

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MADISON, ALABAMA
God's People. Reaching Out

December 11, 2022
Third 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



Advent Blessings

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

LBW Setting 2

** Please stand as you are able*

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pitchko Family (8:30), Simeone Family (11:00)

HYMN "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" vs 3

WOV 630

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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

1 On Jor - dan's banks 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

that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 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 -

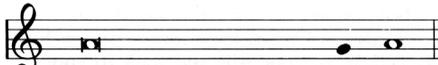
for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine And fill the world with love di - vine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
 Whose advent has our freedom won,
 Whom with the Father we adore,
 And Holy Spirit, evermore.

*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 KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



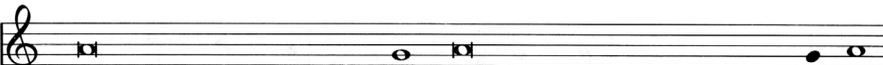
G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



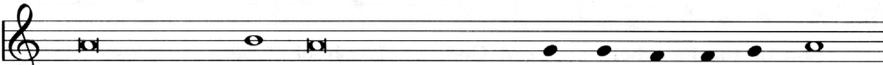
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



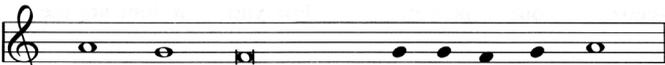
A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



G A - men

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

TEMPLE TALK: *Kit Ministries*

Diane Davis

VOCAL SOLO: *My Help Cometh from the Lord (8:30)*

Sarah McArthur

CHOIR ANTHEM: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (11:00)*

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

THE PSALMODY: *Luke 1:46b-55*

WOV 630

Chords: Em C D7 G D G Am Dsus4 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;

Chords: G C Am7 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.

(Song continued next page →)

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,

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 SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

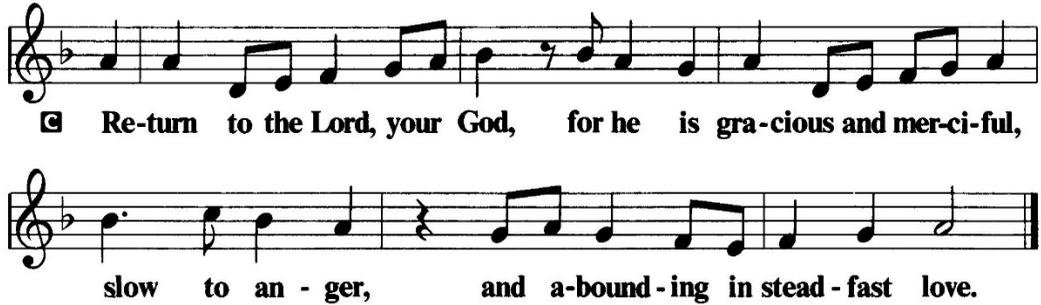
VOCAL SOLO: *My Help Cometh from the Lord* (11:00)

Sarah McArthur

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lisa Bartel

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Return to the Lord"



Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an-ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

*THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
 2 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:
 3 Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be pre-pared;
 4 We first saw Je-sus a ba-by in a crib.

Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task: this, the
 "A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-
 new high-ways o-pened, new pro-to-cols de-clared. Al-most
 This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our

la-lor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-
 here! God is near-ing, in beau-ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres-ent, in neigh-bors we see our

God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free.
 stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth.
 clear ev-'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je-sus is with us, and ev-er sets us free.

*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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (8:30)

*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THE OFFERING

*THE OFFERTORY: "Let the Vineyards"



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. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING and THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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: "Lamb of God"

□ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

The image shows a musical score for the Agnus Dei, "Lamb of God". It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

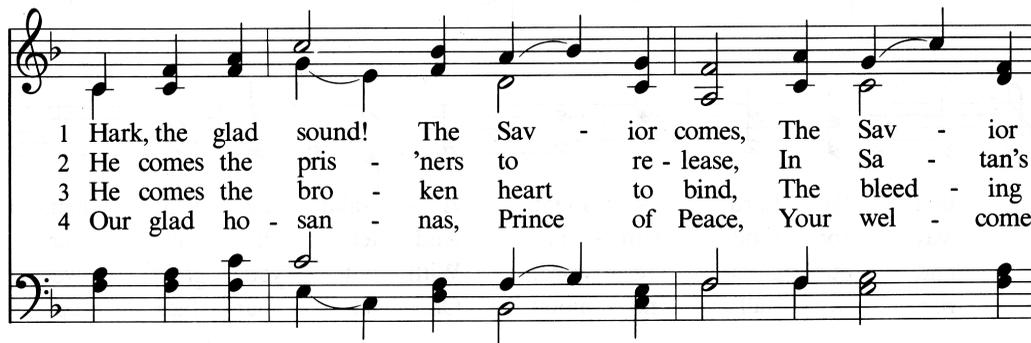
THE DISTRIBUTION

1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what ho - ly drink from heav - en?

What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
 What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
 What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.

