

# Service of the Word

## The First Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Year B  
November 29, 2020

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

*Lyndhurst, Ohio + 440.442.6941 + [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org)*

# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church!

**It is good to be together**, even if we are meeting online and/or in the church parking lot. If you are new to Messiah, you can find out more about our community at [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org) or on our facebook page. During this current health crisis, we will upload our service to our website each Sunday morning ([www.messiahlyndhurst.org](http://www.messiahlyndhurst.org)). We invite you to follow along at home with the order of service included below.

If you are new to Messiah, you can find out more about our community at [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org) or on our facebook page. During this current health crisis, we will upload our service to our website each Sunday morning ([www.messiahlyndhurst.org](http://www.messiahlyndhurst.org)). We invite you to follow along at home with the order of service included below.

**Prayer Concerns** can be shared via email ([pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org)) or phone (440-442-6941). Please indicate if you would like your request to be considered for inclusion in worship. Please note that some elements of the service are pre-recorded and prayer requests may not make it in until the following week.

**Children** are encouraged to participate at home as they are able. If you would like an at-home Sunday School Lesson Packet, please contact Cheryl Moser for more info.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is typically celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month, as well as on festival days. The date of our next Communion Sunday is TBD. If Communion is new for you, we invite you to have a conversation with Pastor Paul.

## Serving in Worship Today:

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	The Rev. Paul Moody
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jim Burghart
<b>Keyboards</b>	Glenn Odenbrett
<b>Reader</b>	Katie Moody
<b>Special Music</b>	Gail Ross

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*Variations on "St. George"*  
(based on ELW #693)  
Francis Cunningham Woods

*(As God gathers us on this day of resurrection,  
we take time during the prelude to center ourselves  
and prepare to receive the Gospel: both its proclamation  
of grace and its call to action.)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked  
at baptism, as the presiding minister begins)*

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.  
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.  
We have not welcomed the stranger;  
we have not loved our neighbor;  
we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.  
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.  
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,

‡ comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (ELW# 693)



1 Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

## **GREETING**

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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

# WORD

## **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

## **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

*Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph <sup>1</sup> like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- <sup>1</sup> on the cherubim.  
<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, <sup>1</sup> and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and <sup>1</sup> come to help us.**  
<sup>3</sup>Restore <sup>1</sup> us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.  
<sup>4</sup>**O LORD<sup>1</sup> God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your <sup>1</sup> people pray?**  
<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the <sup>1</sup> bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of <sup>1</sup> tears to drink.  
<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision <sup>1</sup> of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh <sup>1</sup> us to scorn.**  
<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O <sup>1</sup> God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.  
<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at <sup>1</sup> your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong <sup>1</sup> for yourself.**  
<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- <sup>1</sup> way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- <sup>1</sup> on your name.  
<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD<sup>1</sup> God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## GOSPEL

## Mark 13:24-37

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Mark:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

<sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass

away.

<sup>32</sup>But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Paul Jones Moody

*(Please observe a moment of silence after the sermon)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace (ELW #247)*

Come now, O Prince of peace,  
make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus,  
reconcile your people.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*(A brief silence)*

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ’s name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. (*Local feeding or housing ministries may be named*). Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered)*

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(If you are gathered with others, please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you" or similar response.)*

## **OFFERING**

*(In response to God's command to love our neighbors, we give of the resources God has given us for the sake of the common good. Please give your tithes and offerings by mail or electronically at [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org))*

# THANKSGIVING

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

# SENDING

## MISSION PRAYER

As God has gathered us and filled our hearts with the Gospel, now God sends us forth to serve in mission. Let us pray:

**Gracious God, through belief in Christ and through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empower us to share the word; care and support each other and God's community; worship as a family in Christ; and be Christ-like examples to those whose lives we touch.  
Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
‡ now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (ELW #244)



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring's bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)*

## POSTLUDE

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*  
Paul Manz

### **Messiah Staff Members**

Organist: Glenn Odenbrett  
Choir Director: Vicki Lester  
Christian Education Director: Cheryl Moser  
Office Administrator: Steven Liss  
Building & Custodial: Steve Newcomer

### **Attributions**

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## *Prayers*

**Prayer Team & Partners:** Prayer is a vital part of the Christian life. Messiah has a Prayer Team which will pray with/for you. If you have a prayer request, please complete a blue Prayer Request Card – available in the sanctuary – which offer these options: (1) request a Pastoral follow-up, (2) include in the intercessory prayers to be read aloud in worship, (3) add to the ongoing list in the Bulletin and Grace Note, or (4) add to the Prayer Partner Email Chain.

