

Messiah Lutheran Church

December 22, 2024 11:00 am Worship

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Welcome to the Lord's House

Welcome to Messiah! Whether you're a member, a returning guest, or maybe this is your first time at Messiah, we welcome you to this time of worship. During our time together, we hope that you experience the presence and love of God in a profound and life-changing way! May the music we share stir you, may the prayers we offer comfort you, and may the proclaimed Word of God challenge you to live with a new passion and purpose. Again, we are honored that you have chosen to worship here today. Let's give God all glory and praise.

First-Time guests, we invite you to look through the "Welcome to Messiah" brochure found in the attendance card slot on the pew in front of you. If you have any questions, please talk to an usher. For families with young children, there is a cry room available at the back of the Sanctuary.

Once we enter God's House, we pray that our hearts are changed, and that His perspective becomes ours; that we release the cares of this world, and bask in the beauty of His holiness; that we give Him whatever burdens our heart, and find the Spirit's peace that passes all human understanding; that we learn more about Jesus through His Word, and the joy that comes from a closer walk with the Lord.

"Be thoughtful-be silent-be reverent; for this is the house of the Lord, Before the service, speak to the Lord; During the service, let the Lord speak to you; After the service, speak to one another."

If a song is being sung, words are provided on the screens at the front of the sanctuary. We invite you to sing along, or meditate on the song's message.

O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary, beholding Your power and glory. Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Fourth Sunday in Advent December 22, 2024, 11:00 am Worship

THE PRELUDE

İ THE GREETING

THE SONG OF INVOCATION "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled.

And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.

Peace on earth goodwill to men from heaven's gracious King. And with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long. Beneath the blessed angel strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong.

Peace on earth goodwill to men from heaven's gracious King. O hush the noise you men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

Peace on earth goodwill to men from heaven's gracious King. The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels' song. To hear the angels' song.

THE INVOCATION

- P: In this Advent Celebration, we joyfully worship today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
 - C: Amen.
 - P: Jesus, You are the light, the light of the world. You are the promise of God for Israel. You save Your people, and live with them.
 - C: We open our hearts to prepare a place for You. Fill us with Your light, that we may share it with the world.

The Advent season of preparing for the promised Savior to be born as one of us soon reaches its climax. Though in our homes and lives we may be wondering if we have done all we have needed to get ready for our own celebrations, we give thanks that at the center of our coming Christmas observations the Lord has prepared all we need. In this last Sunday of Advent and in the days ahead of anticipated *Christmas joy, may* we find peace in the preparations done freely for us out of grace, mercy, and perfect love centered on the Savior we soon welcome, who was born for us and all the world.

In the Invocation,

we "invoke" God's presence By repeating the name in which we were baptized by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the Confession,

we bare our souls before the Lord, admitting our sins and accepting responsibility for the harm they caused in our relationships with God and with each other. (1 John 1:8-9; Rom. 3:23)

The pastor then speaks God's Word to give the forgiveness Jesus won for us on the cross. (John 20:23)

In the Collect,

The pastor and congregation greet each other as the angel greeted Mary at her annunciation. (Luke 1:28)

The phrase also indicates the special relationship between the pastor and the congregation.

We call this prayer a "Collect" because it collects the themes of the lessons and puts them into a prayer.

THE CONFESSION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

- P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C: who made heaven and earth.
- P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean.
- C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
- P: We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- J C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved! O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
 - P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to be born in our flesh, to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins.
 - C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
 - P: As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Those that believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

C: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

The First Lesson

is taken from a book of the Old Testament, and is found on page 779 in the pew Bible. It coordinates with the Gospel lesson.

The Epistle Lesson

is from St. Paul's letters, and is found on page 1006 in the pew Bible. We may read through an entire book over several weeks.

We rise for the Holy Gospel as we would stand for Jesus Himself, since the Gospel is His living Word to us.

The Gospel Song for Advent is from Mark 1:1-3, "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in *Isaiah the prophet:* "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—"a voice of one calling in the wilderness, *Prepare the way* for the Lord, make straight paths for him.''

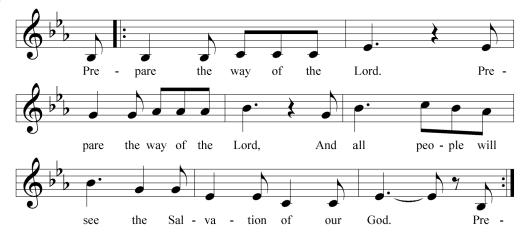
ζ THE FIRST LESSON Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

THE EPISTLE LESSON Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" ⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

THE GOSPEL SONG "Prepare the Way of the Lord"



The Holy Gospel

is selected according to the season or festival Sunday of the Church Year, and is found on page 856 in the pew Bible.

