



+ The Nativity of our Lord +
Christmas Day
December 25 and 28, 2022



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

Christmas Day Divine Worship

The Nativity of our Lord

December 25 and 28, 2022

Grace in the Flesh, the Best Gift, Ever!

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: Christmas is the time of the liturgical year we celebrate the Son of God born incarnate as the only sinless human, Jesus Christ. The white paraments and stole signify the holiness of Jesus and how we are given His holiness by faith through His forgiveness, initially bestowed in the waters of Holy Baptism.

Sometimes the trappings of the season can distract us from the real meaning of Christmas. The Apostle John's account of the Christmas narrative is void of Mary and Joseph, the stable, the manger, angels, and shepherds. He focuses on what the newborn Savior, God in the flesh, will bring to us, which is the best gift ever. So maybe you have or will open presents today, but this one is one that will last forever. Enjoy the gift today in the worship of our Savior.

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..... "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" Brown 151

(Please turn and face the back of the sanctuary and follow the acolyte/elder carrying the flame, symbolizing the light of Christ. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the special presence of Christ in worship)

1. Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And man is blessed forevermore:
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND HOLY ABSOLUTION

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The glory of the Lord has shone around us, from the holy face of Jesus Christ.

P: In His Name, let us make confession of our sins, and for His sake let us seek His forgiveness.

(Silence thinking about your sins of commission and omission that have not been brought before the Lord)

P: O Heavenly Father...

C: We do not deserve to be called Your children, for we have disobeyed. In our thinking, our speaking, and our doing, we have sinned against You. We deserve Your wrath and punishment.

P: O Lord, Your glory has shone around us, from the holy face of Jesus Christ.

C: Heavenly Father, it is in the Name of Jesus that we come before You, pleading the merits of His holy life, His innocent suffering and death. Amen.

P: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation. Christ Jesus gave Himself for you to redeem you from all iniquity. In His name, in His place, by His command I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you of all of your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. All who receive Him, who believe in His name, are given power to become children of God.

C: Glory to God in the Highest.

P: And peace to God's people on Earth.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE..... "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"LSB 366

(Giving thanks to the Lord for renewing our faith through forgiving our sins)



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph - ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:
When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-’ring wing,
 Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an - cient prom - ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o’er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

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 reflect on worship theme)*..... O Heavenly Father, You gave us Your Son, the Eternal Word in the flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit through the virgin, Mary. Grant to Your Children the joy of the season to see how the birth of the incarnate Christ is present here today as forever grace in the flesh. Please help us to see this as the best Christmas gift, ever. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING.....Isaiah 52:7-10 NIV

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
 are the feet of those who bring good news,
 who proclaim peace,
 who bring good tidings,
 who proclaim salvation,
 who say to Zion,
 “Your God reigns!”

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
 together they shout for joy.
 When the LORD returns to Zion,

they will see it with their own eyes.
⁹ Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF REFLECTION....."Sanctuary" Messiah's Senior Choir

THE EPISTLE READING.....Hebrews 1:1-12 NIV

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷ In speaking of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire."

⁸ But about the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy."

¹⁰ He also says,

"In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

¹¹ They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

¹² You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed.
But you remain the same,
and your years will never end."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON HYMN..... "The First Noel"BROWN 136 verses 1-2, and 6

1. The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,

And so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

(If you are able, please stand)

THE GOSPEL READING.....John 1:1-14 NIV

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Apostle, St. John, the 1st Chapter:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S LESSON/SERMON: "Grace in the Flesh: The Best Christmas Gift, Ever"

Text: John 1:1-14

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(If it helps to better meditate while praying, please sit)*

P: Enlightening Lord, show us your salvation.

C: And make us lights that reveal Your glory.

P: Into Your Hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Specific Prayer Petitions and Thanksgivings: *(New, updated, and/or urgent Petitions added are underlined)*

- **Our Leaders:** President, Vice-President, House of Representatives, US Senate, State Legislatures, Governors, City Councils, Mayor, City Managers, School Boards, Law Enforcement, First Responders, Teachers, Pastors, and Parents.
- **The Church:** Being faithful in learning God's Word, and living it in love.
- **Our Congregation:**
 - Thanks for Food Pantry serving many households this past Thursday
 - New Givelify App as another way to give to Messiah
 - Thanks to all who made Advent Midweek suppers and services, and Christmas services go well.
 - Thanks for a fantastic Congregational Meeting on December 18
 - For an even stronger 2023...faith, ministry, time, talents, and treasures.
 - For more people to join the Altar Guild and Stewardship.
 - Offerings: thanks for faithful support to stay on budget.
- **Lily Lynn Kramer:** Born to member Ashley Stocker and Jeremiah Kramer, born Wednesday, December 21 at 1:44am, 7 lbs, 15 oz, and 20 inches. Preserve for her baptism.
- **Josiah Jordan Amedio:** Newborn to member Mandy Erickson and Gio Amedio, in Madison Children's hospital, monitoring him for post birth complications.
- **Garrett Cook:** Recovering from surgery this past Friday on right hand
- **Kyleigh Williams:** Niece to incoming member Brian Morse, at UW-Hospital, hospitalized for septic and staph infections, for improvement in lung and kidney functions.
- **Those suffering from COVID:** For complete healing.
- **Birthdays:** Jacob Teague, Beth Thompson, Vickie Berryman, Crystal Eddy, Mary Knueppel, Ryan Sennett, Sue Luethy, Chad Kroning, Gary Melby, Elaine Stageman, Tanya Wells, and Sancu Foerster.
- **LWML Messiah Prayer Chain Members:** Vergean Jurs, Ruth Komprood, Chuck Baumann, Cindy Zimmerman, Sandy McDearmon, Larry Wilkins, Karl Wetzels, Janette Alf, Mary Lou

