



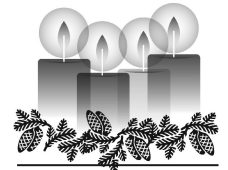
**MESSIAH EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
“Celebrating the Messiah for 25 years”

Fourth Sunday in Advent

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Today we also light the fourth candle of our Advent wreath, the angel’s candle. This candle reminds us of Christ’s divinity and of the blessings intended fore all people by His coming. The angel’s candle symbolizes **peace**.



THE ANGEL'S CANDLE

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: **Amen.**

Pastor: We are in the presence of God, who has created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

Response: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

Response: **Amen.**

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response: (spoken)

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in Him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in Him.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of Your birth, that we may receive You in joy and serve You always; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

⁸“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not

oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

”“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Verse of the Day

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the

name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Hymn: *“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”* CW 23

1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!
2. Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's
tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict'ry
o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Today’s message: based on 2 Samuel 7:8-16

“The Promise of David”

Confession of faith: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer:

We will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord. We proclaim Your faithfulness throughout all generations. As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we marvel at Your love for all people. Thank You, Lord, for sending us Your Son, our Savior.

Only by faith do we recognize the great miracle that You performed in the virgin birth. What You have done is beyond human understanding. You have pointed all humanity to the Savior through Your Word, witnessing to the fact that Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Strengthen our faith as we believe this wonderful work of Your mighty hand.

With joy we come before You, knowing Jesus cleanses us of all our sin. With joy we approach Jesus’ first throne on earth—the cradle in Bethlehem. Keep us focused on Jesus this Christmas season, and not on the tinsel and material things of this world. May we welcome Jesus with the angels.

We believe that we receive Christ's body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Communion. Wash away our sins and strengthen our faith. Unite us in our faith to do Your will here on earth. Renew our love and concern for our fellow believers. With one united heart, we praise Your name.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our private petitions.
Silent prayer

We pray in the name of Your most precious gift, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and pray the prayer He taught us -
“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.”

Pastor:

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

By his saints and witnesses of the past he encourages us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us and to live in righteousness and peace.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Distribution:

(During the distribution, the following communion hymn will be played softly. Please read and ponder the words of the hymn as you wait to receive communion or after you have returned from the Lord's table.)

Communion Hymn: *“Savior of the Nations, Come” CW 2*

1. Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned, Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!
4. From the Father's throne he came And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell – High the song of triumph swell!
5. Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

Ending prayer:

Pastor: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in Your loving kindness You sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank You that through Him You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that You will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve You day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another, and serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Response: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRIVATE COMMUNION SCHEDULE If you're not comfortable taking communion in our service today, we are holding small (10 or less) communion groups on **Monday, December 21st**. Every half hour from 10:30 to 11:30, and then at 6:30, we'll host a short communion service. Call the church office (465-6013) to schedule a slot for you and your family.

DAILY BIBLE READING JOURNAL are now available for pickup in the Activity Hall. We pray that God bless your growth in his Word.

MUSICALLY BLESSED? We are looking for volunteers within the church who would like to share their musical talents with the congregation, whether that be vocally or instrumentally. With COVID-19 in mind, we are trying to come up with ways for everyone to contribute to fellowship and worship while remaining safe! If you are interested please contact Katie Christensen at 920-217-6762 or email at Kaitlyn.christensen95@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS are available in the back of church. Invite your family and friends to Christmas at Messiah - in person or to tune in online. We encourage you to use our online Facebook and Instagram posts and share them in your feed. We ask God to bless our sharing the good news of the Savior.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL Parents and kids alike are invited to join this morning at 9:15 am in the activity hall. We'll study the Bible lesson for the day and do an activity. Families are able to sit together at their own table. Hope to see you there!

2021 ENVELOPES READY! Your offering envelopes for 2021 are available for pickup in the activity hall. Please don't use these until January so we can keep your giving record straight. Thanks!

<u>Activities next week:</u>	
Monday	10:30-11:30: Private Communion sessions 6:30: Private Communion session 6:45: Adult Information class
Thursday	4:30 & 6:30: Christmas Eve worship service
Friday	9:00 am Christmas Day worship service
Sunday	7:45 & 10:15: Worship service 9:00: Bible class - <i>"Stump the Pastors"</i>

Our Response to God's Gifts:

Attendance this past week:

Thursday 6:30 - 22

Sunday 7:45 - 45

10:15 - 65

Total: 132

Offerings \$ 6,163.24

Serving today in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #3 John Anderegg's team

10:15: Team #8 Steve Popke's team

Cleaning: Wipperfurth, T. Peserik, Piton

Serving next week in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #7 Dave Maccoux's team

10:15: Team #10 Ken Rosenthal's team