We respond to the Word of God with an acclamation of praise, and confessing our faith.

The Apostles' Creed dates from about 75 AD and was used in the instruction of those to be baptized. We are confessing our personal faith.

The Sermon Hymn may coordinate with the Gospel lesson, or with the pastor's sermon topic.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH-The Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en Who served in davs of old. Mar-y, moth - er, Fair maid - en, 2 We sing of full of grace. 30 God. for saints and ser - vants. Those named and those un-known shall thanks be giv - en; To То You all, their sto - ry told. She bore the Christ, our broth - er, Who came to save our race. whom through all the a - ges Your light In of glo - ry shone,

THE SERMON HYMN "For All the Faithful Women" LSB 855

They served with strength and glad - ness In tasks Your wis-dom gave. May we, with her, sur - ren - der Our - selves to Your com - mand We of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing And fer - ventprayer we raise То wit-ness, Pro-claimed Your pow'r to save. You their lives bore And lav up - on Your al - tar Our gifts of heart and hand. That. faith - ful in Your ser - vice. Our lives may sing Your praise.

THE SERMON "Two Women of Faith" Luke 1:45

- 1. Elizabeth
- 2. Mary
- 3. Christmas elevates faith.



We respond to the Word of God as we sing a verse that emphasizes the joy we have because of the freedom given to us by the Love that came down at Christmas.

The Sermon applies God's

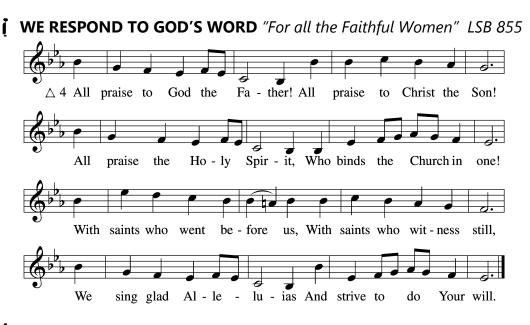
Word to our lives and helps to equip

new life in Christ.

us to fulfill our baptismal calling to

We present our gifts to God to symbolize the offering of ourselves to the Lord, saying thank You to God, and showing we trust Him to supply all our needs. (Romans 12:1)

After the Offering Prayer, we ask all of those present and watching on the live stream to please fill out an attendance card.



ት THE OFFERING PRAYER AND OFFERING

THE ANTHEM "Mary, Did You Know"

Prayer is one of the marks of the congregation gathered in worship, according to Acts 2:42.

More prayer requests for the week are located in the Announcement Guide.

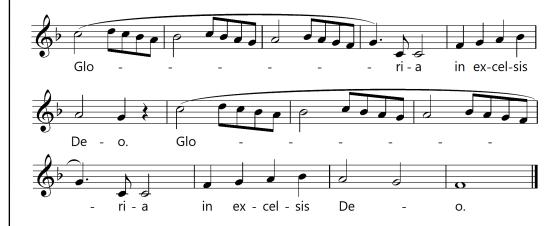
"Sanctus" is the Latin word for holy, and is the name of an important hymn of Christian liturgy. It is sung at the heart of the eucharistic praver, the praver of consecration of the bread and wine. The text is taken from Isaiah 6:3, which describes the prophet's vision of the throne of God surrounded by six-winged, ministering seraphim. This text is also influenced by Revelation 4:8. The concluding text is "blessed is He who comes."

! THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. We await to celebrate our King, who has come, promised to be born among the small clan of Judah in Bethlehem, fulfiller of the old covenant promise, and bringer of life and grace in the new covenant in which we now live.
- C: We await our King, who promises to return, to restore and renew what was broken, and to bring life and light everlasting. Be with us as we soon close this Advent season of anticipation and preparation, rejoicing in the everlasting King who has come and will come again.
- P: Almighty King, Your ways are not our ways nor are Your thoughts our thoughts. In days of doubts and despair that arise, in cases of confusion, and in times of trial and tribulation, remind us of Your kingdom in which we have been called and Your eternal kingdom to come.
- C: Help us to see Your mighty work even among our wayward world of sin and sorrow and the perfect plan of salvation imparted through the Savior we await
- P: Grant that Your living Word ever call us and all sinners to repentance and faith in Your only-begotten Son.
- C: For those who will be partaking of the Lord's Supper this day, that all approach His Table in full confidence that these gifts have been given and shed for us and for our salvation.
- P: Trusting in Your mercy, we bring our prayers before You. We ask You to hear and answer in the way that You know is best.
- C: Glory and honor be Yours alone, O Father, together with Your Son and Your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE SANCTUS





THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

THE AGNUS DEI



The Lord's Prayer is the prayer Jesus taught to His disciples and to us in His Word. (Matthew 6:9-13 & Luke 11:2-4)

The Words of Institution are a collection of all four Gospel accounts of the Last Supper, based on the

oldest and fullest

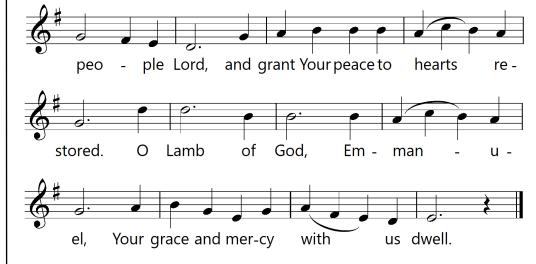
1 Corinthians 11.

text found in

The Agnus Dei

is a canticle that found its way into the liturgy as early as the 8th century.

Following Jesus' baptism, John the Baptist acclaims Him as the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world."



ት THE COMMUNION

If you are a guest today, please read page 15 before communing. You are welcome to kneel or stand at the communion rail.

THE COMMUNION SONGS "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

In thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel! O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel! Emmanuel, abide with us, Emmanuel.

A Prayer Before Communing: Dear Savior. at Your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holv body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eves to receive this Holv Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64

"Waiting Here for You"

If faith can move the mountains let the mountains move We come with expectation, waiting here for You Waiting here for You.

You're the Lord of all creation and still You know my heart. The Author of salvation-You've loved us from the start.

Chorus

Waiting here for You with our hands lifted high in praise And it's You we adore, singing alleluia.

You are everything You've promised. Your faithfulness is true. We're desperate for Your presence. All we need is You. **Chorus twice**

"He Shall Reign Forevermore"

In the bleak mid-winter all creation groans For a world in darkness frozen like a stone. Light is breaking in a stable for a throne.

Chorus:

(And) He shall reign forevermore, forevermore; And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore. Unto us a Child is born, The King of kings and Lord of lords, And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore!

If I were a wise man I would travel far. If I were a shepherd I would do my part, But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart. **Chorus**

Here within a manger lies the One Who made the starry skies This baby born for sacrifice- Christ the Messiah Into our hopes into our fears the Savior of the world appears The promise of eternal years-Christ the Messiah

He shall reign forevermore, forevermore; He shall reign forevermore, forevermore. **Chorus**

A Prayer after Communing-

Almighty and everlasting God I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him, Born the king of angels: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

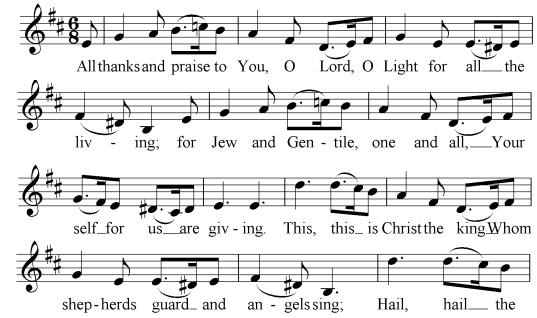


O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Christ the Lord! You are the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

I THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



May we prepare a special place for the holy Child in our hearts.

The Post-Communion Canticle, is based on Psalm 105. The first time this canticle appeared in the liturgy was in the 4th century.

The personal encounter with Christ and His gifts in the Lord's Supper leads indeed to a joyful service to "tell everyone what He has done!"



THE BENEDICTION AND SILENT PRAYER

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you His peace.

C: Amen.

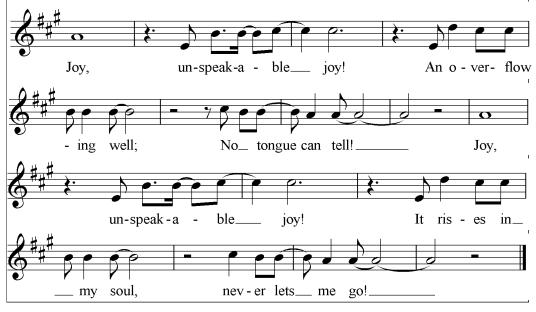
፟ THE MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

I THE CLOSING SONG "Joy to the World-Unspeakable Joy"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Chorus:



The Aaronic Benediction: the Lord recognizes us as His people, puts His name on us, and fulfills all promises in His name. (Num. 6:24-25;

Matt. 18:19-20)

We leave, filled with comfort and joy, because our Savior, born on Christmas Day, saved us from Satan's power! In response, we leave with a renewed commitment to share His love and light!

