

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2nd Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

Traditional Service



We welcome you to The Traditional Service this morning

Our Staff

Cindy Anderson, *Parish Administrator* Email: secretary@messiah-erie.org

Bonnie Stearns, *Director of Utilities*

Michelle Flaherty, *The Gathering Music Minister*: mlcmusic@messiah-erie.org

Pastor Tom Glasoe, Email: pastor@messiah-erie.org Cell: 814-460-8529

Our Mission:

*Glorifying God through our worship, our witness, our service,
and our support*

Our Vision:

To build and strengthen the body of Christ

Holy Communion

To help you feel more comfortable please know that all baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament and have already received Holy Communion in your home church, are welcome to come to the altar and receive Holy Communion.

To receive the sacrament:

1. Communicant should receive the consecrated host from the Pastor and then proceed to the Assisting Minister who will be standing near the sanctuary pillar on whichever side of the church is being communed to receive a prefilled communion cup;
2. If the communicant prefers the consecrated grape juice, they shall receive that from the Pastor.
3. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the pastor will bring Holy Communion to you.

Assisting at Worship:		
Today		December 14
Asst. Min.	Savana Conner	Brad Bresee
Lector	Laurie Hecht	Laurie Hecht
Usher	TBD	TBD
Sound System	TDB	TDB
Video	Savana Conner	Brad Bresee
Counters	Laurie Hecht	Linda Jones
Altar Guild	Sandy Hough, Candy Sprouse, Mary Rush, Bonnie Magee	

Welcome/Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness *[stand/kneel as able]*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose name is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another *(silence)* Long-expected God,

C we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We become impatient while waiting We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness. + You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn *Prepare the Royal Highway*



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God’s peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav’n a - bove.



Let ev - ’ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - ’ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



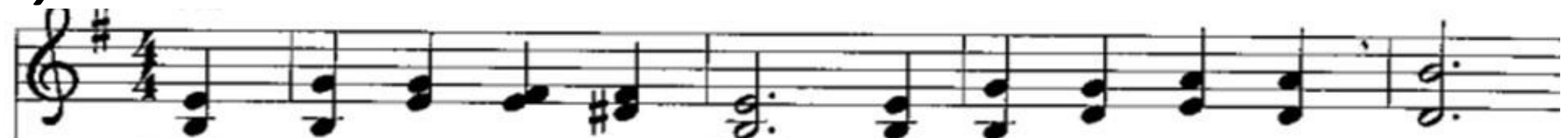
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Greeting

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

C And also with you.

Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

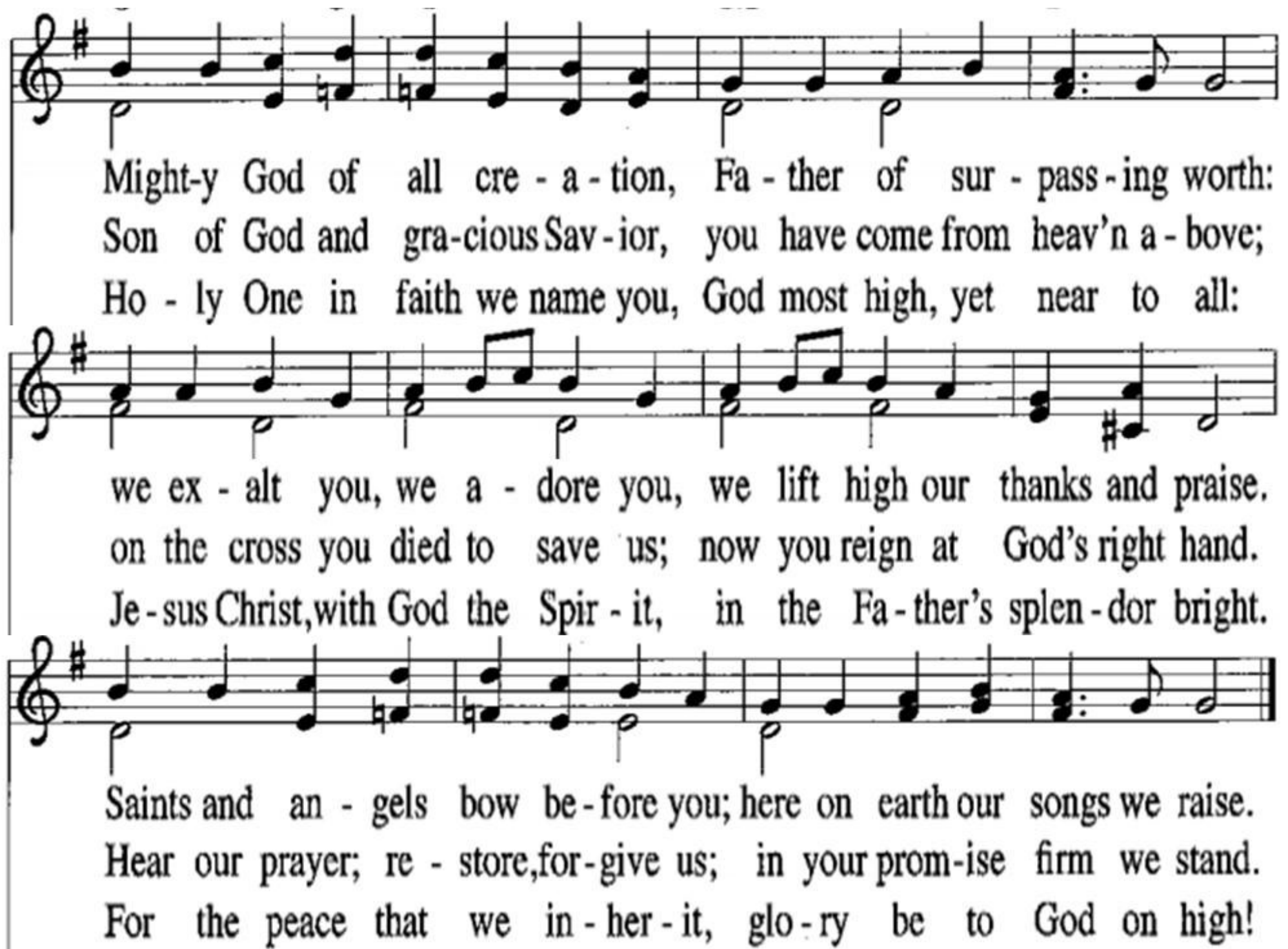


We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Glory to God



- 1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 C **those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.**
- P The light grows gradually brighter as we move through Advent together.
 C **The candle of Hope already burns bright. Today, we light the candle of Peace.**
- P The coming Christ desires us all to thrive, patiently wanting us to turn from the ways of sin and death. As we wait for the coming of the day of God, we want to be ready.
 C **Seeking a straight path, we light this candle to guide our steps. Together, we prepare the way and strive to lead lives of holiness, goodness, and peace.**

Lighting Hymn

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is-ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us Pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Please be seated.

Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12

P. Today's Gospel is from St. Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 3, verse 1.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

A The Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Hymn of the Day

All Earth is Hopeful



1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Nicene Creed

P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed:

C 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made

man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Prayers of the People

- A** In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. God of grace,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
- C** Amen.

Peace

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us offer one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Instrumental music while the Altar is being prepared

Offertory Hymn The King Shall Come [stand]



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

A Let us pray. (*brief pause*) Nourishing God,

C you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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

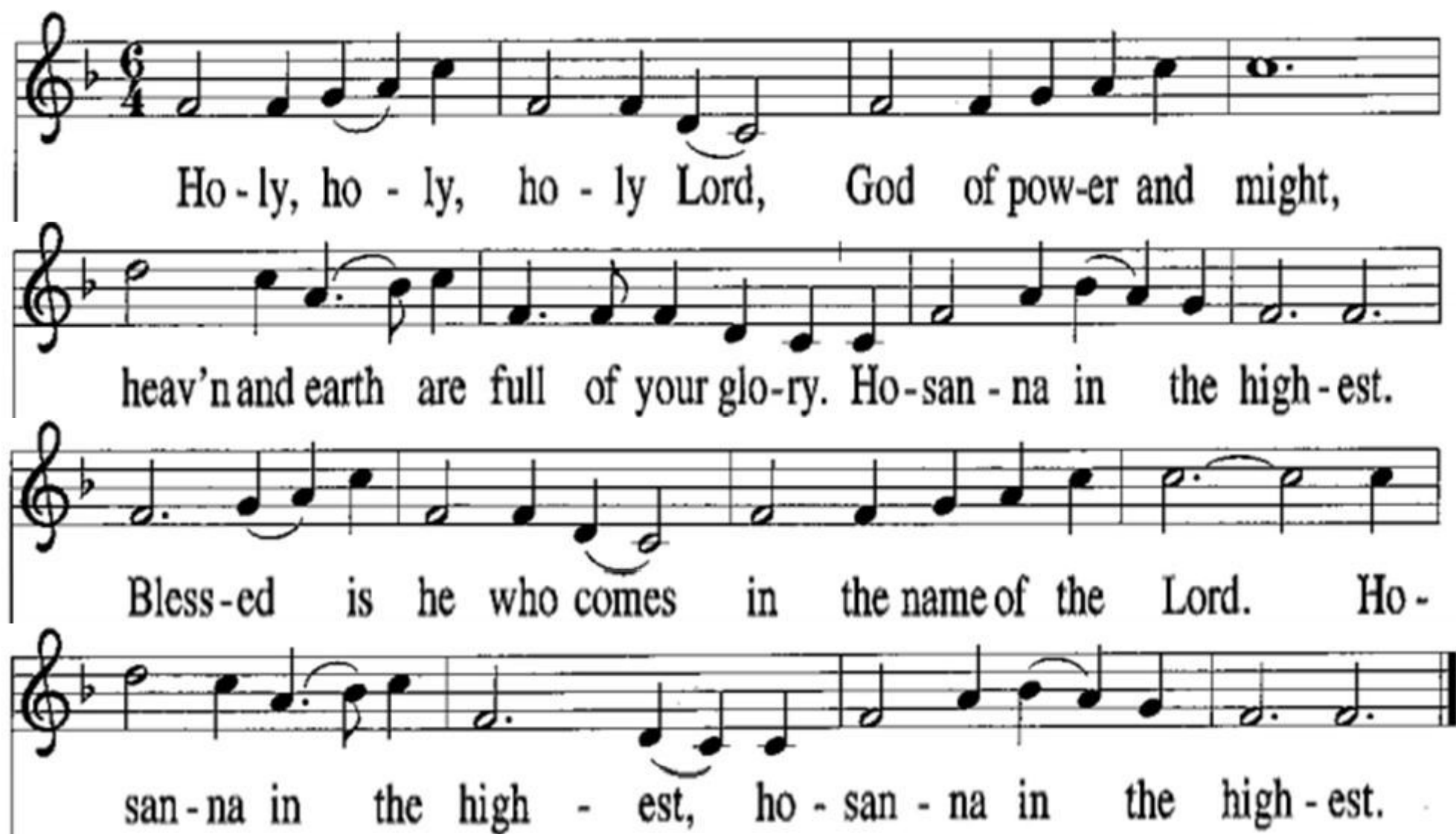
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer


