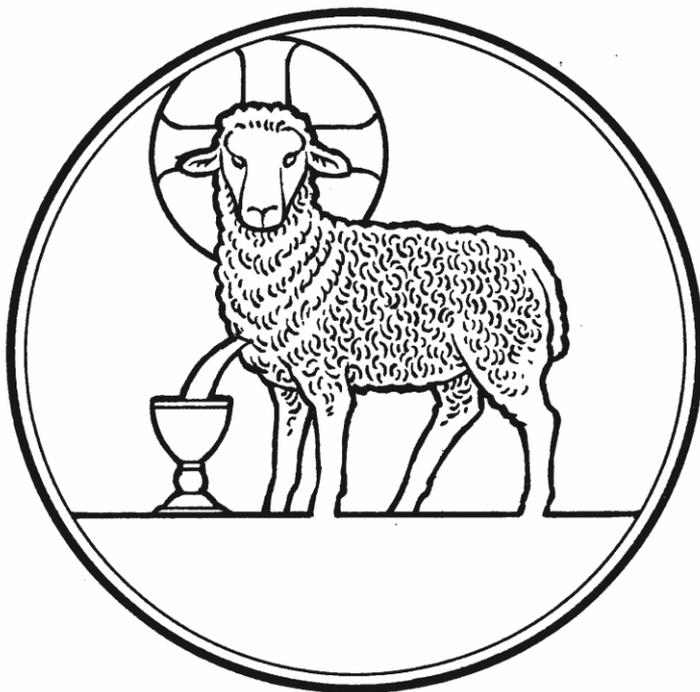


Messiah Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod



Fourth Sunday in Advent December 20, 2015 Divine Service III

“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:5-6 ESV). Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry: pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Rev. James A. Roemke, Pastor

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VISITORS WELCOME! A special welcome to any visitors and guests who are with us today. Please introduce yourself to the pastor after the service, and we pray that the hearing and receiving of the Word of God in our midst will be filled with joy and thanksgiving!

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: During the offering we ask that you sign the attendance register located at the center aisle of each pew.

Please hand the filled in sheet to the usher as you exit at the end of the service. Let the usher know if you don't have a pad in your pew.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated every Sunday and on Feast Days. Visiting communicant members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are invited to commune today. All other visitors are asked to speak with the pastor before coming to the altar. If there is time before the service, introduce yourself to the pastor or an elder. Other visitors are invited to use this time for prayer. If you desire information about attending communion, you are encouraged to visit with the pastor after the service today.

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION may be found in the opening cover of the hymnals in each pew. Take some time before the service begins in quiet preparation and prayer.

+SERVING TODAY+

Preacher/Celebrant: Pr. Roemke

Elder: Tyler Nehls **Ushers:** Tyler Nehls & Austin Nehls

Greeter: Gail Kulbacki **Organist:** Evone Hagerman

Altar Guild: Kate Tobalsky & Tamara Weathersby

Cookies: Today's cookies and juice are provided by the Billings Family.

Invocation

p184

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

+CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION+

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

Introit

Ps. 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Is. 45:8a



Shower, O heavens, | from above,*
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear
fruit;*

let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,*

and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words
to the end | of the world.*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*

and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end
of them,*

and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Shower, O heavens, | from above,*

and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear
fruit;*

let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

Kyrie

p186

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

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 A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15–19

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Ps. 145:18, 21



The LORD is near to all who | call on him,*

to all who call on | him in truth.

My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*

and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed p192
Sit

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 357

Sermon

Stand

Offertory p192

Sit

Offering *Mary Did You Know?* MLC Choir

Stand

Prayer of the Church

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT+

Preface p194

Sanctus p195

Lord's Prayer p196

The Words of Our Lord p197

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei p198

Sit

Distribution

See Amid the Winter's Snow LSB 373

The Night Will Soon Be Ending LSB 337

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came LSB 356

Stand

Nunc Dimittis p199

Thanksgiving p200

Salutation and Benedicamus p201

Benediction p202

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice LSB 386

+PRAYER LIST+

- ✘ Those who serve in our nation's armed forces: DuWayne Griepentrog, Andy Warren, Exor Padro, Rev. Lynn Christensen, and for veterans.
- ✘ Shut-ins: Elsie Rintamaki, Lillian Sciortino, Myrtle Meier, Ernie Kapellusch, & Wally and Gloria Pipkorn.
- ✘ For all those suffering from illnesses or other trials, including: Richard Cleereman, Diane Gundlach, Karin Zuehls (Jeff's aunt), Carol Wagner (friend of the Brothers), Amy, Ron Hulke, Al Bradmon (cousin of Steve Billings), Loretta Hulke, Kyle Darling (friend of the Zuehls),

Cindy (friend of Geri Tobalsky), Richard Schneider (Kathleen Judson’s father), Maurissa Murakami (Bev Murakami’s daughter-in-law), Rose Murakami (Bev’s granddaughter), Bob Hogan (Ash Noble’s uncle), Leslie Brothers (recovering from a vehicle accident), Marge Pohjola (friend of Kelvin and Vicky Nelson), Carol Vescova, MacKenna Marinarli (Gail Kulbacki’s granddaughter), Jodi (Amy Vallis’s sister who lost her mother-in-law to cancer), and John (Amy Vallis’s brother, whose mother-in-law was diagnosed with breast cancer).

+ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2015+

- ❖ **CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S SERVICE:** We are doing a final practice today during the Sunday School hour, so if you are participating, please stay to rehearse with us. Participating children should arrive by 4:45 pm on Christmas Eve.
- ❖ **BELLS:** Please bring bells with you when you come to the Christmas Eve Children’s Service. We will end the service with jubilant bell ringing.
- ❖ **CARDS:** Need a holiday card for someone special? New holiday cards have been added to the birthday, get well, anniversary, and sympathy cards in the binders. All proceeds purchase items for our kitchen and fellowship on Sundays. Thank you!
- ❖ **2016 FLOWERS:** The chart for 2016 altar flowers has been posted in the hallway. We have made a change to the cost; each Sunday’s arrangements come as a set and cost \$24.00. We are no longer offering them separately. Please sign up if you would like to sponsor a Sunday.
- ❖ **SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY:** There will be no adult Bible study or Sunday school next Sunday.
- ❖ **LWML MITES** will be collected next Sunday in the fellowship hall.

+CONTRIBUTIONS+

Budgeted Lord’s Work Needed Weekly:	\$3,268
Lord’s Work Received 12/13:	\$3,952
Difference Received vs. Needed:	+\$684
Difference Received vs. Needed YTD:	+\$3,902

ATTENDANCE 12/13: 135

Communed: 122

+UPCOMING EVENTS AT MESSIAH+

Thursday	12/24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Children's Service
		11:00 pm	Midnight Divine Service
Friday	12/25	10:00 am	Christmas Day Divine Service

BIRTHDAYS

12/24 Amy Walther
12/25 Vicky Nelson
12/26 Mary Jo Jiter
Jerry Tobalsky

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

12/20 Fran Kroll
12/24 John Hernandez
Amy Walther