

**COMMUNION
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve ELW 271
It Came upon the Midnight Clear ELW 282
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ELW 288

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

The Christ candle is lit and light is passed throughout the congregation.

JOHN 1:1-14

New Testament pg. 70

THE PRAYERS

Each petition ends: God of grace,
The congregation responds: **Hear our prayer.**

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night! ELW 281

BLESSING

May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World ELW 267

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At Messiah, we are powered by God's Grace!

God's grace comes to us as we are.

...through **grains of wheat** that comprise the bread of Christ we share and that gathers us into the one Body of Christ.

...through **grapes** that are poured out together in the Blood of Christ, as we pour ourselves out into the world.

...through **water** that fills the baptismal font, washes us clean, and embraces us as Children of God.

...through the **Holy Spirit** that lives within us as the breath of life and that inspires us to live as grace-powered throughout the world.

Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Senior Pastor - Rev. Sarah Ruch 402-833-8218

Pastor of Children, Youth & Family - Rev. Miles Ruch, Jr. 402-833-8219

Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2018

A warm welcome to all today!

May this time of worship strengthen your faith and desire to serve the Creator who loves us with everlasting love in Christ Jesus.

Children are welcome in this worship service, and encouraged to participate in any way they are able to. Teach the children sitting around you how to use their hymnals, bulletins, follow the screens, and sing & speak loudly! We value the noise made by our children!

Visitors, we are especially glad to see you.
Please come again!!

CONNECT

As disciples of Christ, we encourage you to CONNECT with ministry opportunities here at Messiah!

Please fill out a CONNECT sheet today. After you've recorded your name(s) and pertinent information, please turn these sheets over and think about the ways in which you can use the gifts and talents given to you in the ministry here at Messiah.

CONNECT sheets can be placed in the offering plate as we give our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to God.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Monday, December 24th

OFFICE CLOSED

6:00pm — Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 25th

Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 30th

9:00am — Worship

Monday, December 31st10:00am—4:00pm — Youth Group
hosts Bloodmobile at Messiah

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . .
. . . we praise your name and join this life-giving feast.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was handed over...
...Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper...
....Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

tered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN *Away in a Manger* ELW 277
verses 1-2

FOURTH READING **Luke 2:8-20**
New Testament pg. 44

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High* ELW 289

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN *What Child Is This* ELW 296
verses 1 & 3

<u>Serving Us in Worship Today</u>			
Ushers:	Rick & Cara Penner	Greeters:	Hannah, Caleb, & Aaron Ruch
Youth Ushers:	Alex Johnson	Sound Booth:	Roger Scott
	Jeremy Oswald	Video Recorder:	Mike Stewart
Reader:	Todd Jensen	PowerPoint:	Hannah Ruch
Acolytes:	Wyatt James	Worship Asst:	Tina Oswald
Musician:	Julie Jensen		

A Few Notes....

* Indicates congregation please stand if able.

Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type

ELW stands for 'Evangelical Lutheran Worship'. This is the Cranberry colored hymnal found in each pew. You are welcome to look up our songs and liturgy in these hymnals, or follow along on the screens.

If a 'p.' is listed before the number, these are the small numbers found on the lower corners of each page in the front of the hymnal. If a number is simply listed, these are the large numbers found on the top corners in the back half of the hymnal.

Communion today will be celebrated at the *railing*. You will be offered unleavened bread and an individual cup of wine or white grape juice. Gluten-free bread and Nut-free wafers are available from each server. Please simply indicate to your server that this is needed.

We practice an open communion table at Messiah. If you are a baptized child of God and believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior,
you are welcome at the table.

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

ENTRANCE HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful ELW 283

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!
He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.
With the heavenly host we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven.”

In Christ, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.
With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

HYMN

Go, Tell It On the Mountain ELW 290
verses 1 & 3

GREETING AND PRAYER

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
 Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.
 Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last
 day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our
 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jeremey Oswald

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7
Old Testament pg. 494

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW 270
verses 1 & 3

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14
New Testament pg. 167

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

HYMN

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord ELW 286
verses 1-2

THIRD READING

Luke 2:1-7
New Testament pg. 44

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be regis-