

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available upon request.

** Please stand as you are able **

Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today. You are invited to make Messiah your church home.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home 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.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting 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.





1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us;

C: **and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.**

P: As we light these candles,

C: **turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.**

P: O house of David, come,

C: **let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning (All verses)

ACS 949



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
 2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

***THE 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

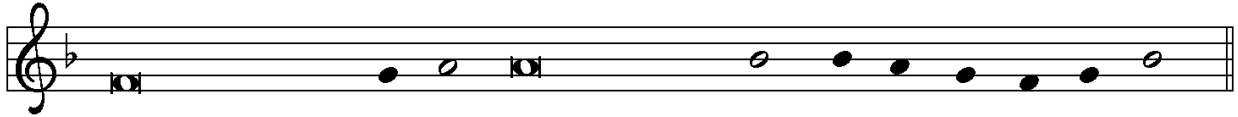
(ELW p. 165)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



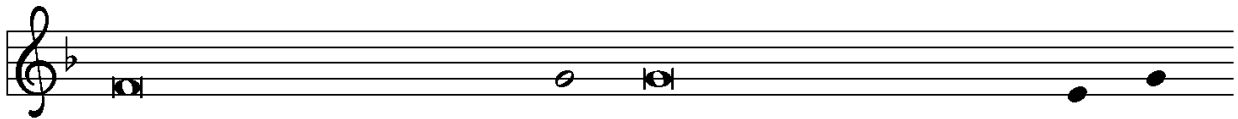
Lord, have mer - cy.



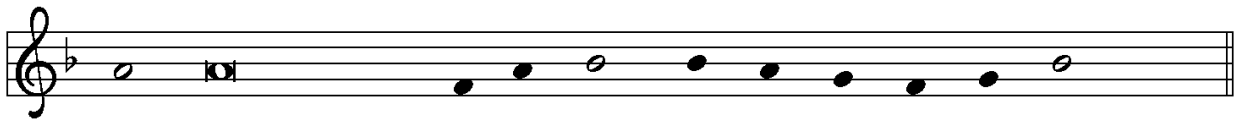
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



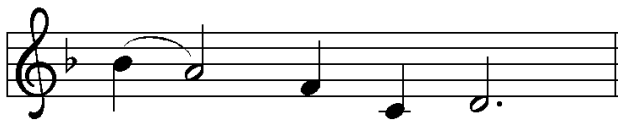
Lord, have mer - cy.



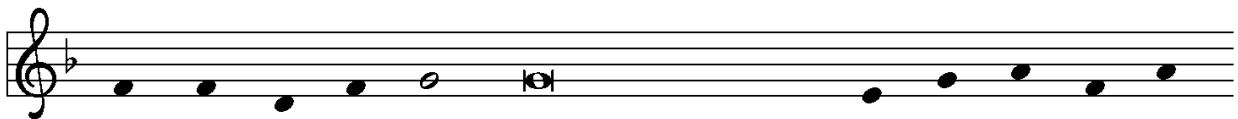
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



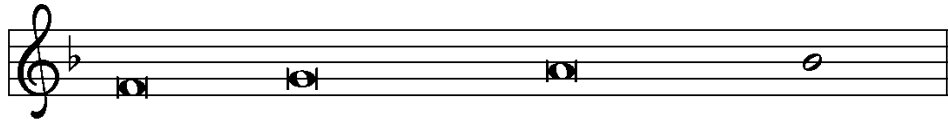
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

(ELW p.167)

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: *Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

Lector

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the

time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Lector

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

A reading from Romans.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

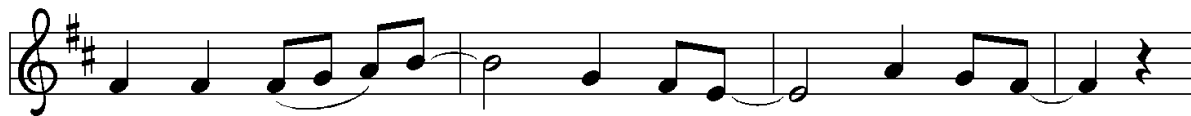
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 171)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke





1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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***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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.

