

Freed by Christ at Christmas



For Giving and Forgiving

+ The Nativity of our Lord +
Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24, 2022



Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping the Lord with us today!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Worship

The Nativity of our Lord

December 24, 2022

Freed by Christ for Giving and Forgiving

NOTICE: As a courtesy to other worshipers, and out of respect for The Lord, please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices, including children's toys. Thank you.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: Live audio of the worship service is available in our Crying Rooms. The first room is located just off the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. The room has a bathroom. The other room located downstairs in our Fellowship Hall.

Prayer before worship: (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, Your Son tells us that the worship of You is done in Truth and in Spirit. Bless our time together that the truth of Your Love will be revealed through the Holy Spirit. Thank You that we can again worship together in one sanctuary. Let us leave here today filled with strengthened faith, and zeal to love others. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen*

OFFERING: *Please put your offering in the plates at the entrance. Thank you for your support.*

WORSHIP THEME: This night we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But tonight's worship is more than fondly remembering a great historical event. The Christmas story is God's Word brought to us in the flesh to bring the significance of His birth to our lives today.

For many the Christmas holiday with all its festivities and expectations can feel like a time of the year when we feel trapped by all the trappings of the season. Tonight, we pray the Lord through His Word frees you to see the birth of our Savior as a time of giving and forgiving, so you can better experience the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of the Season.

PRELUDE

WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME

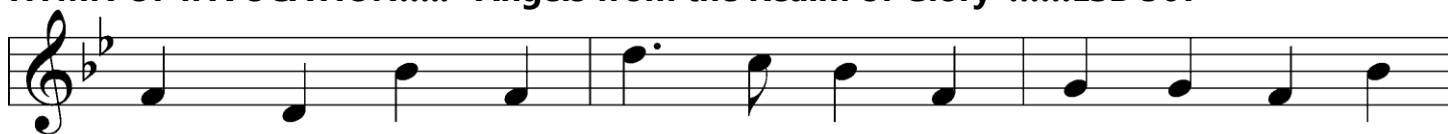
Bible Verse of the Season: Romans 13:8 NIV

P: Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another

C: For whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

P: God bless you as you worship Jesus our Savior, born in a manger to show us how to better love one another.

HYMN OF INVOCATION..... "Angels from the Realm of Glory"LSB 367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

INVOCATION

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, Lord for it is evening.

C: and the day is almost over.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND HOLY ABSOLUTION

Silently consider the 10 Commandments and think about your callings in life: spouse, parent, child, student, employer/employee, church member, etc.

- *Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy?*
- *Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome?*
- *Have you hurt someone with your words and deeds?*
- *Have your thoughts, words or deeds revealed lust or greed?*
- *Have you stolen, been negligent, or wasted anything?*
- *Have you stayed silent and failed to step up to do the right thing?*

P: O Lord at Creation You said, "Let there be light" and there was light.

C: You saw that the light was good. You separated the light from the darkness.

P: Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

C: Father God, we have walked in the darkness with our thoughts, through our words, and by our deeds. We have failed to bring Your light to others sitting in darkness. Separate us from the darkness by forgiving us, renewing us, and leading us again into the light of Your salvation. Amen.

P: Jesus has heard Your confession of sins. He is answering Your plea from the dark. He said in John 12:46 ESV, "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." So as a Called and Ordained servant of His Word, and only by the authority He gave to His Church, speaking on His behalf, let His light shine again in Your hearts as I, therefore, forgive you of all of your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Now may our light shine before others that they may see His good works and glorify God the Father in Heaven.

P: Arise, shine your Light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: Amen

P: You are now the Light of the Lord. Walk as children of the Light.

C: Thank You Jesus, now fill us with the Light of peace to speak and serve You by loving others.

P: We start by passing His Light of peace to those around you. (Greet people around you in the Name of the Lord)

P: The preparation is done. Now let the celebration begin as we lift our voices praising the Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE.....“Angels We Have Heard on High” LSB 368

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

THE LIGHTING THE FAMILY CANDLES

P: We invite one family member to bring their family candle to the altar at this time, to signify through the Church how the Holy Spirit uses us to spread our Light of faith to others walking in darkness.

Solo Hymn of Reflection from Berta Eddy.

THE SALUATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY/THE COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*Moment of silence to collect the thoughts of tonight's worship theme.*) O Almighty God our Heavenly Father, You made this holy night with the brightness of Your true Light through the birth of Your Son in human form. Tonight, create faith or enrich our trust in You through the Light of Your Word, so we see Your power and love through the darkness of life and know we are forgiven, safe, and secure to live with You, so we can freely give and forgive others through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, the only God, now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING.....Isaiah 60:1-3 NIV

¹ "Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE NIGHT....Psalm 97 NIV

P: The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

C: Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

P: Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.

