

# December 12, 2021

*The Third Sunday of Advent*



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**Messiah Lutheran Church**

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758  
(256)721-0041 / [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)

# SERVICE of WORD and PRAYER

## *from With One Voice*

THE PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

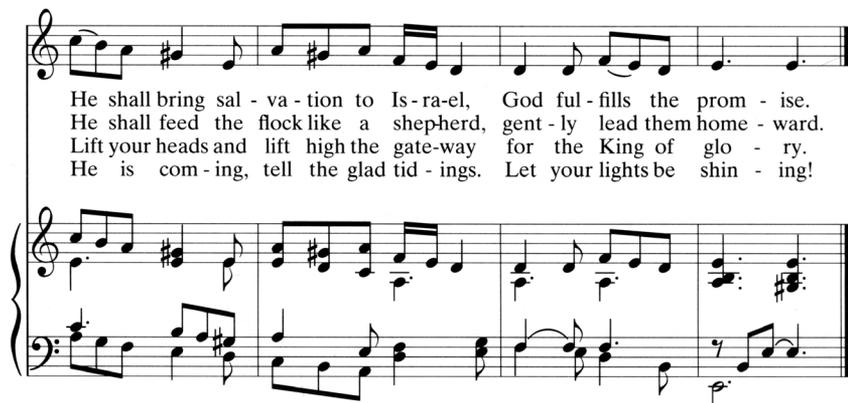
INVOCATION

HYMN: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" vs 1-3

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 630



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

THE GREETING & DIALOG

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.**

In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

In the Word was life,  
**and the life was the light of all people.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

### SCRIPTURE SONG

*Refrain*



■ Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to



Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



□ Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O God of the u - ni - verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na - tions.



*Refrain*

Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and sing the glo - ry of your name?



▣ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



*Refrain*

for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM: *E'en So, Lord, Quickly Come*

THE FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Word of Life"



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip-tures.



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has

none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”<sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”<sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”<sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# My Lord, What a Morning

*Refrain*  
F

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

F B<sup>b</sup> C<sup>7</sup> Dm B<sup>b</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

F F B<sup>b</sup> F C F C

1 You'll hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You'll hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der-ground,  
3 You'll hear the Chris-tian shout,

F Dm B<sup>b</sup> C Dm B<sup>b</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F *Refrain*

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

## THE SERMON

1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb; ne'er shall the fierce de-vour the small;

guide us to jus-tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self-ish schemes.  
as beasts and cat-tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.

May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en-vy find re-lease,  
Then en-e-mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;

till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.  
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away;**

**behold, everything has become new!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

*(silence for reflection and self examination.)*

Gracious God,

**Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and**

serve you in newness of life,  
**To the honor and glory of your holy name;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, Agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY: "Glory to You, God" vs. I

(Advent to Transfiguration) Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 (Lent to Pentecost) Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 (Season after Pentecost) Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;  
 ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.  
 Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;  
 yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God, our Creator,

**You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As God's people called to love one another,  
let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

God of mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**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**

## THE BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

## My Life Flows On in Endless Song

781

1 My life flows on in end-less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.  
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*  
 No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

THE DISMISSAL

THE POSTLUDE