

Messiah Lutheran Church

**First Sunday of Advent**

**A Time to Go Home**

November 28, 2021



*“Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church is a community of Christians seeking to welcome and connect everyone, make disciples of everyone, and share Jesus’ love everywhere. We welcome the participation of people of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical abilities, political affiliations, educational backgrounds, and economic conditions – all who want to join us in serving God and proclaiming our faith.”*

*\*Please stand as able.*

## GATHERING

### Preservice Music

### Announcements

Messiah Council Member

### Minute for Ministry:

Giving Tree - Good Samaritan Ministry

### Sign of the Cross:

*We remember our baptisms with the sign of the Cross* ✝

### \*Opening Song: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” vs 1-2 ELW # 244

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

**Reader One:** We feel like tired and scared shark hunters, alone on a boat in the middle of sea. We don't know if we have the strength to face what is before us, hunting us, hurting us. We huddle around a table in this hold of a leaky vessel, and we sing what comes to mind.

**Reader Two:** Show me the way to go home, I'm tired and I want to go to bed. I had a little drink about an hour ago and it's gone right to my head. Wherever I may roam on land or sea or foam, you can always hear me singing a song: show me the way to go home.

**Reader One:** Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised. Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend. Both point to a hope – a hope that calls us home. Our true home, where we're welcomed and loved and included, where there is justice and equality and peace. It's time, this Advent season, time to go home.

**Reader Two:** We light this candle, as a sign of our hope, our strong hope that there is a way to go home. To the home in Christ, and it starts with us, and it starts here, and it starts now. It's time to go home.

*Light the first candle on the Advent wreath*

## **Candlelight Song: “The Candle of Hope”**

The candle of hope we light in this hour  
proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.  
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,  
when Christ in his glory will make all things new.

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### **\*Greeting:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **\*Prayer of the Day:**

P: *Let us pray:* Almighty and ever-living God,

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A reading from the book of Jeremiah (14-16)**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Children’s Message:**

**Pastor Roucka**

## **\*Gospel Acclamation: “Wait for the Lord” 2x**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## **\*A reading from the of Gospel Luke (21:25-36)**

[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>4</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: “Hope is Calling”**

**Pastor Roucka**

## **\*Hymn of the Day: “He Came Down” vs 1-3 ELW # 253**

1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

3 He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.

## **(9:30am) BAPTISM OF MATEO MOON NELSON-MAUDE**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

A: Will the congregation please stand?

*The presiding minister addresses the candidate for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The congregation may join in the responses.*

A: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

A: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

A: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

A: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

A: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

A: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

A: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.     **C: And also with you.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

*(... conclusion of the Baptism)*

A: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

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## \*Prayers of Intercession:

AM: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

Our response to each petition is: "**Hear our prayer.**"

## MEAL

### \*The Great Thanksgiving:

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

P: Lift up your hearts.     **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### \*Words of Grace for Holy Communion

**\*The Lord's Prayer:** P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. **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, now and forever. Amen.**

### Invitation to Communion:

P: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

# Holy Communion Distribution Instructions

## **\*Prayer after Communion:**

P: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

## **\*Blessing:**

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

## **\*Sending Hymn: "The King Shall Come" vs 1, 5 ELW # 260**

1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills  
and life to joy awakes.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
come quickly, King of kings.

**Dismissal: L:** Go in Peace. Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

