

*Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and asked him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"*

*(Matthew 11:2-3)*



## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*The Lutheran Church-  
Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd.  
Keller, TX 76248

**Sunday School &  
Adult Bible Class**  
9:30am

**Sunday Worship**  
8:00am, 10:45am

**CHURCH OFFICE**  
(817) 431-2345

**Rev. Thomas Chryst**  
Senior Pastor

**Rev. Brennick Christiansen**  
Assistant Pastor

**CLASSICAL ACADEMY**  
(817) 431-5486

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

[www.mlcatexas.org](http://www.mlcatexas.org)



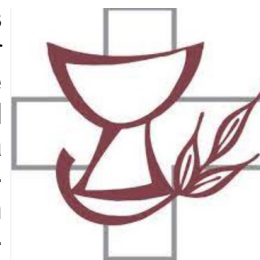
Byzantine Mosaic of St. John the Baptist, from the *Deësis* panel, located in the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey.

**FOR OUR VISITORS....**

**Welcome! We encourage you to follow along** with either the printed service, or with the hymnal. The page numbers for the hymnal are posted at the front of the sanctuary and on the next page. We realize it can take a while for newcomers to become familiar with our liturgy, so please feel free to ask someone near you for assistance—he or she would be happy to help.

**We love children in our church!** But if your little one gets fussy you may use the **cry room** that is located at the north end of the hallway behind the sanctuary on your right. You are able to see and hear the worship service from there. We also have **"Quiet Bags"** available for children to use during the service. Please ask an usher or elder if you need assistance. The Quiet Bags are returned after the service.

**The Lord's Supper** is celebrated in our services today. In this supper, our Lord Jesus Christ graciously feeds the humble sinner with His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Scripture clearly teaches that anyone who eats and drinks the body and blood of Christ without discerning that body and blood receives a judgment rather than a blessing from God (1 Cor. 11:29). Therefore, out of a Christian concern for souls, we require a thorough instruction in the teachings of the Lutheran Church before participating in this Sacrament. Participation at the altar is also a testimony of unity of faith with all others who partake (1 Cor. 10:17). Since unity at the altar presupposes unity in doctrine and confession (Acts 2:42), we kindly request that **only those who are in confessional fellowship** with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod participate. This includes active members in good standing of all sister Missouri-Synod congregations.



We recognize that **Closed Communion** is a sensitive issue for many and have a brochure to explain it more thoroughly. It is available in the narthex or from an usher. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to speak with our pastor. However, **we welcome** both children and adults who are not communicant members of the Lutheran Church to come to the altar during communion for a pastoral blessing. Please indicate the request for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.



Follow the QR code to visit our **"Virtual Guestbook"** and tell us about yourself and your visit with us.



# Divine Service—Setting One—LSB 151

## Hymns:

349, 345, 515

## Hymns During Distribution:

338, 346, 387

## Sermon Title:

*"What You Hear and See"*

## Scripture:

*Matthew 11:2-15*

## Prelude:

CHESTERFIELD ("Hark the Glad Sound") – Jacob B. Weber

MERTON ("Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding")  
– settings by James L. Brauer and Benjamin M. Culli

## Postlude:

HAF TRONES LAMPA FARDIG  
("Rejoice, Rejoice Believers") – Donald Rotermond



## The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see “the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, “be patient” and “establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as “the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,” so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that “sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Is. 35:10).

## Serving in God’s House Today

**Organist:** Miguel Ruiz

**Altar Guild:** *All Altar Guild members serve in the month of December.*

**Counters:** Herbert Herrmann  
Ken Pedersen

**8:00 a.m.**

**Head Elder:** Steven Latham

**Head Usher:** Chris Nietenhoefer

**Acolytes:** Noah Ruiz

**Crucifer/  
Altar  
Assistant** Ethan Salgado

**10:45 a.m.**

Jim Ward

Paul Cigainero

Christian Hernandez  
Asher Ruiz  
Nathan Munoz

*The flowers that adorn the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Pat Deardoff in memory and honor of her parents, Roy and Hilda Nimmo.*

