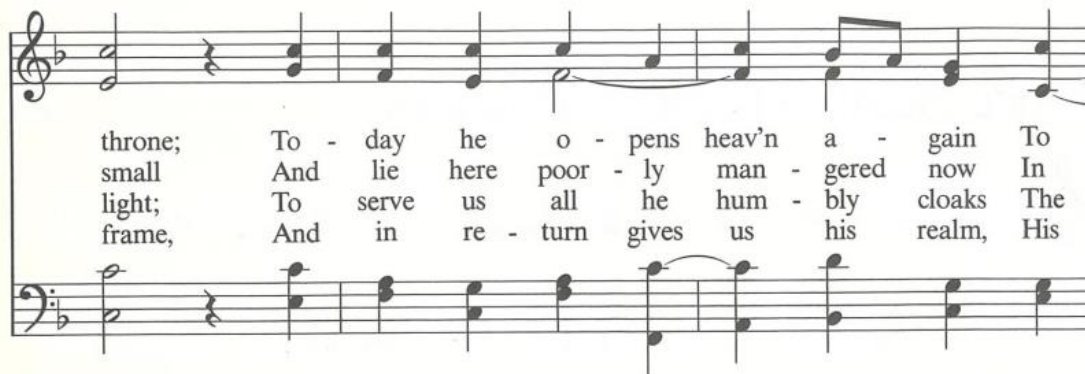
C And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

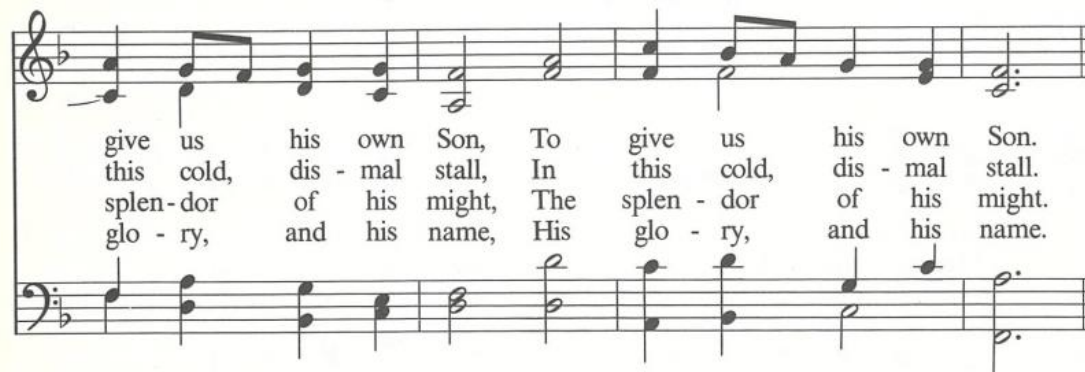
“Let All Together Praise Our God,” *stanzas 1, 3, 4*



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his glo - rious
2 The Fa - ther sends him from his throne To be an in - fant
3 With - in an earth - born form he hides His all - cre - at - ing
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our hu - man



throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain To
small And lie here poor - ly man - gered now In
light; To serve us all he hum - bly cloaks The
frame, And in re - turn gives us his realm, His



give us his own Son, To give us his own Son.
this cold, dis - mal stall, In this cold, dis - mal stall.
splen - dor of his might, The splen - dor of his might.
glo - ry, and his name, His glo - ry, and his name.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ 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 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

126

Presented by the Singers

Refrain



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

²Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

³Declare his glory among the nations; his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

⁴For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

“Christmastime Alleluia,” James J. Chepponis

Presented by the Singers

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Verse: Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. *Refrain*

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

At the announcement of the Gospel:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

Pastor Burce

Hymn of the Day

"Angels We Have Heard on High,"

Virtual choir organized by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

Look for the following Messiah musicians (most with the Messiah wall of crosses in the background):

Trudy Gustke, Soprano 2

Priscilla Hinsch, Alto 1

Ally Paton, Alto 1

Connie Triplett, Alto 2

Brad Paton, Bass 2

Debbie Luekens, Handbells E6-F6

Ruth King, Handbells C6-D6

Dale Mortensen, Clarinet

Prayers: *After each portion of the prayers:*

A Lord, in your mercy, *the congregation responds,*

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

"Still, Still, Still," Anne Krentz Organ

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 We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ. . . with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church both 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.

“Sing We Now of Christmas,” Mark Patterson

prerecorded by Brad and Allison Paton

*Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Hear our grateful praises to the Child so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!*

*Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest;
Journey to the manger, find the Child so blest.”
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!*

*Come sing, sing we all Noel!
Come sing, sing we all Noel!
Sing Noel! Sing Noel!
Come sing, sing we all Noel!*

*Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Hear our grateful praises to the Child so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas,
Sing we now of Christmas, sing Noel!*

“The First Noel,” Stuart Carlson

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten,” Raymond Haan

When all have communed, stand as you are able

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in body and soul to life everlasting. **C Amen.**

Meditation on Christ, the Light of the World

Proclamation and Prayer

P Dearly beloved: Jesus Christ, the true light that gives light to every human being has come into the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C Thanks be to God!

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O Lord, and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only begotten Son, born of Mary, our Savior Jesus Christ. **C Amen.**

Candlelight Hymn

“Silent Night,” Larry Sue

Listen as the bells play; then, guided by the singers hum along with one stanza

Sending

Blessing

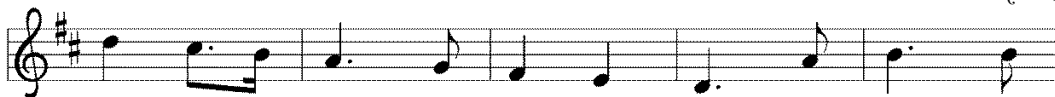
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Joy to the World,” #267

Stanzas 1, 2, 4



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord
C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Go Tell it on the Mountain,” Gary Lanier

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Serving Today

Presiding Minister -- Pastor Bridger

Preaching Minister – Pastor Burce

Assisting Ministers – Chris Neumann (7); Mike Allan (9:30)

Acolytes – Bryce Neumann (7); Kaitlyn Carlin (9:30)

Singers – Claire Connelly, David Graves (7); Dale Mortensen, Trudy Gustke (9:30)

Joy Ringers – Directed by Ruth King

String Quartet -- Signe Mortensen, violin; Ryan Detwiler, violin;
Claire Haneberg, viola; Olivia Clark, cello

Organist – Connie Triplett

Deacons – Mark & Amy Hunger (7); Terrie Leske, Bob Trapp (9:30)

Welcoming Team – Joe & Ruth King (7)

Sound Technician – Jared Waugaman

Altar Guild – Marilyn Edwards (7); Martha Trapp (9:30)