C: His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

P: The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

C: The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.

P: All who worship images are put to shame, those who boast in idols—worship him, all you gods!

C: Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments, Lord.

P: For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

C: Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

P: Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

C: Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will ever be, World without end. Amen.

HYMN OF REFLECTION....."Did You Hear the Story?"Senior Choir

THE EPISTLE READING.....1 John 1:1-7 NIV

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF REFLECTION..... “One Small Child”Jim Waters solo

(Please stand - if you are able)

THE GOSPEL READING.....Luke 2:1-20 NIV

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

SERMON HYMN.... "Joy to the World" LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

CHILDREN'S LESSON/SERMON: "Freed by Christ at Christmas for Giving and Forgiving"
Text: Luke 2:1-20

(Please stand – if you are able)

THE APOSTLES' CREED for Christmastime

I believe in God the Father Almighty maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.

I believe in Jesus Christ. His Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, and by whose continuous work in my heart - I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ, the treasures of my love, and live under Him as my King, both now and evermore.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

OFFERTORY.....June Cook

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the Light of the world to scatter the darkness in many people lives as we pray for them and us on this Christmas Eve. When you hear the words "Lord of Light," please respond with "scatter the darkness." Let us pray.

P: Lord of Light

C: Scatter the darkness.

(Ending)

P: You are the Light of the world in which we commend all for whom we pray, asking You continue to use us to spread Your Light of life and love to all. In Jesus' Name we pray.

C: Amen.

(If you are able, please stand)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung to the tune "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (366 LSB)

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,

Most holy be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done

On earth – in heav'n the same.

Give us this day the food we need;

Forgiven may we be;

Into temptation do not lead;

From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto You

In grateful love we bow;

And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view

Your mighty presence now.

The glory Yours; Your praise be sung

By angel hosts and men

In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue

Forevermore! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: *Now that we better appreciate God's everlasting blessings, here are some suggestions for ways we can show that thanksgiving through service and participating in our congregation.*

THE BENEDICTION (Tune: "Adeste Fideles") (to the Tune of *O Come all Ye Faithful*)

Pastor: The Lord bless and keep you, Look with love upon you.
Be gracious and cause His face to shine with peace!

People: Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Savior close beside us, God's love from harm to hide us. The Spirit's pow'r to guide us evermore!

Pastor: Amen.

SENDING HYMN..... "Silent Night".....LSB 363

(Lights will be dimmed. Please take the light from an usher or neighbor's candle and light your own)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round you
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

P: Go in peace with the Light of Christ to be freed this Christmas for giving and forgiving.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Merry Christmas.

POSTLUDE

Today's hymns used by permission of CCLI License # 11015399

NIV: New International Version

ESV: English Standard Version

LSB: Lutheran Service Book

Red: The Lutheran Hymnal

Brown: The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

A blessed Christmas to all of you as you gather with family and friends this night and this coming week. We are blessed that you have shared this night together with us and we hope that the Good News of Christ's Light tonight will guide you through the coming year.

We live in a real world with real issues that we face each day. Our faith makes a difference in our lives. We live in real hope. Many in the world do not. The hope you have is meant to be shared with others. There is enough Light to go around. It is not lost or depleted, it is eternal and abundant.

May your New Year be filled with this Light as you continue to face every challenge with the support of those who love you. Please worship with us again, soon.

In the Joy of Jesus,
Pastor Dan and Berta

Serving Tonight:

Organists: Sue Kolander

Senior Choir: Under the direction of Debbie Drost

Lay Elder-Deacon in-charge: Chuck Baumann

Acolyte: Audrey Veale

Altar Guild: Ruth Komprood and Janice Totten

Streaming Crew: Joe Goff and Zach Anderson

Portals of Prayer: Please pick up your free copy of this devotional guide in the Narthex.

General Operating Offerings Needed Per Month: \$13,555

General Operating Offerings received for December (3 of 4 weeks) \$19,881

General Operating Offerings needed to pay December bills **\$ 0**

We give praise You, O Lord, for the gifts we have received;

Please, help us receive more for Your glory. Amen.

2023 Offering Envelopes: Messiah Members, please pick up your new offering envelopes located in the Narthex. Please do not use until after January 1, 2023 as your offering number may have changed and we want to make sure your contribution is attributed to the right account. Thank you for all your support in 2022 and your continuing support in 2023.

