

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2021, 10 A.M.



Messiah Lutheran Church
21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126

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.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2021, 10 A.M.

PRELUDE

“Carol Medley,” Robert Hughes

++ ENTRANCE ++

ENTRANCE HYMN

“From Heaven Above,”
stanzas 1-3, 6-8, 12-14



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
2 “To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
3 “This is the Christ, God’s Son most high, who hears your
Insert additional stanzas as desired.
12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
14 “Glo - ry to God in high - est heav’n, who un - to



news to ev - ’ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior
bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
us the Son has giv’n.” With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
be and from all sin will set you free.”
heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4 “The blessing that the Father planned
the Son holds in his infant hand,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
you may with us his glory share.” | 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away;
how can our thanks such live repay? |
| 5 “These are the signs that you will see
to let you know that it is he:
in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes
the child who all the earth upholds.” | 9 O Lord, you have created all!
How did you come to be so small,
to sweetly sleep in manger-bed
where lowing cattle lately fed? |
| 6 Now let us all with joyful cheer
go with the shepherds and draw near
to see this wondrous gift of God,
the blessed child to us bestowed. | 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do
to rock a prince so great as you. |
| 7 Look, look, dear friends, look over there!
What lies within that manger bare?
Who is that lovely little one?
The baby Jesus, God’s dear Son. | 11 For velvets soft and silken stuff
you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king so rich and great
to be enthroned in humble state. |

- 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

Assisting minister

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

All

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

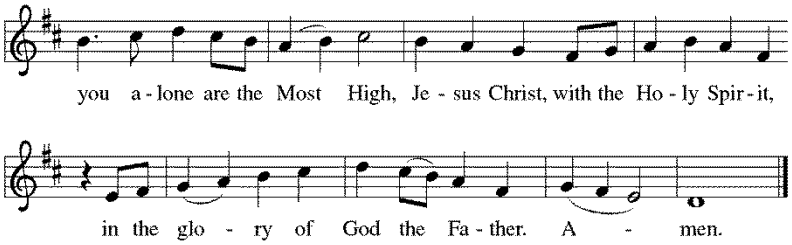
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

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,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

You may be seated

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 62:6-12

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Fm B^b/F Fm B^b Fm/C C Fm

1 God reigns! Earth re - joic - es! O - ceans shout God's might!
 2 Fires will blaze the path - way; stars will mark the place,
 3 E - vil walks be - side us, crush - es with its grief;
 4 Light dawns for the right - eous, joy for God's own heirs;

B^b/F Fm B^b Fm/C C Fm

Clad in truth and joy, God's throne is our de - light.
 when God comes in glo - ry, meets us face to face.
 yet in God the faith - ful find their sure re - lief.
 love all loves ex - cel - ling; grace be - yond com - pare.

C/E Fm C

Clouds roll a - side, and night be - comes as day.
 Moun - tains will shake, and worth - less i - dols fall;
 Shack - les will break, and chains of bon - dage cease;
 Daugh - ters and sons, God's maj - es - ty pro - claim!

Fm B^b/F Fm B^b Fm/C C Fm

God will dwell a - mong us; God will show the way!
 Zi - on will re - joice, for God is Lord of all!
 for - mer lam - en - ta - tions now are songs of peace.
 Let your hearts de - clare the Lord's most ho - ly name!

SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Good Christian Friends Rejoice,” #288, *stanza 1*

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

At the announcement of the Gospel:

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or

of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE “Good Christian Friends Rejoice,” #288, *stanza 3*

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

SERMON

Pastor Burce

Stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten,” #295
stanza 3 organ only

NICENE CREED

C 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.

PRAYERS & PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(Please greet each other with these or similar words)

You may be seated

OFFERING

Stand as you are able

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C **In the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

++ HOLY COMMUNION ++

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.**

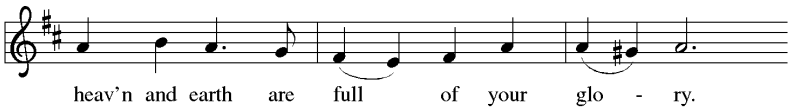
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



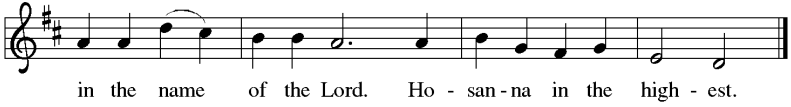
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

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.**

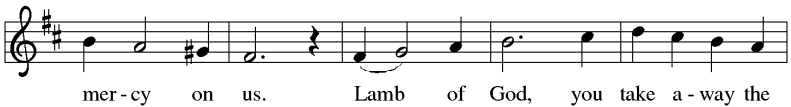
You may be seated



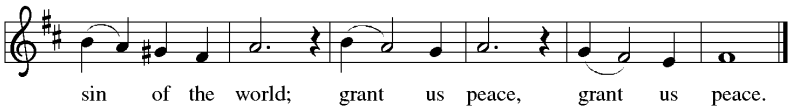
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“What Child Is This?” #296
“Away in a Manger,” #277

Stand as you are able

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

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING

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

C Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” #270

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Cold December Flies Away,” Christine Robbins

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“God Reigns! Earth Rejoices! Words: Michael Morgan © 2011 Michael Morgan, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

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SERVING TODAY

Preaching Minister: *Rev. Dr. Jerome E. Burce*

Presiding Minister: *The Rev. Seth C. Bridger*

Assisting Minister: *Nancy Richter*

Acolyte: *Annaliese Anderson*

Organist: *Linda Kempke*

Deacon: *Frank Beodray*

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



**THE POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR DISPLAY
ARE PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF ALMIGHTY GOD
WITH GRATEFUL THANKS FOR –**

