

# December 16, 2020

## Advent Mid-Week Worship



If you are an online guest today, please leave a record of your visit, below. Thank you!

### [Online Guest Form](#)

Our Advent Series:

***“DO NOT BE AFRAID”***

DECEMBER 2 – An Angel with an Attitude

DECEMBER 9 – Joseph of Nazareth

DECEMBER 16 – Young Mary

DECEMBER 23 – You and Me

## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758

(256)721-0041 / [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

# Holden Evening Prayer

THE PRELUDE: *Magnificat* by Pachelbel

THE INVOCATION

HYMN: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" vs 1,2

## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came 632

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

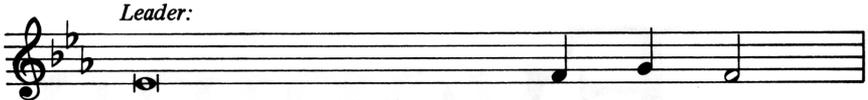
"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,"  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,"

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the next four lines. The fourth system contains the final four lines, including the Gloria. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

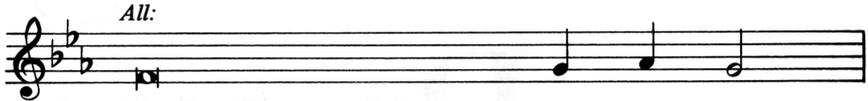
THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

*Leader:*



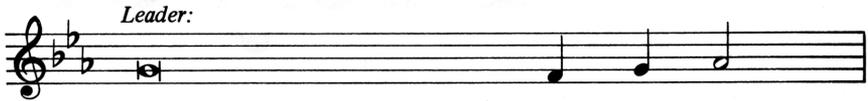
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

*All:*



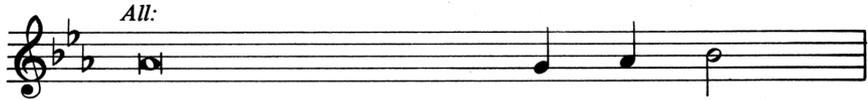
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

*Leader:*



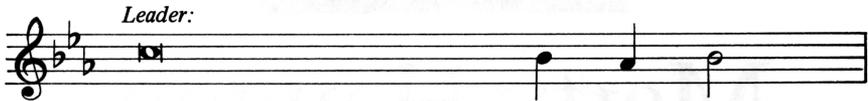
Stay with us now, for it is evening,

*All:*



and the day is al - most over.

*Leader:*



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

*All:*



and shine within your peo-ple here. —

# EVENING HYMN: "Joyous Light of Heav'nly Glory"

All: *a tempo*



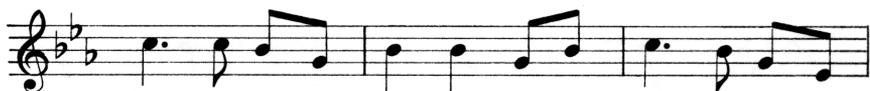
1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing  
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the  
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's  
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and  
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as  
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to  
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry  
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our

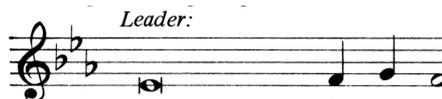


you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us

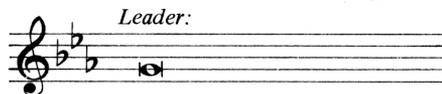


light our hearts a - new. \_\_\_\_\_  
free and make us whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
on to end - less day. \_\_\_\_\_

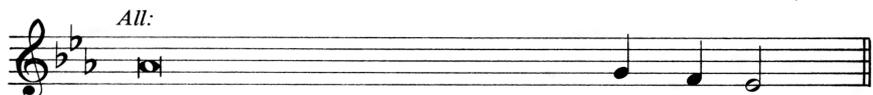
# EVENING THANKSGIVING

*Leader:*  *All:* 

May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

*Leader:* 

Let us sing our thanks to — God,

*All:* 

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Leader:* Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

*All:* 

A - - - men.

## PSALM 141: "Let My Prayer Rise Up as Incense"

*All:* 

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -



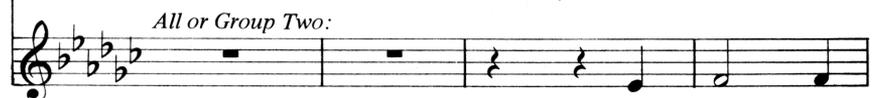
fore you, the lift - ing up of my



hands as an of - fer - ing to you. —

*Leader or Group One:* 

— O God, I call to you, come to me

*All or Group Two:* 

O God, I

now; O hear my voice when I  
call to you, come to me now; O

cry to you. \_\_\_\_\_ Let my prayer rise  
hear my voice when I cry to you.

up like in cense be - fore you, the  
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to  
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. \_\_\_\_\_ Keep watch with - in me, God;  
of-fer-ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be  
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the

burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise  
light of your love be burn - ing bright.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to  
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. All praise to the God of all- Cre-  
of-fer-ing to you. All

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the  
praise to the God of all- Cre - a - tor of life; all

Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise  
praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to  
fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you.  
of - fer - ing to you.

