



December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Good Morning and Welcome

Guests, we are glad you are here.

Please fill out the yellow "Connection Card" in the pew and place in the offering.
Sound Assistance and staffed nursery available.

[**Online Guest Form**](#)

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758 | (256)721-0041 | www.mlutheran.org

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
*Bread of Life from With One Voice
Sunday School Christmas Program*
* Please stand as you are able

THE PRELUDE: *River Flows in You* (8:30)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Zesinger Family (8:30), Hopkin Family (11:00)

HYMN “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” vs 4

WOV 630

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

*THE 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.

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

*** SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ***

HYMN: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

LBW 34

The musical score consists of four staves of music in common time, key of G major (indicated by a sharp symbol). The top staff features a soprano vocal line with a treble clef. The second staff features a basso continuo line with a bass clef. The third staff features another basso continuo line with a bass clef. The bottom staff features a basso continuo line with a bass clef.

Lyrics:

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile here
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

HYMN: “Away in a Manger”

Cherub Bell Choir (intro) & Children

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Seraph Choir (soloists) & Children

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Now 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.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

*THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

THE OFFERING: *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen/ Angels We Have Heard on High* (8:30)

*THE OFFERTORY: "Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord"

The musical notation consists of five staves of music in G major, common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below each staff. The lyrics are:

Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE AGNUS DEI



THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

WOV 44

Music for the first two stanzas. Treble clef, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, For his bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new

Music for the third stanza. Treble clef, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.

Music for the fourth stanza. Treble clef, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Music for the fifth stanza. Treble clef, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Music for the final stanza. Treble clef, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

HYMN: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

LBW 70

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When, lo, a - bove the earth Rang
 3 Down in a lone - ly man-ger The hum - ble Christ was born; And

Refrain

hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*THE BLESSING and THE DISMISSAL

THE POSTLUDE

Christopher Shriver

WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Content Redacted.

Please refer to Prayers of the Church in the
livestream.

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by members and friends of MLC to honor and remember loved ones as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Names of those honored and remembered will be in a Christmas Eve bulletin insert.

A NURSERY, staffed by Katrina Strand, is through the double doors in the narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms.

ALL ARE INVITED to enjoy coffee, tea, and fellowship after worship in the Parish Hall.

JOIN US FOR AN APPRECIATION RECEPTION FOR PASTOR DIANA today at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please stop in, wish her well, and enjoy some coffee and donuts. This will coincide with the children's Happy Birthday Jesus Party. Her last Sunday at MLC is December 25.

THANK YOU to all the youth participating in today's worship and this Wednesday's 7 p.m. service. We appreciate you sharing your gifts and talents. Thanks also to the teachers, Co-Sunday School Superintendent Janet Sullivan, and Education/Youth Council representative Bonnie Flowers.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES conclude this Wednesday, December 21 at Noon & 7 p.m. The Advent message series is "Amazing Births." There will also be a baby item and toy drive. Unless otherwise designated, Advent offerings will be split equally between Christmas Charities Year Round (CCYR) and Kit Ministry.

AN APPRECIATION & CELEBRATION FOR LOIS GRAFF is scheduled for Sunday, January 8, 2023 and will include a reception between services and other presentations. This is to thank her for her dedicated service for over 33 years as MLC's Accompanist and Director of Music Ministries.

KIT MINISTRY ITEM - 4 oz. Bars of Soap **FOOD PANTRY** - Canned Soup

COORDINATORS ARE NEEDED for Coffee Makers & Wednesday Night Dinners.

<u>Interim Pastor</u>	Pastor Diana Bottin	<u>Acolytes</u>	Natalie Zesinger (8:30) (11:00)
<u>Director of Music Ministries</u>	Lois Graff		
<u>Director of Outreach Ministries</u>	Claire Strand	<u>Greeters</u>	Pitchko Family (8:30) (11:00)
<u>Communication & Tech Director</u>	Meredith Kilby	<u>Ushers</u>	Glen Long, Mark Thompson (8:30) Matt DeMarsh (11:00)
<u>Office Managers</u>	Bobbey Huwaldt Meredith Kilby	<u>Altar Guild</u>	Janet Smith, Janell Zesinger (8:30) Debby Neely, Jutta DeMarsh (11:00)
<u>Choir Director</u>	Randall Fields	<u>Stream Team</u>	M. Kilby, Stephen Strand (11:00)
<u>Nursery Attendant</u>	Katrina Strand	<u>Flower Guild</u>	Flower Guild Members
<u>Musicians</u>	Mary Ann Stasiak, Jackie Sullivan Olivia Sullivan, Ana Ballard Lauren Geary, Anna Digges		

****CHURCH CALENDAR****

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages Christmas Party for Youth
9:45 a.m. - Pastor Diana's Appreciation Reception
12:15 p.m. - Instrumental Ensemble

Wednesday, December 21

12:00 p.m. - Advent Service of Worship
5:00 p.m. - 2nd Year Confirmation Class
7:00 p.m. - Advent Service of Worship with Sunday School Christmas program
7:45 p.m. - Messiah Choir

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. - Service of Worship: *Candlelight Service* w/the Lord's Supper
7:00 p.m. - Service of Worship: *Candlelight Service* w/the Lord's Supper

Sunday, December 25 - Merry Christmas

8:30 a.m. - Service of Worship: *Lessons & Carols* with the Lord's Supper
9:45 a.m. - Fellowship Coffee
No Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - *Service of Worship: *Lessons & Carols* with the Lord's Supper

*These services are live streamed on mlutheran.org

LOOKING AHEAD:

Monday, Dec. 26 - Friday Dec. 30

Church Office Closed on Mon. & Fri., Limited staffing on W & Th.

January 1, 2023 - Epiphany of Our Lord

8:30 a.m. - Service of Worship: Service of the Word
9:45 a.m. - Fellowship Coffee (No Sunday School)
11:00 a.m. - Service of Worship: Service of the Word

LOOKING AHEAD

January 8, 2023 - Farewell Activities for Lois Graff

January 15 & Feb 5, 2023 - Town Hall Meeting / Parsonage Discussions

February 12, 2023 - Special Congregation Meeting (Parsonage)

Attendance:

December 4: Online - 162

December 11: 8:30 a.m. - 103, 11:00 a.m. - 67

Offerings Counted December 11, 2022 (Includes Advent offering)

Church Ministries	Comforters
Current Mortgages	ELCA Good Gifts (Chicks)
Ring & Sing	Christmas Flowers
Lunches for Learning mission	Messiah Mugs
Electronic Sign	Property
Wednesday Night Dinners	Luther House of Study
Owen's House	Advent
Initial Offering	

ONLINE GIVING

Scan the QR code to give to MLC today.