Palmer, Carol Wilkins, Linda Stocker, Mary Borgwardt, Carl Creedy, Vickie Dansbury, and Jean Behl.

- **Messiah Homebound Members and Friends:** Lois Weideman, Fred Albertie, Bettie Harris, Brett Fawcett, Donna Steinkellner, Patty Wetzel, Pat Hanson, Barb Thurman, Kathy Stolarzyk, and Vergean Jurs.
- **Missionaries:** Dan and Patty Schmelzer in Kenya.

If you have a prayer request, please email, text, or PM Pastor Dan.

P: Into Your Hand we commend all for whom we pray trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (to the tune of *Away in the Manger...LSB 364*)

**Our Father in Heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your Kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heavn's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the Kingdom, o'er all things your reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT – HOLY COMMUNION

We believe that in Holy Communion God comes to us with forgiveness through tangible means. Because the gospel has convinced us that Jesus' body and blood are present in his Supper to bring forgiveness of sins received through faith and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of unity in our beliefs, if you are not a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or one of her sister church bodies, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor before communing. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our beliefs before we have had an opportunity to explain them.

For those who cannot tolerate alcohol of any kind, the center glass in the individual cup trays and the glasses surrounding it contain grape juice with a few drops of wine added to it.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

Sung to the tune "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (380 LSB)

Holy, holy, holy Lord!

God of hosts, by all adored!

Heav'n and earth cannot contain

All the glory of Your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high!

Blest is He who now draws nigh

In the name of God the King!

Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail, hosanna! Praises due

Be forever, Lord, to You!

COMMUNION PREPARATION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: O Holy Father, through the Word of Your Son, by Your Spirit, please prepare us in this meal to assure us of Your forgiveness and eternal life, renew our faith, and strengthen us to live a more repentant life. Grant us faithfully to eat Christ's body and drink His blood in this meal of bread and wine in true remembrance of Him. Gather us together, we pray, in unity of faith and in peaceful fellowship with one another. In Jesus' Name.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(The Word of our Lord proclaimed to bless the bread and the cup on the Consecration Table to also now be His body and blood. The worship body posture is to look up to witness this consecration.)*

P: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup

C: We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again.

PAX DOMINI (Latin for the "Peace of the Lord")

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

(Please sit)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" BROWN 141

AFTER COMMUNION PRAYER: *(Please pray silently after receiving The Lord's Supper)*

Almighty God, I thank You for feeding me this life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, in order to preserve my forgiveness and salvation from You. Send Your Holy Spirit to help me live, by not sinning, and by serving You through helping others with my thoughts, words, and deeds. I pray this in Jesus' Name. 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.*

(If you are able, please stand)

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Sung to the tune "From Heaven Above" (LSB 58)

**Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
And steadfast love fore'er endure!
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,
And we have tasted of His Word.**

**As His own servants we depart
With His salvation in our heart.
His saving power He has made known;
His love through all the earth is shown.**

**Lord, let us show the world Your light;
Let us declare Your glory bright,
Proclaim Your death until You come
To take Your ransomed servants home.**

**Glory to God, the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
And steadfast love fore'er endure!**

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: "Go Tell It on The Mountains" ... LSB 388

(As the candles are extinguished, the acolyte/elder lights the taper from one of the candles to symbolize the light of Christ going with us as we leave to live our vocations in life, taking Christ's love out into the world. Please follow the light as he recesses.)

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3. Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God set us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

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: Seasons Greeting from Berta and me. It is a joy to serve as your pastor here at Messiah Lutheran Church. I praise the Lord for all your support for me and my wife, and for our beloved congregation. Over the past few years, we have faced many challenges together: individually, in our families, congregation, communities, and nation. But the promises of Jesus have been there to bring people into the faith and strengthen those of us in the faith. As we look to 2023, may the Lord bless you and us to be that lasting Christmas present to others in showing Jesus' unconditional love in all way say and do. Merry Christmas with God's blessings for a Happy New Year. See you in worship, fellowship, and service. Pastor Dan

Serving Today:

Organists: Mary Lou Benz and Sue Kolander

Senior Choir: Under the direction of Debbie Drost

Lay Elder-Deacon in-charge: Chuck Baumann

Altar Guild: Ruth Komprood and Janice Totten

Streaming Crew: Joe Laidig and Virginia Heinrich

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.

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>