

Service of the Word

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Cycle B
December 20, 2020

Messiah Lutheran Church

Lyndhurst, Ohio + 440.442.6941 + 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 or on our facebook page. During this current health crisis, we will upload our service to our website each Sunday morning (www.messiahlyndhurst.org). We invite you to follow along at home with the order of service included below.

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Prayer Concerns can be shared via email (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:

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Paul Moody
Assisting Minister	Kristy Bohinc
Keyboards	Glenn Odenbrett
Readers	Ender Johnson & Levi Johnson

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Oh Come Emmanuel
(based on ELW #257)
Jan Bender

*(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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(ELW#257 – select verses)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, 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

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."
³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

- ^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness ¹ of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in ¹ God my Savior,
⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your ¹ lowly servant.
From this day all generations will ¹ call me blessed:**
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great ¹ things for me
and holy ¹ is your name.
⁵⁰**You have mercy on ¹ those who fear you,
from generation to ¹ generation.**
⁵¹You have shown strength ¹ with your arm
and scattered the proud in ¹ their conceit,
⁵²**casting down the mighty ¹ from their thrones
and lifting ¹ up the lowly.**
⁵³You have filled the hungry ¹ with good things
and sent the rich ¹ away empty.
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your ¹ servant Israel,
to remember the prom- ¹ ise of mercy,**
⁵⁵the promise made ¹ to our forbears,
to Abraham and his chil- ¹ dren forever.

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

(A brief silence)

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths (*Nearby churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues may be named*). Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they

served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. 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

OFFERING MUSIC

*Creator of the Stars of Night (ELW #245)
9th Century Gregorian Chant
Jim Rase – voice
accompanied by James E. Timko*

(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)

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

Hark, the Glad Sound! (ELW #239)



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

DISMISSAL

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

(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)

POSTLUDE

Hark, the Glad Sound!
(based on ELW #239)
C.S. Lang

Messiah Staff Members

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

Attributions

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Portions of Service of the Word.

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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 Ginny Edwards, the family and friends of Lois Ehlenfeldt, the family and friends of Jay Imel, the family and friends of Sid Pryor, Lila Boehler, Jim Butler, Lise Davis, Una and Bob Durham, Dan Filer, Tracy Galvin, Sue Howe, Jayne Imel, Retta Kalcik, Bob Kopsak, John Lincoln, Christine Maharg and family, Craig Orosz, Lisa Perry, the Sauder family, Jill Shemory, 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.

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, January 19th at 7:00pm.

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 December 13, 2020:

YouTube Views: 43

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$2,607

(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 by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep submissions in print for two weeks.

- ♥ Thanks to Pastor (and Katie) for including Children's Moments in the services. The kids look forward to that, along with watching to see what extra footage is at the very end of the virtual service. We all get a kick out of that..lol.
c/o Kristy Bohinc
- ♥ Thanks to Kathy Johnson, Lisa Halberg, Sarah Dellinger, Allison Schreiber, the Trosts and Pastor Paul for all of their contributions to virtual Sunday School and Zooms!! Much appreciated!
c/o Kristy Bohinc
- ♥ Thanks to all of the youth who signed up to read during Advent. It's wonderful to see all of your faces!
c/o Kristy Bohinc
- ♥ Thank you Kristy for your beautiful singing and video style on Sunday 12/13/2020. I found myself entranced with the beauty of the whole presentation. Blessings and Thank You.
Love, Drinda Kiner
- ♥ First and foremost, we would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. We hope you are all safe and well. I wanted to express our continued gratitude for everything our Messiah Family has done for us these last few months. I wanted to give a quick update on Jaime...He will be 3 months post-op on Christmas from his major chest surgery in September. We are headed back to Cincinnati next week (Dec. 16-18) for post-op care. He's still on physical restrictions (no lifting, no twisting, no lying flat, no rolling over, no vigorous activity of any kind), but just started virtual physical therapy this past week to learn how to safely strengthen his core and chest post-operatively. He continues to have difficulty with coughing and sneezing, so we are trying VERY hard to keep him (and the rest of our family) in quarantine. Overall, I am happy to report, that at this time, Jaime is healing nicely and getting used to his "new chest" every day. Thank you for the continued

thoughts, prayers, well wishes and gifts you've sent us, all have been so very much appreciated. We are so blessed to be surrounded by such amazing people in our lives. Here's to a blessed Holiday Season and happy, HEALTHY, 2021 for all!

Love, The Trost Family

- ♥ Much appreciation goes to Katie Moody for being an integral part of Pastor's online services. We do thank you for making us comfortable in your home setting.

c/o the Messiah family

- ♥ Thank you to Vicki Lester for including the music in this past week's service that featured Jay Imel. It was a lovely tribute to Jay and brought a smile to my face and a tear to my eye as I remembered how his voice could fill the church and stir the soul. Thank you, Vicki!

c/o Gail Ross

Messiah Cookbook Project:



to **DEC. 27th**

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 by **Sunday, December 27.** Any format is fine for your recipes, table graces, story submissions and pics. Please make sure it is legible.