*(Contact Nancy Pittard to participate in the Prayer Partner Email Chain and/or to serve on the Prayer Team)*

**Please pray for our siblings in Christ:** The family and friends of Sarah Lang, Lila Bohler, Jim Butler, Lise Davis, Una and Bob Durheim, Dan Filer, Tracy Galvin, Laura Grospitch and family, Jay Imel, Bob Kopsak, John Lincoln, Christine Maharg and family, the Musial family, Craig Orosz, Lisa Perry, Sid

Pryor, the Sauder family, Phyllis Short, Amy Square, Kathy Strom, Jim Szatkowski, and all in need of comfort and healing.

*(Your prayer request, printed in the bulletin, will remain active for a period of four weeks. If you wish to have the prayer renewed, please fill out a new request card.)*

## **Announcements**

**PLEASE NOTE: All upcoming activities and events are subject to change as Messiah responds to the ongoing world health crisis.**

**Pastoral Care:** The world is experiencing an unprecedented season of difficulty, and all of us are affected in our own way. If you would like to connect with Pastor Paul for a conversation, please call or email the church office: 440-442-6941 or [pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org).

**OHIO Covid-19:** Now that testing is more widely available – we wanted to share some of the key resources:

- *Ohio Corona Virus Portal:*  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>
- *Link/Map for Testing Sites:*  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/testing-ch-centers/>
- *Phone for Info:* 1-833-427-5634

**LWR Personal Care Kits:** Messiah is collecting items to assemble Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Collection bins for the items are located by the coffee area. NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

**Church Council:** the next meeting is on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**Book Club:** The Messiah book club will gather at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8th at the home of Mary Lou Bregitzer to discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyer.

**Miles of Quarters:** To help with Messiah's budget deficit, we are collecting a mile of quarters – over 63,000 quarters – more than \$15,000. Put your quarters in the glass jug by the easel. NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

**Church Office Hours This Week:**

The Church Office will not be open until further notice. However, we will be checking voicemail and email regularly.

**Attendance and Offering** for the week of November 22, 2020:

YouTube Views + Park & Pray Attendees: 32

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$3,140

(NOTE: \$4,000 a week is needed to remain current with our budget)

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service:** Social Ministry has placed educational posters about the ELCA's history of helping refugees through the work of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). Take a look at the new posters in the coffee area when you are able, or check out the LIRS website: <https://www.lirs.org/>.



## **Special Acknowledgments**

*This is our space to honor expressions of appreciation. Email items c/o [office@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:office@messiahlyndhurst.org) by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep submissions in print for two weeks.*

- ♥ Many thanks to Tom Trost for once again enriching our hymn-singing experience today with his brilliant trumpet accompaniment.  
*c/o Glenn Odenbrett*
- ♥ Thank you Tom Trost for you wonderful accompaniment with Glenn Odenbrett the last few weeks.  
*c/o Jim Rase*
- ♥ I wish to thank the artistic photographers who take the special backgrounds for the weekly bulletins, Grace Notes and services. I appreciate seeing the beautiful flowers, gardens, and images of our stained-glass windows. I am also grateful to Steve Liss for his journalistic skills in putting everything together so interestingly.  
*c/o Bette Schmidt*
- ♥ The wind had quite a unique effect at the Reformation Park and Pray! Drinda's poem was a perfect addition to the service! Thank you, Drinda, for sharing.  
*c/o Vicki Lester*
- ♥ Jim Rase has been faithfully helping as assisting minister. Thank you for being available while Jim Burghart heals from surgery, Kristy Bohinc live streams, and Tom Griffith directs traffic.  
*c/o Vicki Lester*

# Messiah Cookbook Project:

recipes, table graces, cooking stories, pics & more!



Dear Messiah Members,

What have you been cooking up in your kitchen the last several months? What recipes and table graces have you been using? Do you have any cooking stories or kitchen pictures that you are willing to share?

This is an historical time! Social Ministry is creating a congregational cookbook this year to bring us closer together during this time of social distancing. We are asking Messiah members to share their **recipes, table graces, cooking stories and pictures** for a cookbook that we are assembling in November and email distributing in December. There is no limit to the number of recipes, table graces, pictures and stories that we can include. Share your feasts and flops. All in good taste, we hope! – LOL

**Please email or use the USPS to send your cookbook submissions to Jill Snellman: [jillsnellman@yahoo.com](mailto:jillsnellman@yahoo.com) by Sunday, November 29.** Any format is fine for your recipes, table graces, story submissions and pics. Please make sure it is legible.



## GRACE BEFORE MEALS

BLESS US, O LORD, AND THESE  
THY GIFTS, WHICH WE ARE ABOUT  
TO RECEIVE FROM THY BOUNTY.  
THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD,  
AMEN.