## PRAYER

*(silence for meditation)*

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

**Amen**

## READING

Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then 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.

MEDITATION: *Young Mary*

730

# My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Em C D<sup>7</sup> G D G Am Dsus<sup>4</sup> D

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.  
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

G C Am<sup>7</sup> G D G Am Em

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Bm Em Am D G C Dsus<sup>4</sup> D

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

G C Am G D G Am Em

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

THE OFFERING

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

565

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;  
Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The light shines in the darkness

**And the darkness has not overcome it.**

## THE ANNUNCIATION & THE MAGNIFICAT

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

## THE MAGNIFICAT

*All:*

1.3. My — soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y  
great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



THE LITANY

**A** *All:*  
*Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

**B**

God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

*Leader:* **A**

**B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray\_ to you:

*Leader:* **A**

**B**

2. For peace and sal-va-tion, we pray to you:

*Leader:* **A**

**B**

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:
4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:
6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish-es all of cre-a-tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
10. For all the be-lov-ed who rest in your mer-cy:

*Leader:*

Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

*All:*

Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

**PRAYERS**

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

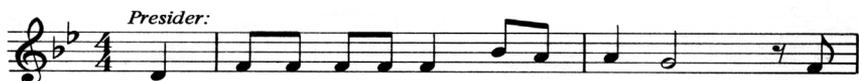
God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**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**

# FINAL BLESSING

*Leader:*  *All:* 

Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

*Presider:* 

May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



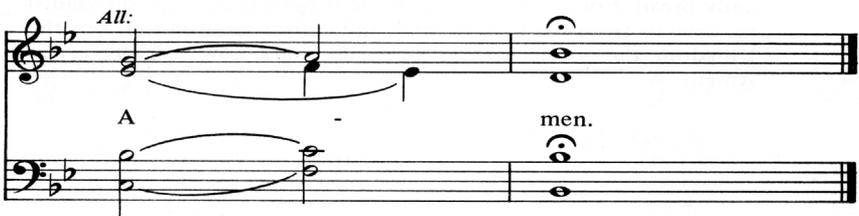
Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. \_\_\_\_\_

*All:* 

A - men.

## THE POSTLUDE: *The Linden Tree Carol*

Dick Azzam, recorder

*There stood in heav'n a linden tree, but though t'was honey laden,  
All angels cried, 'No bloom shall be like that of one fair maiden.'*

*Sped Gabriel on winged feet, and passed through bolted portals  
In Nazareth, a maid to greet, blest o'er all other mortals.*

*'Hail Mary!' quoth the angel mild, 'of womankind the fairest:  
The Virgin ay shall thou be styled, a babe although thou bearest.'*

*'So be it! God's handmaiden cried, 'According to thy telling.'  
Whereon the angel smartly hied up homeward to his dwelling.*

*This tidings filled his mates with glee: 'twas passed from one to other,  
That 'twas Mary, and none but she, and God would call her Mother.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DO NOT BE AFRAID!** is the theme for the four Wednesday Advent service meditations beginning December 2. The words ‘Do not be afraid’ are a refrain which God speaks again and again through messengers God sends.

We begin with an **angel with an attitude problem** which includes an old unsuspecting couple. That is followed by a **construction worker in the midst of a quandary** who was a dreamer. The third episode will have a **beautiful young heroine thrown into a hot mess**. Finally, **YOU take God’s stage** acting and speaking in this **greatest drama** in all of human history.

Why is this the greatest drama ever? Because **this is the story of God and God’s people**. YOU are a child of God, shaped by God, whom God has given a part to play. This is a great honor and a grand responsibility! And, by God, you are going to come out of this alive. So, **Do Not Be Afraid!**

### HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER BOOKLETS

to borrow are available on MLC’s Give and Take Cart. The cart will be out on Sunday Morning or you can also call the church office and stop by to pick one up during office hours.

### ONLINE ADVENT WORSHIP at 7:00 p.m.

Worship online following link provided at <https://mlutheran.org>.

### ZOOM GROUP ADVENT WORSHIP 7:00 p.m.

As a way of being together in evening worship, yet safely in our homes, group Zoom worship will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings through Dec 23rd. The link will be sent in MLC E-News. If you are a guest of MLC and would like to participate, please call the church office and the link will be sent to you.

### ADVENT

Offerings designated as Advent offerings benefit Inspiritus, which formerly was the Lutheran Services of Alabama and Tennessee. Disaster relief is only one of the many important services Inspiritus offers. Visit <https://weinspirit.org> for more information.