The Lord's Prayer

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

A Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution of Communion [sit]

Communion Music Instrumental

Post Communion Blessing

A The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* God our host,

C at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen

Blessing

P May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line numbers 1 through 5 on the first staff.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent
that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther
for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Second Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **December** the **Mercy Center for Women** is our Second Mile Giving beneficiary. Contributions may be made throughout the month by using the yellow envelopes found in the pews. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Wesleyville Food Pantry: Please consider a financial gift. Checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church marking “Food Pantry” in the memo line.

It’s All Greek to Me Bible Study: It’s All Greek to Me Bible Study: Is on break for the Christmas holiday. We will resume Wednesday, January 3.

2026 Offering Envelopes: Are available on the table in the Narthex. You can pick them up during regular office hours as well.

Angel Tree: will be in the Narthex through **December 7**. Please take a tag or two from the tree located in the Narthex to benefit the Mercy Center for Women. The unwrapped items, along with the tag, **MUST** be returned to the Church by **December 7**. They asked for “Back to Basic” items due to changing in Federal Funding.

Advent Devotional Pamphlets: are in the Narthex. Feel free to take one to use.

Prayer Cards: are in the Narthex on the counter.

Christmas Cookies: Donations of homemade Christmas cookies would be greatly appreciated for our Christmas Breakfast. Sign up in the narthex or by contacting the Church Office. Drop your cookies off at the church by **December 19**.

Christmas Breakfast: December 21 at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall. Everyone in the congregation is invited. The menu is cheese or western egg bake, pancakes, sausage, juice and Christmas cookies. Sign up in Narthex if you plan to attend.

Poinsettia Orders: Help decorate the church for Christmas by sponsoring a poinsettia or two! The decision was made to offer Red and White plants this year. Order forms are on the counter in the Narthex. The cost per plant this year is **\$9.50**. Orders are due by **December 7**. **Please only ONE sponsorship per plant.**

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRELIMINARY 3-YEAR VISION
APPROVED - 2025 to 2027

WORSHIP	Start?
<u>Technology</u>	
Add Screens in sanctuary	(DONE)
Update website	(ongoing)
Obtain Hearing Assisted Devices	(DONE)
<u>Music Ministry</u>	
Build out the Band	(2025)
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY	
Bubble Church	(ongoing)
School Day Off Camp	(Fall 2025)
Milestone Ministry	(Fall 2025)
PROPERTY	
Fix Front Electronic Sign	(DONE)
Repair/Purchase Boiler	(DONE)
Plumbing Upgrades/Restrooms	(2027)
Buy New Freezer	(DONE)
IN-REACH	
Recruit and Train More Volunteer	(2025)
Train in-home communion ministry	(2025)
EDUCATION	
Bible Study (Adult and Children) - have more options	(2025-2027)
OUTREACH	
Maintain Community Garden	(ongoing)
Continue Back to School Bash	(2025-2027)
Continue participation in Community National Night Out	(2025-2027)
FELLOWSHIP	
Explore more group events	(ongoing)
Continue to grow OWLs ministry (spiritually and fellowship)	(ongoing)
Lutheran Walkers	(2025)

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

December 8 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.
December 15 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.
December 16 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

This Week at the Church *(See Newsletter for More Detail)*

**Office Hours :Monday Closed, Tuesday 10:00am-5:00pm,
Wednesday Closed, Thursday 10:00am-5:00pm,
Friday 10:00am-5:00pm**

Sun. 12/7	<i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	9:45AM	Servant Outreach
Mon.	6:30PM	Guided Meditation
Tues.	10:00PM	Sewing Circle
	6:30PM	Bible Study
Thu.	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group-CC
	7:30PM	NA Group
Fri.	7:30PM	AA
Sun. 12/14	<i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion

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