



Welcome to Messiah Lutheran

Pentecost 24 ~ November 12, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship for Veteran's Day Weekend:

*God of peace,
we pray for those who have served our nation
and who laid down their lives
to protect and defend our freedom.*

**We pray for those who have fought,
whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war,
whose nights are haunted by memories
too painful for the light of day.**

*We pray for those who serve us now,
especially for those in harm's way.
Shield them from danger
and bring them home.*

**Turn the hearts and minds
of our leaders and our enemies
to the work of justice and a harvest of peace.**

*Let the peace you left us,
and the peace you give us ...
be the peace that sustains,
the peace that saves us.*

Opening Hymn: "Before You, Lord, We Bow"

ELW 893

Call to Worship:

*We worship you, O God,
with jubilant voices and with songs of praise!*

**We worship you, O God,
with hearts that wait expectantly!**

*We worship you in the silent spaces...
where we struggle for hope and for courage.*

**We worship you in the dark places...
where we long for a glimpse of your glory.**

*Your glory shines in the darkness ...
and the darkness cannot overcome it!*

**Your glory touches us with beauty ...
to heal the wounded soul
to give strength to the weary!**

Canticle of Praise: ELW Holy Communion Setting 10, page 205

♪ Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

♪ Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

Greeting: 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:

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Kingdom Kids' Time

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-7

¹Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**²I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

³things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

**⁴We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.**

⁵He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;

**⁶that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,**

⁷so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

Gospel Acclamation: Holy Communion Setting 10, page 205



Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

Sermon Song: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW 244

Sermon

Apostles’ Creed

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

**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.**

**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.**

Offering

Offertory: “Now Thank We All Our God ” – Verse 1 – ELW 840

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Offering Prayer:

In abundant love you have given yourself to us. In abundant gratitude we lift our offerings of love to you! Transform these gifts by your Spirit's power to proclaim and share your love in the world! Amen.

Prayers

Loved by our Creator, rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation:

For those who have served in the armed forces ... we give thanks for the many sacrifices made on our behalf. For those currently serving, we bring our prayers for blessing and protection. For those who are veterans, we bring our prayers of gratitude. Bless all who selflessly give of themselves for the sake of the vulnerable.

Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

For policy makers who have power to positively shape public perspective and create avenues toward greater good in our world ... bring them an ability to listen and work together for the well-being of all people.

Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

For our Church Council as they provide leadership for our congregation, for our committees as they create opportunities for excitement and involvement, for our church members as they seek balance between the responsibilities of the world and participation in the life of the Church... may we be energized through deepening our faith and loving others in your Name.

Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

For those among us who struggle with addiction ... for those who suffer with mental illness ... for those who long for your healing mercy ... for those who grieve loss of any kind ... provide grace upon grace that they may feel your presence and know your love.

Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

God of abundance, give us the faith to trust in your daily provision for our needs. Help us respond to the invitation and challenge to generously share the gifts you have given.

Lord in your mercy ... **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sending

Benediction.

Closing Song: **"Shine, Jesus, Shine!"**

ELW 671

Dismissal:

Go in peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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