



12145 W. EDGERTON AVE. | HALES CORNERS, WI 53130 | 414-427-9337
<http://www.messiahhalescorners.com> † Email: LBernthal@MessiahHC.org

Luke Bernthal, Pastor

Phone: 402-389-2147

Paul Tiefel, Principal

Phone: 715-869-3733

Levi Schaller, Teacher

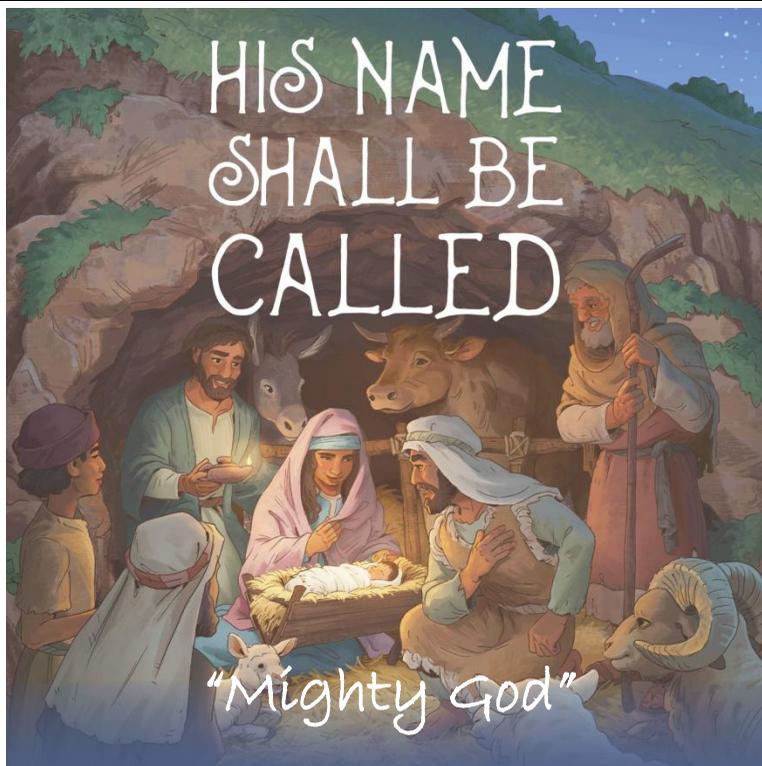
Phone: 715-529-4368

Carrie Reim, Teacher

Phone: 715-529-4030

December 11, 2024

Wednesday Advent 2



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 24 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

During our Wednesday Advent worship services we are examining some of the titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

Tonight we consider the truth that Jesus was and is Immanuel, *God with us*, the mighty One in whom we may trust for all things here in time until we meet Him in eternity. Jesus is more than a mere human who was a great teacher or a popular hero. He was and is God in human flesh, and only God Himself can save us from sin, death, and the devil.

We pray that the Holy Spirit would bless our worship and study of His Word, and so, we begin our worship service with prayer...

Opening Hymn: 340 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

LSB 340

Advent Invocation

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

- P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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

- P** Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him is no darkness at all.
- C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**
- P** In this Advent season we celebrate the *coming* of Jesus, the Light of the World.
- C** **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your coming at Your birth in Bethlehem.
We thank You for coming into our hearts by Your gift of faith,
and we look forward to Your coming on the Last Day when You will take us,
and all believers, to be with You forever in heaven.**

P As we meditate on Your manger, Your cross, Your empty tomb, and Your Word, we come before Your throne today confessing our sins and asking for Your forgiveness.

C **Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us all our sins.**
As we see the world in darkness and in need of Your light,
increase our faith, love, courage, and strength.
Give us Your power to be lights in this world, reflecting Your love. Amen.

P Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us.
In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus, the Christ Child, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate.
Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

LSB 344 v. 2, 5

2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent
way for God with - in, And let us all our
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Open our eyes, heavenly Father, that we may see all that You have done. By coming in the person of Your Son and by His sacrifice for us, You have assured us that the evil that surrounds us shall be a thing of the past when Your Spirit ushers us into Your eternal presence. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

Gospel Reading

John 5:16-18; 8:48-59 (ESV)

P The Gospel reading is from John 5:16-18; 8:48-59.

C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

^{5:16}And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

¹⁸This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. . . .

^{8:48}The Jews answered Him, "Are we not right in saying that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death." ⁵²The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do You make Yourself out to be?"

⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing. It is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵But you have not known Him. I know Him. If I were to say that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and I keep His word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to You, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

LSB 357 v. 3-4

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain
 Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
 Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

The 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

**☑ I believe 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, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,
begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,
born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood
and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.**

This is most certainly true!

Hymn of the Day: 332 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

LSB 332

Children's Sermon - *Children 10 years old and younger are invited to come up front.*

Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Sermon Theme: His Name Shall be Called – “Mighty God”

† What are some reasons Jesus is called “Mighty God”?

What does that title mean?

† Why did Jesus have to be “Mighty God” in order to accomplish our salvation?

