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December 1, 2024

Advent 1



⊕ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 18 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ⊕

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Advent Candle Lighting - #1 HOPE

We light the first Advent candle and recall the HOPE we have in Christ. On Christmas day Jesus Christ, our HOPE was born. On Good Friday He died. On Easter Sunday He rose from the dead. He proclaimed His victory over Satan. He then ascended into heaven. On the last day, He will



LSB 331

come again to judge the quick and the dead. This is our faith and this is our HOPE as we await His return. We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for His sure and certain return.

Opening Hymn: 331 *The Advent of Our King* (please stand for last verse)

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore we stand in awe of You.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

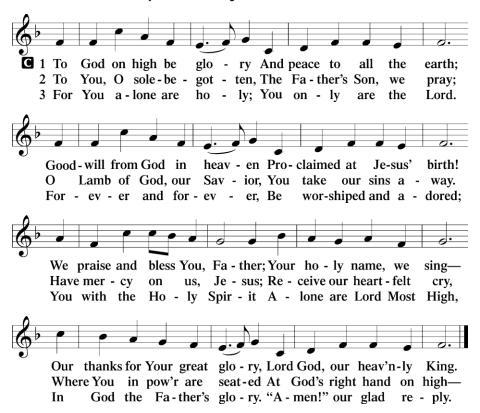
- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Amen.

Kyrie Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.



Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P We pray:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Romans 5:15-19; 6:23(EHV)

^{5:15} But the gracious gift is not like Adam's trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of this one man, it is even more certain that God's grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many!

¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin, for the judgment that followed the one trespass resulted in a verdict of condemnation, but the gracious gift that followed many trespasses resulted in a verdict of justification.

¹⁷ Indeed, if by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through the one man, it is even more certain that those who receive the overflowing grace of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ!

¹⁸ So then, just as one trespass led to a verdict of condemnation for all people, so also one righteous verdict led to life-giving justification for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous.

^{6:23} For the wages of sin is death, but the undeserved gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:67-79 (EHV)

- **P** The Gospel reading is from Luke 1:67-79.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

68 Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,

because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰ just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets.

⁷¹ He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,

⁷² in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath which he swore to Abraham our father,

⁷⁴ to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies, so that we are able to serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,

⁶⁷ His [John's] father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

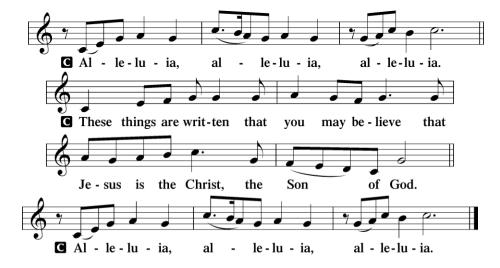
because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us,

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"



Nicene Creed We boldly confess what we believe.

LSB 206

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of God's tender mercies,

⁷⁹ to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 705 (Worship Supplement) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

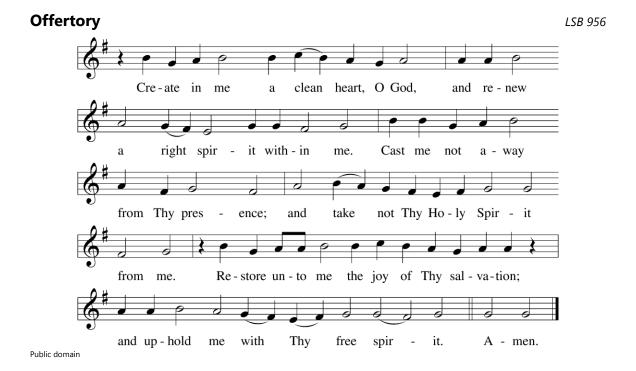
Sermon Text: James 1:17-18 (EHV)

¹⁷ Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, who does not change or shift like a shadow. ¹⁸ Just as he planned, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creations.

Sermon Theme: "Christmas Traditions" – Gift Giving

- ♦ What was the original reasons gifts were given at Christmas time?
- ⊕ How much are the gifts we receive at Christmas dependent on our "performance" or on whether or not we deserve them?

How about the greatest **gift** that God has given us in Jesus? **(see Romans 5:15-16** from our Scripture reading earlier)



Sermon Hymn: 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

Offering We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

Prayer of the Church We bring our prayers to God.

Service of the Sacrament

Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.

Preface LSB 208

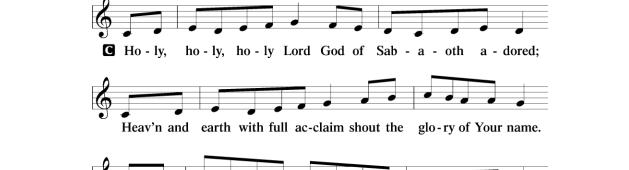
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

Sanctus Latin: "Holy."

- **W**e lift them up to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

LSB 208





Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give You thanks, O Lord our God, for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ and His cross. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In His name we pray, as we now join in the prayer that He taught us:

LSB 209

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

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.

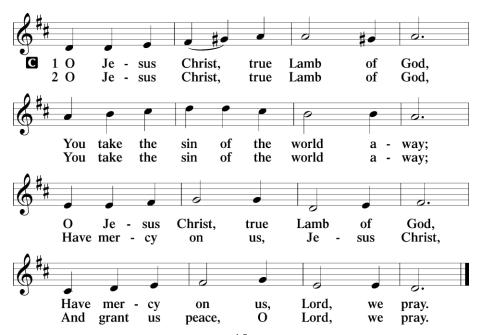
Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

LSB 209

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

Agnus Dei

Latin: "Lamb of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)



The Distribution

For the distribution we will start with those who would like to partake of the Lord's Supper from the pew. After that, those who would like to come up to the altar steps will partake as directed by our ushers.

