

December 9, 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

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Holden Evening Prayer

THE PRELUDE: *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine*

THE INVOCATION

HYMN: "In a Lowly Manger Born" vs 1,3

417

In a Lowly Manger Born

1 In a low - ly man - ger born, Hum - ble life be - gun in scorn;
2 Vis - it - ing the lone and lost, Stead - y - ing the tem - pest-tossed,
3 Then, to res - cue you and me, Je - sus died up - on the tree.

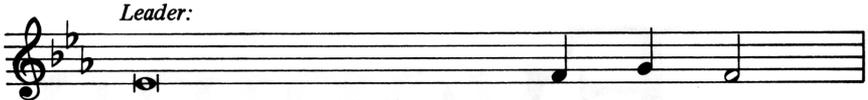
Un - der Jo - seph's watch - ful eye, Je - sus grew as you and I;
Giv - ing of him - self in love, Call - ing minds to things a - bove.
See in him God's love re - vealed; By his Pas - sion we are healed.

Knew the suf - f'ring of the weak, Knew the pa - tience of the meek,
Sin - ners glad - ly hear his call; Pub - li - cans be - fore him fall,
Now he lives in glo - ry bright, Lives a - gain in pow'r and might;

Hun - gered as but poor folk can; This is he. Be - hold the man!
For in him new life be - gan; This is he. Be - hold the man!
Come and take the path he trod, Son of Mar - y, Son of God.

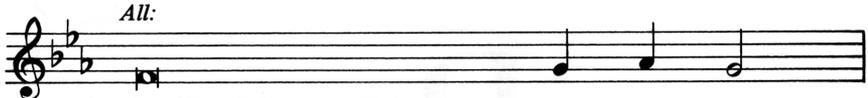
THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Leader:



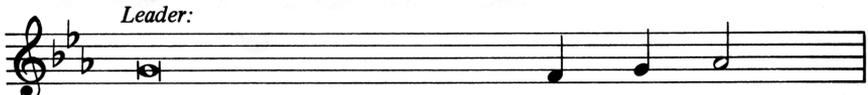
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



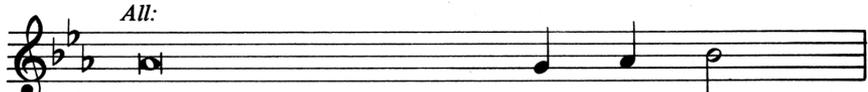
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:



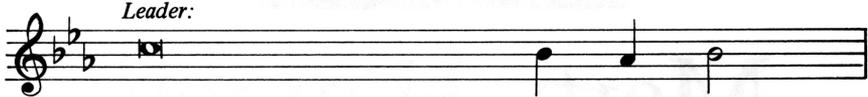
Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:



and the day is al - most over.

Leader:



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:



and shine within your peo-ple here. —

2 *poco rit.*

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

All: *a tempo*



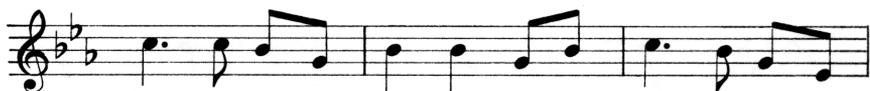
1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



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

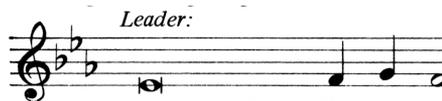


you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us

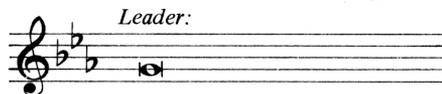


light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

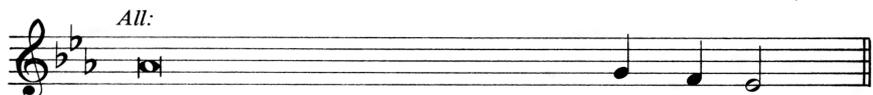
EVENING THANKSGIVING

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 -



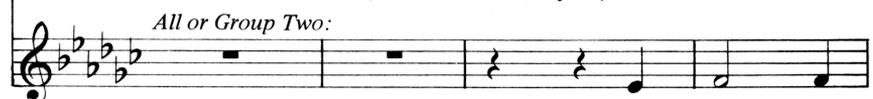
fore you, the lift - ing up of my



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

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

MEDITATION: *Joseph of Nazareth*

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

you,
heart,

You have looked with love on your
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

fine last time

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

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**

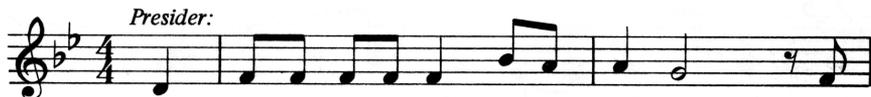
FINAL BLESSING

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: *Lo, How a Rose Is Growing*

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.