



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

Second Sunday in Advent

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Today we also light the second candle of our Advent wreath, the Bethlehem candle. We remember Christ’s manger and the love of God that moved Him to come to this earth. The Bethlehem candle symbolizes **love**.



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 our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for Your only Son. By His coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the

glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." ⁹ You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. ¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Verse of the Day

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—³ "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" ⁴ And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Hymn: *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"* CW 16

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.
4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

Today's message: based on Isaiah 40:1-11

"The Comfort of Christmas"

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:

O Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You for the comfort we have received from Your Word. Time and time again You have shown us Your love by forgiving us. Many are the times You remind us of Your love for us. Thank You, O Lord, for Your presence and power in our lives.

Dearest Savior, You are coming soon. May we be prepared to welcome You. Help us to celebrate Your birthday with repentance and humility. Help us to remember the reason why You came in the first place - to die for our sins. May we be even more ready to go home with You to heaven when You come again. Keep us strong in our faith.

Help us to demonstrate Christ as a sign of hope to the world, pointing others to Christ. May we be blessed to see Your Word at work, creating faith in the hearts of those with whom we share the Gospel.

O Holy Spirit, You strengthen us as we live in this world through the gift of Communion. Strengthen us as we receive the true body and blood of the Savior. Wash away all our sins and grant us the wisdom to live for You. Bless all who approach the Lord's table with a unified faith. May we all believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and King of all.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

In Jesus' name we join in 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.

Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

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:

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness ” CW 311

1. Soul, adorn yourself with gladness;
Leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor;
There with joy your praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded
Has this wondrous supper founded.
Though he reigns above most holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
2. Hasten as a bride to meet him,
And with loving rev'ence greet him,
For with words of life immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before him,
Saying, as you there adore him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you,
That I nevermore will leave you.
3. He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure,
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
Naught would buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And his blood, for you once given.

4. Now I kneel before you lowly,
Filled with joy most deep and holy,
As with trembling awe and wonder
On your mighty work I ponder,
How by mystery surrounded,
Depths that no one ever sounded.
None may dare to pierce unbidden
Secrets that with you are hidden.

7. Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor,
Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring -
At your feet I cry, my Maker:
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven
For our good, your glory, given.

8. Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you,
Let me gladly here obey you.
By your love I am invited;
Be your love with love requited.
By this supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace you give me
As your guest in heav'n receive me.

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 7th**. Every half hour from 10:30 to 11:30, and then at 6:30, we'll host a short communion service. If you are interested, call the church office (465-6013) to schedule a slot for you and your family.

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.

OUR NEXT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY Begins today - We will be taking a look at the "Fruit of the Spirit". This class will also be live streamed at 9:00 a.m each Sunday, and if you would like the lessons emailed to you contact Pastor Sauer at pastorsauer@messiahgb.org.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL Parents and kids alike are invited to join us 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!

DAILY BIBLE READING JOURNAL for a three-year reading plan will be available to the congregation in mid-December. There is no cost to the journal. For more information and to sign up for a copy, visit the link on the home page of our website. Contact us if you have any questions. God bless your growth in God's Word!

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES We are in the process of assigning offering envelopes for the new year— If you would like to choose the option of giving electronically and **not** have envelopes assigned, please sign up in the activity hall or call the church office at 465-6013. If you have any questions regarding electronic giving, please contact Nick DeKeyser at 595-0584.

DECORATE THE TREES FOR CHRISTMAS We are in need of volunteers to assist in decorating the trees in front of church for Christmas. Please join us on Saturday, December 8th at 8:30 am.

YARD SIGNS AND CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS are available in the back of church as you leave this morning. Invite your family and friends to Christmas at Messiah - in person or to tune in online. Share the good news of the Savior.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Due to family circumstances and health, we are currently in need of volunteers to serve the Lord here at Messiah on our Elders committee, early service usher and communion set up teams. If interested in serving, please contact Pastor at 465-6013 or pastorsauer@messiahgb.org. Thanks!

POINSETTIA SIGN UP - This is the last day to sign up for a poinsettias. The cost of the plants is \$8.00 and you are able to take them home following the Christmas Day service. Sign up either by stopping in the church office or by calling 465-6013.

VIDEO CAMERA OPERATORS NEEDED If you would like to volunteer to serve the Lord in this way, please contact one of your pastors. Training will be provided.

Our Response to God's Gifts:

Attendance this past week:

Thursday	6:30 - 53	
Sunday	7:45 - 38	
	10:15 - 74	Total: 165

Offerings \$6,697.10

Activities next week:

Monday	10:30-11:30: Private Communion sessions
	6:30: Private Communion session
	6:45: Bible information class
Wednesday	5:30: Catechism class
	7:00: Online sermon-based Bible study
Thursday	6:30: Worship service
Sunday	7:45 & 10:15: Worship service
	9:00: Bible class - <i>"Fruit of the Spirit"</i>
	9:15: Family Sunday School

Serving today in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #9 Chris Dolch's team
 10:15: Team #4 Rob Zeratsky's team
 Cleaning: Micoliczyk, P. Mleziva, W. Mleziva, H. Woyak

Serving next week in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #1 Gary DeKeyser's team
 10:15: Team #6 Greg Dessart Ken Rosenthal's team
 Cleaning: M. Nelsen, J. Neal, N. Nelson, S. Paider, Pataska