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. By following this practice we do not make any judgment on your faith. Rather we do this out of love for you, as a public confession of our unity, and out of obedience to and love for God's Word. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

Communion Hymns: 618 LSB; 629 LSB; 617 LSB

Nunc Dimittis

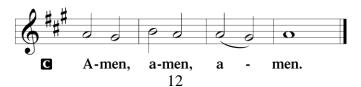
Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)



Benediction The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and

→ give you peace.







Welcome! We welcome all our visitors this morning. Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today: Choir Practice – 8am

12/1/24 Worship w/ Communion – 9am

Children's Christmas Eve Practice (sanctuary) & Bible Class – 10:15am

This Week: <u>Tuesday</u> – **Board of Property – 6pm**

Board of Education – 6:30pm

Wednesday - Wed. Advent Worship #1 - 6:30pm

Saturday - Christmas Caroling & Chili Supper (Villa & New Perspectives) - 4pm

<u>Church Cleaning</u>: Team #4 (11/30-12/7); Team #5 (12/7-12/14)

Next Sunday: **Choir – 8am** 12/8/24 **Worship – 9am**

Children's Christmas Eve Practice (sanctuary) & Bible Class – 10:15am

In Your Mailbox – Messiah Calendar - *December*



Reminder: Our members are encouraged to keep the last two pews reserved for families with small children. Thank you!



<u>Church Christmas Decorating – TODAY, December 1st @ 11am</u> – Activity Group 4 will be decorating the church for Christmas after Bible Class and Sunday School today, Sunday, Dec. 1st at 11am. The congregation is invited to

help with the decorating. The more the merrier!

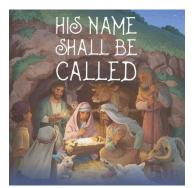
Church Photo Board Updates - Sun. Dec. 15th -

We are updating the photo board in the entryway and will be taking photos after the service on Sunday, December 15th. We're planning on December 15 immediately following the service. Hannah Barthels will be taking the photos and she and Lisa Lisak have a list of people who either aren't on the board yet or need their photo updated because of new family



members, etc., but anyone is welcome to come get a new photo taken if they'd like one. Families with children who will be practicing for the Christmas Eve service should be ready to go first. Photos will be taken in pastor's office. New photos will be added to the board, Lord willing, after the New Year. If you have questions please contact Hannah Barthels.

Wed. Advent Worship Begins this Wednesday -12/4 @ 6:30pm - Make plans to join us



for our 3 Wed. Advent Worship Services beginning **this Wed. Dec. 4th @ 6:30pm.** Our series this year will be entitled: "His Name Shall Be Called." During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means "Jehovah saves." In addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles which describe something about His person or work. In this year's Advent series, we are going to examine four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Those titles are "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father,"

and "Prince of Peace." We will learn how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

Christmas Caroling – Saturday, Dec. 7th – Meet at Church @ 4pm – This year our Christmas Caroling will be held on Saturday evening, Dec. 7th. We'll plan to meet at church at 4pm and will be singing at Villa in Greenfield (4:30pm) and New Perspectives in Franklin (approx. 5:30pm). We plan to meet back at church afterwards for a chili supper. Please come and join us spread some Christmas cheer as we sing of our Savior, who is the reason for the season! (Note: Lord willing, next year we will go back to doing our Christmas Caroling on the 1st Sunday in December.)

<u>Slide Show Operator Volunteers Needed</u> - The Board of Elders is looking for additional volunteers willing to serve as Slide Show Operators for church services. We're looking for at least 2 more individuals—men or women—who are willing to serve as volunteers for this role. If you are interested, please contact Eric Williams via email (eandhwilliams@hotmail.com) or text (414-587-5062). Thank you!

Pastoral "Get to Know Each Other" Visits / Pastor Luke's Contact Info — I would like to have a "face to face" visit, which would include a short devotion, with each family and/or individual in the congregation over the next few months. Wherever is most convenient and comfortable for you will work just fine for me (my office, your home, a coffee shop, etc.). Feel free to contact me via email, text, or phone call if you know of a day and time that will work for you. If I don't hear from you, rest assured, I will be contacting you! I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know each other better soon! In Christ, Pastor Luke

Pastor's Contact Info

Email: LBernthal@messiahhc.org & Cell: 402-389-2147 & Church Office: 414-427-9337

Bible Readings:

12/1	Ezekiel 47-48; 1 John 1	
12/2	Daniel 1-2; 1 John 2	
12/3	Daniel 3-4; 1 John 3	
12/4	Daniel 5-6; 1 John 4	
12/5	Daniel 7-8; 1 John 5	
12/6	Daniel 9-10; 2 John	
12/7	Daniel 11-12; 3 John	



December Ushers

12/6-12/13

Andrew Albrecht Mike Plockelman Alex Saunders

S/E Lisak
J/K Gerbitz
J/K Rodebaugh
J/H Barthels
J/S Serba

December Slideshow

Eric Williams

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings*:	\$10,796.45	\$159,554.98
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,571.29	\$171,425.80
Over (Under) Budget:	\$2,225.16	(\$20,442.11)
MDF:	\$200.00	\$470.00
Kinship:	\$200.00	\$1,911.96
ILC Building Fund:	\$100.00	\$750.00

*Includes 11/1-11/15 E-giving: \$4,960.95

Attendance Last Sunday: 121

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