

Service of the Word

The Second Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Cycle B

December 6, 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	Jim Rase
Keyboards	Glenn Odenbrett
Readers	Gordon Bohinc and Jared Trost

GATHERING

PRELUDE

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
(based on ELW #249)
Thomas Gieschen

*(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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (ELW# 249)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their |
hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,

and our land will yield its increase.

**¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Mark:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

(A brief silence)

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. We pray especially for . . . (*current local, national, or international issues of peace or justice may be named*). Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work (*especially Nicholas of Myra*). Make their generous lives an example for all. 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

Come, Emmanuel
Pepper Choplin
Messiah Choir from 2018 Christmas Cantata
Narrators: Jay Imel and Corinne Schreiber

(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

Comfort, Comfort Now My People (ELW #256)



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

DISMISSAL

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

(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)

POSTLUDE

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
(based on ELW #256)
Georg Boehm

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 Ginny Edwards, the family and friends of Jay Imel, the family and friends of Sarah Lang, Lila Boehler, Jim Butler, Lise Davis, Una and Bob Durham, Dan Filer, Tracy Galvin, Bob Kopsak, John Lincoln, Christine Maharg and family, the Musial family, Craig Orosz, Lisa Perry, Sid Pryor and family/friends, 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.

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 15th 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 29, 2020:

YouTube Views: 48 Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$1,472

(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.

- ♥ It was wonderful to see and hear Gail sing in the service on Nov. 29th!
Great job! :)
c/o Kristy Bohinc
- ♥ Thank you Gail Ross for your inspirational solo this past Sunday (11/29). It is greatly appreciated.
c/o Jim Rase
- ♥ 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

Messiah Cookbook Project:



to **DEC. 27th**



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