A: In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill (*especially*). God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your in love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of all relationships, bless this branch of the body of Christ that is Messiah Lutheran Church. Strengthen all its relationships and weave your love and grace into each family and household. We especially pray this week for the Garbett, Gigante, and Gilnett families. Make us your people. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

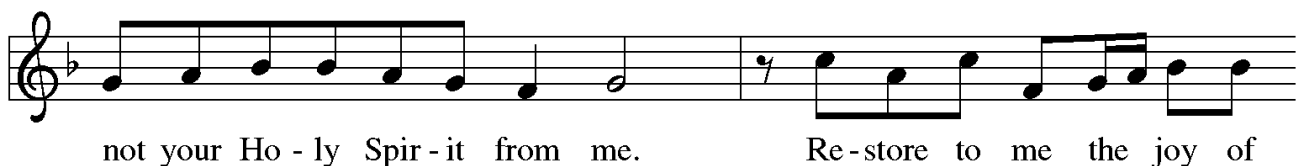
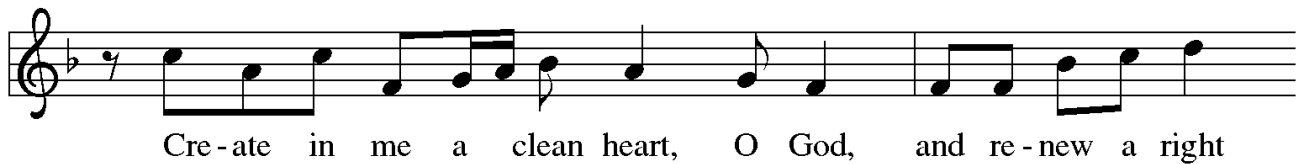
***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING – *You may place an “I give online” card in the plate as a physical offering*

***OFFERING SONG – Create in Me a Clean Heart**



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

C: Nourishing God, 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

(ELW p. 152)

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**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

(ELW p. 173)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en 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.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG – *Lamb of God*

(ELW p. 174)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen**



***SONG AFTER COMMUNION – Praise to You, O God of Mercy**

ELW 208



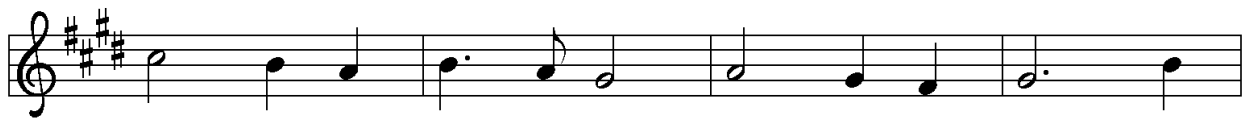
1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

⊕ Coda



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: 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 SONG – Joy to the World**

ELW 267



1	Joy	to	the	world,	the	Lord	is	come!	Let	earth	re -
2	Joy	to	the	earth,	the	Sav -	ior	reigns!	Let	all	their
3	No	more	let	sin	and	sor -	row	grow	nor	thorns	in -
4	He	rules	the	world	with	truth	and	grace	and	makes	the



ceive	her	king;	let	ev -	'ry	heart	pre -	pare	him
songs	em -	ploy,	while	fields	and	floods,	rocks,	hills,	and
fest	the	ground;	he	comes	to	make	his	bles -	ings
na -	tions	prove	the	glo -	ries	of	his	righ -	teous -



room	and	heav'n	and	na -	ture	sing,	and	heav'n	and	na -	ture
plains	re -	peat	the	sound -	ing	joy,	re -	peat	the	sound -	ing
flow	far	as	the	curse	is	found,	far	as	the	curse	is
ness	and	won -	ders	of	his	love,	and	won -	ders	of	his



sing,	and	heav'n,	and	heav'n	and	na -	ture	sing.
joy,	re -	peat,	re -	peat	the	sound -	ing	joy.
found,	far	as,	far	as	the	curse	is	found.
love,	and	won -	ders,	won -	ders	of	his	love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – December 21, 2025

Pianist: Debbie Walker
 Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Becky Collie (2nd Lay Asst.) Kate Radtke
 Lector: Lois Schroeder
 Acolyte: Ella Anderson
 Greeter: Sue Gilnett
 Ushers: Daren Williams & James Anderson
 Altar Guild: Donna Combs & Marilyn Gunn
 Counters: Donna Combs & Erna Jung
 Live Streamer: Valerie Williams

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

December 21	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
December 23	AA	5:30 PM
December 24	All Souls Christmas Eve Worship	5:00 PM
	Messiah Christmas Eve Worship	7:00 PM
December 25-26	Church Office Closed	
December 28	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
December 30	AA	5:30 PM
January 1-2	Church Office Closed	
January 4	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	First Sunday Fellowship	
January 5	Church Office Closed	
January 6	Banner Team	1:00 PM
	AA	5:30 PM
January 7	PAL	9:00 AM
January 8	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
January 11	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
January 13	AA	5:30 PM
January 14	Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM
January 15	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM

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Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week but aims to be in on Tuesday and Wednesday. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Office hours for Christmas and New Year's weeks will be:

Mon/Tue/Wed: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Thurs/Fri: Closed

Beginning January 5, office hours will be Tues-Fri Noon-5:00 PM.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Numbers For the 50th Sunday of 2025:

- Average Contributions to current were \$3,413.51
- Contributions for current Dec 14th were \$2,290.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$170,675.37
- For comparison, current YTD 2024 was \$182,684.47
- Designated Giving for the 50th Sunday was \$70

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who recently reviewed their information for the church directory. A draft copy of the updated directory is available for review in the Narthex.

