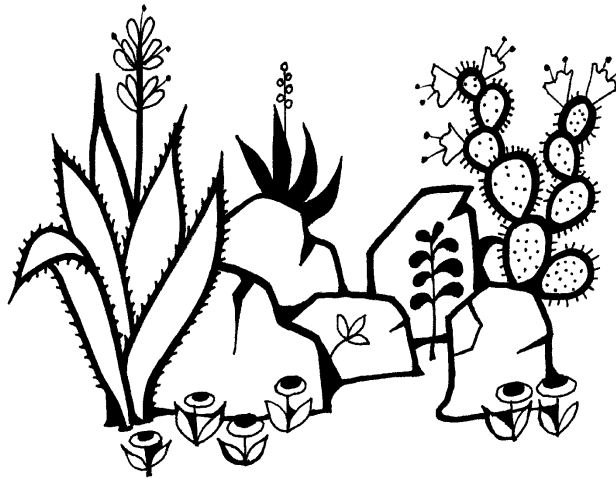


MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Vision: "Messiah seeks to grow as a congregation of the ELCA called by Christ, gathered by the gospel, and sent by the Holy Spirit into our communities to share and celebrate God's compassion and love."

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2022 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

*Pastor, Tom Pederson
Pianist, Stacey, DeVerna*

Secretary & Office Hours:
Thursday, 5p.m.-7p.m.

We welcome all friends and visitors in the name of Jesus Christ. Each Sunday we celebrate Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is truly present in the sacrament, and that all baptized Christians are welcome at God's table. Please come forward to the altar to receive the sacrament. Non-communicating children receive a blessing from the pastor. White grape juice is available in an individual tray.

Infants and small children are welcome at worship, or the nursery is available for children kindergarten age and under. If you need the nursery for your child, please speak with an usher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** ELW #263 “Savior of the Nations, Come”

***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.

Third Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.

You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.

Bless us as this light grows,

and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

Give us strength and patience,

trusting that you are true to your promises.

Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, Maker of all things,

have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Giver of life,

have mercy on us.

Merciful God,

We confess that 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 and mind and strength;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been,

help us amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be,

so that we may delight in your will

and walk in your ways

to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Forgiveness:

**God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive
together with Christ.**

**By grace you have been saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.**

**Almighty God
strengthen you with power
through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts
through faith.**

Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The 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 word of The Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 146:5-10

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the¹ LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that¹ is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to¹ those who hunger.
The LORD sets the¹ captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who¹ are bowed down;
the LORD¹ loves the righteous.**
⁹The LORD cares¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way¹ of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall¹ reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.¹ Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the 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.⁶ And 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?⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.¹⁰ This 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 word of The Lord,
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “He Is Lord”

He is Lord, he is Lord

He is Risen from the dead and He is Lord.

Every knee shall bow

Every tongue confess

That Jesus Christ is Lord

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

The Good News according to Matthew, the 11th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

This is the Gospel of Our Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW# 239 “Hark, the Glad Sound!”**

***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**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*Each Petition ends with: God, in your mercy, the congregation responds with: **hear our prayer.***

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION:

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...

***HOLY, HOLY:**

Holy, holy

Holy, holy

Holy Holy Lord God Almighty

And we lift our hearts before You

as a token of our love

Holy, Holy, Holy Holy

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

***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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

LET US BREAK BREAD ELW #471 VS. 1-3

Let us break bread together on our knees
Let us break bread together on our knees
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
o Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us Drink wine together on our knees
Let us drink wine together on our knees
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
o Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees
Let us praise God together on our knees
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***BENEDICTION:**

God, the Author of of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, bless you now and forever. **Three-Fold Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: ELW #723 “Canticle of the Turning”**

SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.