Offertory

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12 Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583–1651, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Hymn: 412 v. 1, 3, 4, 6 *The People That in Darkness Sat* (please stand for last verse)

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 (Responsive) *We bring our prayers to God.*

P Wonderful Counselor, we come to You, Lord Jesus, thankful that You have enlightened us with the counsel of Your wonderful word of forgiveness for all our sins. Help us, we pray, as we interact with people who may be entrapped by their sin, not knowing Your full forgiveness, and unable to rejoice at the celebration of Your birth. Wonderful Counselor, use us and all we have, to bring others to hear and believe the Good News.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P Mighty God, we come to You in faith trusting that You were and are God in the flesh, our Immanuel, *God with us*. Strengthen all who are in distress from the troubles and stresses that surround them. Assure them and us of Your presence, strengthen their faith and ours, and lead them and us to Your home above, where we may all rejoice together in Your love and grace.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P Everlasting Father, we come to You who conquered sin and death as ruler of creation while also serving Your people as a caring Father. Grant us to know always Your eternal presence among us and help us to amend our sinful lives and pass on the joy of Your eternal forgiveness to our neighbors, friends, and family.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P Prince of Peace, we give thanks that You came to earth and paid the penalty that our sins deserved. Grant us steadfastness of faith to be at peace with one another, knowing that because of Your grace and love for us, we will be with You in eternity.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P These things we pray to You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, and in Your saving name we now pray the prayer that You taught us:

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;**

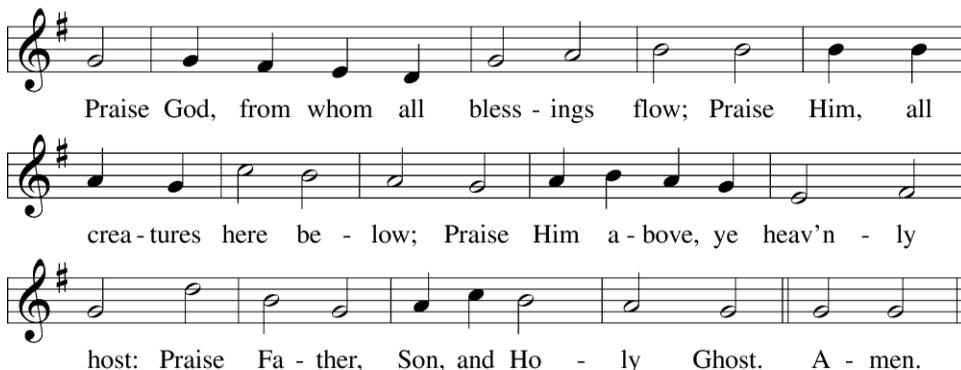
**and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction *The "Apostolic Blessing" (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

The Doxology

LSB 805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: 348 *The King Shall Come...* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 348

Announcements



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

Today:
12/11/24

Wed. Advent Worship #2 – 6:30pm

Church Cleaning: Team #5 (12/7-12/13); Team #6 (12/14-12/20)

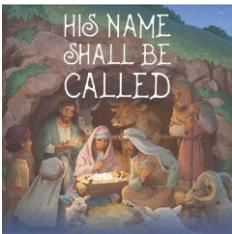
This Sunday: **Choir Practice – 8am**
12/15/24 **Worship – 9am**
Church Photo Updates – 10am (see announcement below)
Children’s Christmas Eve Practice (sanctuary) **& Bible Class – 10:15am**

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. 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 you’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 - 12/11, & 12/18 @ 6:30pm - Make plans to join us as we continue



our Wed. Advent Worship Services in December **at 6:30pm each Wednesday**. Our series this year is entitled: “His Name Shall Be Called.” 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.

Door Locks / Key Fob Issues – Recently the electronic church door locks went through a



software update which inadvertently caused a malfunction and the loss of our key fob information. Most of the key fob numbers have been re-entered into the system and should be working now. If you are having trouble getting your key fob to work on the church entry doors please email your name and the first 5 digits of your key fob number (located on the back of the fob) to the Board of Property at

property@messiahhc.org.

(Note: You can test your fob at either door. If the panel flashed red & green that indicates that your fob needs to be reset.)

The Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin & spiritual darkness. The 4 Advent candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. The 3 purple candles are the color for repentance (or blue, which is meant to suggest anticipation and hope). The rose (pink) candle is the color for **joy**. Each of the 4 candles has been assigned a special name with special significance: **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**.

The Christ Candle is the white candle in the center, and is lit on Christmas Eve. It signals that He Who is the Light of the world has been born.

The light these candles put forth seems small; so does the gospel at times. But to those in lonely darkness, it is the powerful light which shows the way to Heaven.

Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2024

Wed. Advent Worship Services – Dec. 4th, 11th, & 18th @ 6:30pm

Christmas Eve – Tues. Dec. 24th – 6pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
& Children's Program

Christmas Day – Wed. Dec. 25th – 10:30am - Christmas Day Worship Service



Hymns and liturgical settings under copyright are used by permission through Concordia Publishing House, License #000013843, Onelicense.net, #A-720270, or Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Part 3 © 2024 CPH. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The ESV Bible, © 2001 by Crossway. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Scripture quotations from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI copyright license: 20299861, CCLI streaming license: 20299878.