Christmas Day and Week Services

Theme: ***“Why Grace in the Flesh is the Best Christmas Gift, ever!”***

Christmas Day at 10am

Repeat on Wednesday, December 28 at 7pm

Holy Communion offered at both services.

Pastor Dan preaching at both services

New Years Day and Week Services

Theme: ***"The Time is Now to Have a Better New Year"***

New Year's Day at 10am

Repeat on Wednesday, January 4 at 7pm

Holy Communion offered at both services.

Pastor Dan preaching at both services

Upcoming Events at Messiah for January, 2023

- Tuesday, January 3: 5:30pm – **New Member Classes** return
to upstairs Conference Room
- Wednesday, January 4: 5:45pm: **Confirmation Make-up Session**
in upstairs Conference Room
- Saturday, January 7: 9am – **Senior Choir** Practice returns
- Sunday, January 8: 9am – Divine Worship (Epiphany) with Holy Communion
10am: **Fellowship, Sunday School, and Fellowship returns**
11am: Divine Worship (Epiphany) with Holy Communion
12:15pm: **Lay Elder-Deacon Meeting**
in upstairs Conference Room
- Monday, January 9: 6:15pm - **Confirmation** with St Johns
in Messiah's Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 10: 1pm: **Adult Bible Returns** in the Sanctuary and on-line
Note day of the week change

7pm - **Dartball Returns** to Messiah in Fellowship Hall
7pm - **Parish Planning Council**
in Downstairs Conference Room
- Thursdays, January 12 and 26: 3:30-5:30pm: **Food Pantry open**
- Saturday, January 14: 9am: **Men's Group** in Downstairs Conference Room
- Wednesday, January 18: 9am – **LWML Gathering** in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, January 29: 9am: New Member Sunday



Another Way to Give Offerings to Messiah: Last March, our congregation voted unanimously to explore additional ways to give offerings to Messiah through eTithing. The Parish Planning Council decided to open the **Givelify** app for our members and friends. It is now on-line and ready for use. It is an easy way to give if you don't carry cash or use paper checks. Simply download the app at the *Google Play Store* or *Apple App Store*. It is safe and secure. If you need help setting up the app, please contact Jim Shellenberger at (815) 275-2081 or Carl Creedy at (608) 201-2466. They are planning on having workshops to help people use this exciting new tool.

Sunday	10am ONLY	Christmas Morning Divine worship with Holy Communion NO Fellowship Sunday School and Confirmation
Monday		<i>Office Closed (for official observance of Christmas)</i>
Wednesday	7pm	Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion <i>Repeat of Christmas Morning Service</i>
Sunday, January 1	10am ONLY	Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion <i>New Year's Day service</i> NO Fellowship, Sunday school or Confirmation
Mon Jan 2		<i>Office Closed (for official observance of New Year's Day)</i>
Wed. Jan 4	7pm	Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion <i>Repeat of New Year's Service</i>

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Website: mlcbeloit.com - Facebook: "Messiah Lutheran Church-Beloit, WI"
YouTube Channel: **Messiah Lutheran Beloit**
Prayer Line: 608-365-4724

Office Administrator: Teresa Behl
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-Noon
Office Email: messiahlutheransecretary@gmail.com
Pastor's Email: dan.eddy@verizon.net

Welcome

To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome. To our first-time guests and visitors, we extend our sincere greeting. To those who seek a church home, we invite you to our fellowship. Messiah has existed since 1959 to receive God's forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus through Word and Sacrament and to share the good news that God's Son, Jesus Christ, lives, died, and rose for all.

Divine Worship Schedule

Sundays with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM and 11AM

Wednesdays with Holy Communion – 7:00 PM

Leadership

Rev. Daniel Eddy	Pastor	<u>314.775.7371</u>
Jared McCannon	President	815-973-8798
Terry Zimmerman	Vice-President	608-751-8334
Merri Boos	Treasurer	815-703-0990
Karl Wetzel	Lay Elder-Deacons	608.879.2123
Ruth Komprood	Co- Chair Evangelism	608.751.8061
Susan Bukove	Co-Chair Evangelism	608.481.4290
Cheryl Sennett	Christian Education	608.289.2686
Samantha Anderson	Young People	608.312.6683
Carl Creedy	Stewardship	608.201.2466
Eldon Kolander	Properties	815-298-9739
Cindy Zimmerman	Fellowship	608-751-8306
James Shellenberger	Public Relations	815-275-2081
Sue Kolander	Council Secretary	815-978-7254
Jean Behl	LWML President	608-362-3868
Terry Zimmerman	Altar Guild	608-751-8334

Messiah is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

