

First Sunday of Christmas



Messiah Lutheran Church
December 26, 2021

(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 coronavirus infection continues to threaten people who have not been vaccinated and some who are fully vaccinated. In our determined care for each other, please follow these rules:

- If you arrived with a cough, fever, sniffles or other symptoms of a respiratory infection, please say a quiet prayer, excuse yourself, and go home.
- All services are “mask-optional” for people who have been vaccinated. Go without one if you wish. Wear one if you wish.
- If you haven’t been vaccinated, please be sure to wear a mask for your own safety and as way of caring for the people around you.
- Singing is permitted at all services, though we urge you to sing quietly.
- Continue to observe social distancing rules.
- Continue for the time being to sit only in marked pews. Use your judgment on how close you wish to be to people at the other end. Listen kindly to their concerns if they have any.
- Continue to share the Peace with a nod, a bow or a wave of the hand. No handshakes or hugs yet.
- At communion we will continue to use the pouring chalice and individual cups. The pastors will mask when they consecrate the elements and wear a glove to distribute the host.

First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 8:30 am

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

Prelude

Entrance

Stand as the cross enters from the side door

Gathering Song

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” #272

Stanzas 1-3

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 Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

You may be seated

The Word of God

First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay

you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

148:1-6

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



¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, ¹ all you angels;**
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.

³Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- ¹ en of heavens,**
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they ¹ were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,**
giving them a law that shall not ¹ pass away.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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 2:41-52

At the announcement of the Gospel:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

Pastor Bridger

Stand as you are able

Confession of Faith

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:

A Lord, in your mercy. . .

C Hear our prayer

Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Greet those around you with these or similar words

You may be seated

Offering

A Let us pray. God of abundance,

C 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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

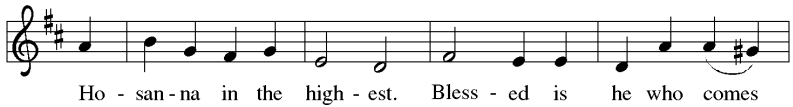
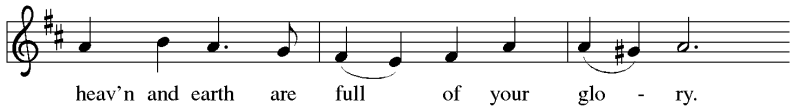
P Lift up your hearts.

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:

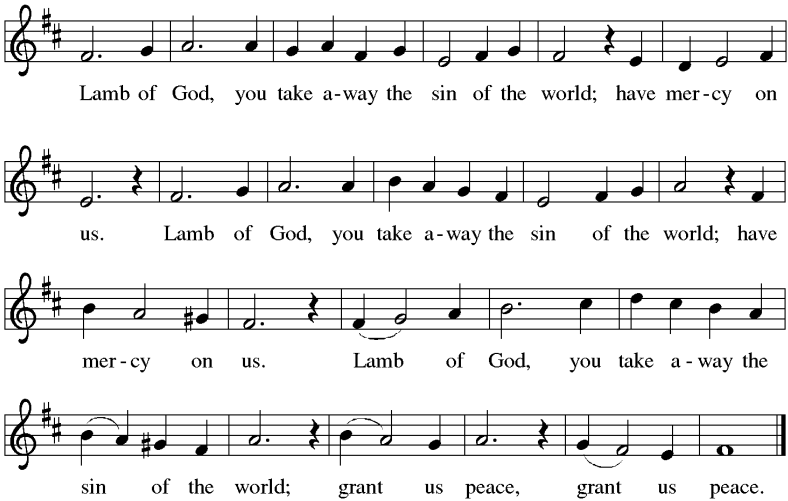


P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord. . .now and forever. **Amen.**

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



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.

Communion

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A 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 Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sending Song

“What Child Is This,” #296

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Serving Today

Preaching & Presiding Minister – Pastor Bridger

Assisting Minister – Ron Coulter

Acolyte – Noah Bridger

Organist – Connie Triplett

Deacon – Michael Eckert

Altar Guild – Elenor Davis, Marilyn Edwards, Debbie Luekens,
Diane Paton, Louise Vertal

In our Prayers

- In thanksgiving for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations and those who are cheered by the joy of Christmas
- For medical professionals and public health administrators as the worldwide pandemic continues to rage
- For the many who are spending their days in quarantine
- For those working during the holiday providing valuable service to others
- For the ill: Andrew Boraggina, Charlene Coughlin, Mrs. Fry (friend of Sue Nerlinger), Maeve Henderson, Sue Nerlinger, Betty Preuss, Susanne Tershak (cousin of Christopher Peters)

This Week's Commemorations

Dec. 26—ST. STEPHEN, the first Christian martyr, stoned for having challenged religious authorities in Jerusalem through his preaching of Christ. (Acts 6 & 7).

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).

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.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Connect with Messiah – text 'MESSIAHFP' to 84576 to sign-up

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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 & Pierstorf 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.