Please check your information carefully and note any additional corrections directly on the draft. All updates will be incorporated before the directory is printed.

The draft will remain available for review through Sunday, January 11.

SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS AND TALENTS

Are you a singer? Maybe you play an instrument? We'd love to hear you! Messiah's Worship Team would like to invite folks with musical gifts to share them in worship. You could sing a solo or duet...you could play during the prelude or postlude...you could join in on a hymn...or whatever else might work! Don't have time in your schedule to be a regular choir member? Consider joining choir for a special festival anthem for Christmas or Easter or another special occasion. Music is a truly a gift! If you have questions or curiosities or ideas about what might work for you, please talk to Debbie!

BANNER TEAM

The Banner Team meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Next month we will meet on January 6th and 20th in the church fellowship hall at 1:00. We are making good progress on our current banner project and want to keep going. Anyone who is interested in joining us is welcome! Please bring your own scissors because I am left handed and so are my scissors (lol).

New Year Blessings – Nancy Berg

Y.O.U.T.H. IN ACTION (YOUTHFUL OUTREACH TO UPLIFT AND THRIVE IN HOLINESS)

Visit the Youth Christmas Shop before and after service Today is the last day! Our handmade one-of-a-kind gifts make great gifts for family, friends, neighbors and teachers. And yourselves! Why not?! New inventory arrives each week. Don't miss out!

Hey youth! Don't forget about the Dunkin' Donuts field trip at **10:00am TODAY!** Bring your own money if you want something else besides donuts.

MAKING PREPARATIONS

Our adult class during Christian formation for this season of Advent will get us up and moving and looking at our building, our congregation, and our practices through the eyes of others that sometimes find churches to be difficult places to be in. Our dearest aspiration is to truly mean it when we say "all are welcome"; these discussions will aim to prayerfully prepare such a welcome, especially where we might not even realize we have room to grow and change.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study groups meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month . In January we will meet on Wednesdays January 14th and 28th. We are continuing to study the women in A Lineage of Grace book. This month we are starting on Rahab reading pages 103 – 130. If you have any questions talk to Nancy Berg, Marilyn Gunn or Donna Combs.
New Year Blessings! -- Nancy Berg

CHRISTMAS EVE

We rejoice and give thanks for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ with Christmas Eve worship on Wednesday, December 24th, at 7:00 pm. Invite your family and friends to join you as we sing, pray, and hear the story again. The worship service is family friendly, and we will share Communion and a candlelight signing of "Silent Night." Come one, come all!

MIDWINTER POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Registration is open for the Midwinter Power in the Spirit, an online gathering February 2-4, 2026. We will learn how the words of 2 Timothy 1:7, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline," relate to the foundations of Lutheran faith. The event will feature Bible study leaders from around the Synod. Visit <https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/> for more information, registration, and an event flyer.

INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REV. LIZ RADTKE

The Rev. Liz Radtke will be installed as pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Richmond on Sunday, January 18th, 2026, at 4:00 pm, at Christ Lutheran. Messiah members are invited to attend. Any Messiah singers are invited to join a pop-up choir for the service. Please talk to one of the Pastors Radtke with any questions.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

FIND PEACE IN THE MIDST OF THE SEASON

NOT EVERY HOLIDAY FEELS BRIGHT AND MERRY—AND THAT'S OKAY. BLUE CHRISTMAS IS A TIME TO SLOW DOWN, BREATHE, AND HONOR THE QUIETER SIDE OF THE SEASON.

JOIN US FOR A GENTLE, COMFORTING EXPERIENCE FILLED WITH:

- ◆ SOFT WINTER MUSIC
- ◆ CANDLELIGHT AND REFLECTION
- ◆ SPACE FOR HEALING, REMEMBRANCE, AND HOPE

YOU'RE NOT ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS. LET THE CALM OF A BLUE CHRISTMAS BRING YOU WARMTH, COMFORT, AND A MOMENT OF PEACE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 @ 7:00 PM

Christ Lutheran Church ♦ 7809 Woodman Road Richmond, VA 23228 ♦ www.christlutheran.org

Messiah Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Service

Please join us at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve for our family friendly candlelight service. There will be a children's sermon, Communion, a Christmas message, and candle lighting.



Come help us celebrate the birthday of Our Lord!

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

<https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/> - for our live stream service



small church, Big Heart