You are welcome to take this bulletin home and use it for personal devotions this week. Otherwise, we ask that you return it to an usher. Thank you!

Serving in the Lord's House Today

PREACHER	Rev. Dr. Victor J. Kollmann	
LITURGIST	Rev. Matthew A. Lee	
ELDER CAPTAIN	Ed Nelson	
ALTAR COMMITTEE	Team 1	
USHER TEAM	Team H	
ACOLYTES	Elizabeth Lee, Paisley Smith	
ANTHEM	Cindy Barnes	
PRAISE TEAM	Team B, Rose Babbitt, Dorothy Sherrod	
PRODUCTION TEAM	Danny Ladishew, Manager - Susan Redding, Sound David Sherrod, Media - Zachary Herigon, Cameras	

Our Response to the Lord Last Week

Weekly Worship Attendance Adult Bible Class Sunday School Attendance	734 Children's Program Children's Program	The LORD YOUR GOD
<u>Church Faith Budget</u>		with all your
Given last week	\$ 95,127	WILFLALL YOUR
Given year to date	\$ 2,517,911	HEART
Given year to date last year	\$ 2,411,452	
<u>Building Fund</u> Given last week Given year to date	\$ 1,750 \$ 220,085	MATTHEW 22:37

In planning for the future, consider including the church in your will.

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The Sacrament of Holy Communion

As You come to the Lord's Supper, you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, that with Lutheran Christians, you believe His Body and Blood are present and you desire to serve Him as a dynamic disciple in the fellowship of all believers. Our Holy Communion practice is called "CLOSE" communion, not "CLOSED" communion. "Close" communion invites all those who answer the following questions in the affirmative. We DO seek to help each visitor and member, to prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament. If you have not communed with us before, or if you cannot answer yes to the questions below, please speak to our Pastor or an Elder before communing.

- 1. Have I been baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- 2. Do I believe that I am a sinful human being without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ?
- 3. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?
- 4. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is personally present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His true Body and Blood?
- 5. Do I intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live a Godly life?

At Messiah, Communion is distributed in a manner whereby the individual cup, followed by the common cup, are offered at the same table. Communicants seated in the middle

sections of the Sanctuary proceed to the altar first, standing behind the usher. Then the communicants in the side sections will proceed to the altar, also standing behind the usher. Limit the line behind the usher to about twenty persons. This will provide a prayerful setting surrounding the significance of receiving Christ's body and blood.

A light, alcohol-free wine is offered in clear glasses in the individual trays. Gluten-free wafers are available at the usher table in the back.



Messiah Lutheran Church

1801 West Plano Parkway 🕈 Plano, Texas 75075

Services available on our Website/YouTube

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary: 8:30 & 11:00 AM (Holy Communion every Sunday in Advent)

♥ Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:45-10:40 AM

MESSIAH LUTHERAN

 Family Advent Wednesday Worship- 6:00 PM Traditional Advent Wednesday Worship-7:00 PM



Church Office:972-398-7500 Lambs' Early Childhood Center Office: 972-398-7560

Rev. Dr. Victor J. Kollmann, Senior Pastor Amy Myers, Lambs' ECC Director Amy Plenger, Children's Ministries Don Johnson, Property Ministries Kathy Mardis, Executive Secretary Melinda Kellerman, Children's Ministry Assistant Cyndi Scruggs, Receptionist Carmen Rowan, "The Lamp" Gift Shop Manager Rev. Matthew A. Lee, Associate Pastor Dorothy Sherrod, Music Ministries Jodi Sorenson, Youth Ministries Danny Ladishew, Technology Director Kim Johnson, Administrative Assistant Karrie Looney, Kingdom Women Ministry Todd Smith, Gym Manager

E-mail: messiah@messiahlutheran.com

Website: <u>www.messiahlutheran.com</u> ran Church-Missouri Synod \$

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Φ

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will share God's light as we:

Gladly enter God's House weekly (Worship) —*Psalm 122:1 Listen for God's voice. (Discipleship-Bible Study, Quiet Time, Prayer)*— *John 10:27 Open my heart and hands to serve God. (Ministry)* —*1 Samuel 12:24 Wholeheartedly love God and my neighbor. (Evangelism/Fellowship-Outreach)* —*Luke 10:27*

GLOW and GO!