Our fourth Christmas at Messiah *by the Bridger Family*
Frank & Mildred Claycomb and Elinor Burce *by the Burce Family*
Lou Celesky *by the Celesky Family*
Eleanor Celesky *by the Celesky Family*
My Parents Marjorie & Roy Walker, Sr. *by Rita Gadus*
Ken Negray *by Rita Gadus*
My Sister June Schultz *by Rita Gadus*
Felipa & Ignacio Romo *by the Geier Family*
Our Parents *by The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Hathaway*
To the Glory of God *by The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Hathaway*
Lyn Kirst *by Ed Kirst*
Captain Todd Kirst *by Ed Kirst*
Eleanor & Reinhold Leske *by Terri Leske*
Tom Filippou and Jane, Bill & Jeff Luekens *by Debbie Luekens*
Donald Miller *by Jay Machado and Stephanie Miller*
In honor of Bruce & Edith Machado *by Jay Machado and Stephanie Miller*
Eleanor & Richard Weindorf *by Sally & Terry McHugh*
Donald J. Moeller *by the Moeller and Szczepinski family*
Carl, Ruth and Nancy Neumann *by the Neumann Family*
Phil Neumann *by the Neumann Family*

Fran & Jane Pieper *by the Neumann Family*

Loved Ones *by Dorothy Raum*

The Rev. George Pohlod *by the Ratvasky Family*

Bill and Peg Ratvasky *by the Ratvasky Family*

Tracey Beard *by the Royster Family*

Peter & Theresa Szeltner *by John & Heidi Szeltner*

Our Parents *by Bob & Martha Trapp*

The Rev. John F. Uhle *by the Uhle Family*

Rejoicing for Emerson's health three years post heart transplant *by the
Waugh Family*

John & Irma Pugel *by the O'Malley and Waugh Families*

Robert, Patricia & Scott Waugh *by the Waugh Family*

Christmas Week at Messiah!

Dec. 26	8:30	One service only (in-person & online)
Dec. 27		Church offices closed
Dec. 30	6-8 pm	Laundry Love at Leo's Laundromat
Dec. 31		Church offices closed
Dec. 31	7 pm	New Year's Eve Zoom Prayer
Jan. 2	8:30 & 11 am	Holy Communion (No Education Hour)

Thanks be to God this Christmas...

...for Christ our Savior, and for another wonderful response to special requests for help this Christmas. Children served by Building Hope in the City and Kids Church got presents. Food and funds were donated to neighborhood organizations. Our Little Pantry was well stocked.

Baptism? For My Children? For Me?

Are you new to the church? Have you thought about baptism as an option for your children interested in exploring baptism as a possible gift for your children, or even for yourself? If so, speak with either of our pastors or with Principal Helen Casselberry. We'd be happy to discuss this with you.

Church Office Hours

The offices at Messiah Lutheran Church will be closed Dec. 24 – 27 and Dec. 31. In the event of an emergency, call Pastor Seth at 513-335-2882; otherwise, please leave a voicemail at 440-331-2405.

Explore the Word this Winter

Messiah offers pastor-led classes for adults on Wednesday mornings and evenings and on Sunday morning too. Our current topics—

- Wednesday morning: **Isaiah** (Resumes January 12)
- Wednesday evening: **“The Book of God”** (Begins January 12)
- Sunday morning: **What Christians *Get* to Believe** (Resumes January 12)
- Thursday evening: **Little Lamb, Who Made Thee?** (resumes January 6)

Inquirer's Class (New Members)

Interested in learning more about Messiah? Pr. Bridger will lead a special class this Lent to introduce people to our congregation and the faith we share as Lutheran Christians. The class will meet in-person on the first five Sundays in Lent (March 6 to April 3) at 9:45, between our morning services. To learn more or to sign up, drop a note to the church office (church@messiahfp.org) or directly to Pr. Seth (sbridger@messiahfp.org).

2022 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2022 offering envelopes outside the church office.

ShroveFest To Go

March 1, 2022 11:30 am - 6:30 pm

As we write this note, it is impossible to predict how Covid will affect our plans for ShroveFest on March 1. Our team is planning and praying that ShroveFest will be back in 2022 as a "To Go" event only. Like many, we are following the recommendations available today. Our team is meeting again on January 9 to continue planning. If all goes well, we are planning to prepare the cabbage rolls on January 27 & 28. Your help is greatly needed to make this event a success.

For Online Giving To Messiah

Messiah's website, www.messiahfairview.org offers a way to contribute online. Look for the "Donation" tab at the top of any page on the site. Clicking on it will take you to a secure giving page supplied and managed by Vanco Services, through Wells Fargo; when giving online, consider using the electronic check option.

Text to Give

Simply text your donation amount to **855-913-1744**. You will receive a text back with a quick link to register (name, credit card number, email for receipt purposes). Once you register, you can text to give without this registration process. It takes 30 seconds to register and 10 seconds to type a donation. You are welcome to do this during the offering or from home; text to give works every day of the week!

Are you a Thrivent Member?

Direct Your 2021 Thrivent Choice Dollars to Messiah Church & School

If you are a Thrivent member you may have Choice Dollars to direct to Messiah Church & School. Choice Dollars are free to members and provide an opportunity to give back to a charitable organization. It's a gift that costs you absolutely nothing. Messiah is registered as one of the many charities in this program. Log into your Thrivent account or call **(800)847-4836**. This is free money for Messiah Church & School and is likely already sitting in your account waiting to be donated. If you need additional help, call Darlene Waugh at 440-331-2405.