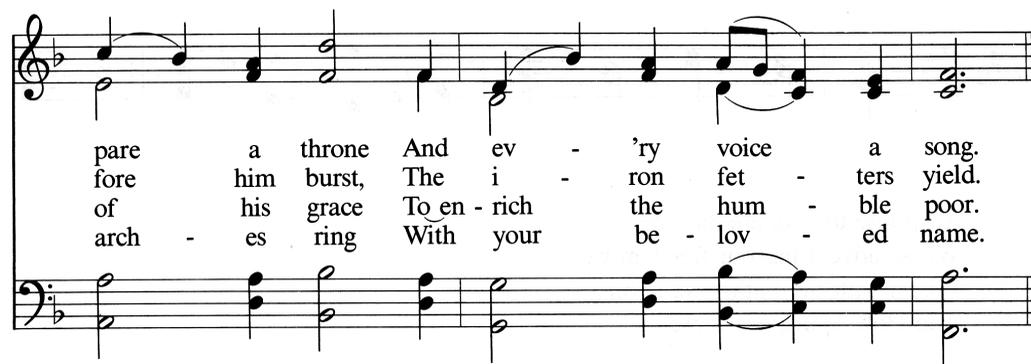
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*THE BENEDICTION and DISMISSAL

THE POSTLUDE

WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Please refer to the Prayers of the Church
in the livestream service.

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by Debi & Kevin Peterson in celebration of Betty Roenfeldt's birthday, and Gary & Linda Heideman in celebration of daughter Valerie Christensen's birthday on the 13th.

A STAFFED NURSERY is available through the double doors.

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

WE REJOICE TO RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS TODAY! Please welcome *Aaron and Rachel Finch, Eli, Mae, and Matt and Jennifer Saari, Katelyn*. A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the 8:30 service.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES continue this Wednesday, December 14 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 RECEPTION FOR PASTOR DIANA is planned for Sunday, December 18 at 9:45 a.m. in conjunction with the children's Christmas Party. Her last Sunday at MLC is December 25.

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.

TONIGHT - THE 24th ANNUAL RING AND SING starting at 6:30 p.m. Several music groups will be participating along with the ever-popular audience participation ring-along. Donations at the door support the Madison Public Library.

DECEMBER 18th - Our children and youth will be participating in both services by presenting music, narration, and staging of our Advent lessons. This will happen again, on Wednesday, December 21st during the Advent service of worship. Families that are able to participate are asked to talk to Bonnie Flowers or Janet Sullivan.

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>	Olivia Sullivan (8:30)
<u>Director of Music Ministries</u>	Lois Graff		Ryan Fedrick (11:00)
<u>Director of Outreach Ministries</u>	Claire Strand	<u>Greeters</u>	Dagmar Miller (8:30)
<u>Communication & Tech Director</u>	Meredith Kilby		Jay & Gretchen Perry (11:00)
<u>Office Managers</u>	Bobbey Huwaldt	<u>Ushers</u>	Owen Wasmoen, Gambino Aldaco (8:30)
	Meredith Kilby		Bruce Peter, Bruce Machamer (11:00)
<u>Choir Director</u>	Randall Fields	<u>Lector</u>	Jutta DeMarsh (8:30)
<u>Nursery Attendant</u>	Katrina Strand		Bonnie Flowers (11:00)
		<u>Cantor</u>	Emily Reed (8:30), Diana Rhodes (11:00)
		<u>Altar Guild</u>	Lee Linda Baggett (8:30)
			Debbie Neely (11:00)
		<u>Stream Team</u>	Daniel Hopkin, Paul Zutter (11:00)
		<u>Flower Guild</u>	Jutta DeMarsh

****CHURCH CALENDAR****

Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. - New Member Reception
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages
6:30 p.m. - Ring and Sing Concert

Monday, December 12

6:30 p.m. - Women's Book & Social Club Meets @Kilby home (113 Glen Ives Way)

Tuesday, December 13

9:00 a.m. - Comforters
6:00 p.m. - Men of Messiah @Zesinger home (124 Sturdivant St.)

Wednesday, December 14

9:30 a.m. - Pastor's Lectionary Class
12:00 p.m. - Advent Service of Worship
5:00 p.m. - 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation Class
5:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Dinner (Last WND of 2022)
6:00 p.m. - Cherub Choir
6:00 p.m. - Seraph Choir
7:00 p.m. - Advent Service of Worship
7:45 p.m. - Messiah Choir

Friday, December 16

7:00 p.m. - Senior Youth post-finals Waffle House Night

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. - Service of Worship: *WOV Bread of Life* w/the Lord's Supper & Sunday School Program
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages Christmas Party for Youth
9:45 a.m. - Pastor Diana's Appreciation Reception
11:00 a.m. - *Service of Worship: *WOV Bread of Life* w/the Lord's Supper & Sunday School Program
12:15 p.m. - Instrumental Ensemble

**These services are live streamed on mlutheran.org*

LOOKING AHEAD:

December 7, 14, 21: Advent Services of Worship at 12 noon and 7 p.m. Theme: "Amazing Births"

December 18: Gospel Presented by Youth

December 21: Gospel Presented by Youth

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services of Worship at 5 and 7 p.m.

December 25: Lessons & Carols Services of Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Attendance:

November 27: Online - 62

December 4: 8:30 a.m. - 94, 11:00 a.m. - 70

Offerings Counted December 4, 2022

Church Ministries

Current Mortgages

Sanctuary Debt

Lunches for Learning mission

German Food Festival

Weekend Food Program

Owen's House

Kit Ministries

Madison Area Interfaith Mission

Wednesday Night Dinners

Advent

Comforters

On Eagle's Wings mission

Christmas Flowers

Messiah Mugs

Property

Facilities Usage

Handmade Market

Inspiritus

Ramp Builders

Lutheran World Relief

ONLINE GIVING

Scan the QR code to give
to MLC today.