**Introit** *Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*



*Rejoice in the Lord | always;\**  
*again I will say, | Rejoice.*

In you, O LORD, do I take | refuge;\*,  
let me never be | put to shame!  
**In your righteousness deliver me and | rescue me;\***  
**incline your ear to me, and | save me!**  
Be to me a rock of refuge,  
to which I may contin- | ually come;\*,  
you have given the command to save me,  
for you are my rock and my | fortress.  
**Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the | wicked;\***  
**from the grasp of the unjust and | cruel man.**

I will hope con- | tinually\*,  
and will praise you yet | more and more.  
**My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day;\***  
for their number is past my | knowledge.  
With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;\*,  
**I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.O God, from my youth you have taught me;\***  
**and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.**  
So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me;\*,  
until I proclaim your might to another generation,  
your power to all | those to come.  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning;\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
*Rejoice in the Lord | always;\**  
*again I will say, | Rejoice.*

**Collect of the Day**

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Gradual**

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

*Sung by Cantor*

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.*  
*Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.*  
*Behold, your king is coming to you;*  
*righteous and having salvation.*  
*Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*  
*From the house of the Lord we bless you.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS: December 14-27**

- |                                     |   |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 14: Is. 30:15-26<br>Rev. 2:1-19     | 18: Is. 34:1-2, 8 – 35:10<br><i>Micah 1:1 – 7:20</i><br>Rev. 6:1-17 | 22: Is. 43:1-24<br>Rev. 9:13 – 10:11   | 25: Is. 49:1-18<br>Matt. 1:1-17                     |
| 15: Is. 30:27 – 31:9<br>Rev. 3:1-22 | 19: Is. 40:1-17<br>Rev. 7:1-17                                      | 23: Is. 43:25 – 44:20<br>Rev. 11:2-19  | 26: Is. 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8, 12-16<br>Matt. 1:18-25 |
| 16: Is. 32:1-20<br>Rev. 4:1-11      | 20: Is. 40:18 – 41:10<br>Rev. 8:1-13                                | 24: Is. 44:21 – 45:13, 20-25<br><i>Dan. 10:1-12:13</i><br><i>Is. 48:1-22</i><br>Rev. 12:1-17 | 27: Is. 51:17-52:12<br>Matt. 2:1-12                 |
| 17: Is. 33:1-24<br>Rev. 5:1-14      | 21: Is. 42:1-25<br>Rev. 9:1-12                                      |  |   |



**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Today, in our 10:45 am service,  
we welcome Jaxson Hamilton,  
and Claudio and Jennifer Maique to Messiah.

Please greet our new members after the service.

## THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TODAY 12/14 - 8:00AM - DIVINE SERVICE—STREAMING LIVE  
 - 9:30AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL—STREAMING LIVE  
 - 10:00AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—SANCTUARY  
 - 10:45AM - DIVINE SERVICE

MONDAY 12/15

TUESDAY 12/16 - 9:30AM - JOY GROUP

WEDNESDAY 12/17 - 6:00PM-- ADVENT MEAL—SOUP & SALAD. PROVIDED BY MLC YOUTH GROUP  
 - 7:00PM - ADVENT EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

THURSDAY 12/18

FRIDAY 12/19

SATURDAY 12/20 - 7:00AM - MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY—ROSA'S ON 377

### CATECHESIS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14-20

*Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9*

**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

*How can water do such great things?*

**Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water.**

**For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit,**

**as Saint Paul says in Titus, chapter three:**

**He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on**

**us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.**

**Titus 3:5-8**

### READINGS

**Mon:** The Nativity of St. John the Baptist-Luke 1:57-80

**Tue:** The Nativity of Our Lord - Luke 2:1-7

**Wed:** The Birth of Christ Is Announced to the Shepherds - Luke 2:8-14

**Thu:** The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem - Luke 2:15-20

**Fri:** Isaiah 7:10-17 (OT Reading)

**Sat:** Matthew 1:18-25 (NT Reading)

### HYMNS

~~~ select Christmas hymn from 359-393

**384 1, 2, 5** "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

~~~ select Christmas hymn from 359-393



Join us **this Wednesday, 12/17**,  
 for our final Advent meal at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall,  
 followed by The Office of Evening Prayer at 7:00 in the Sanctuary.

### December 17th: "St. Thomas"

Judges 6:36-40; 1 John 1:1-10; John 20:19-31

<https://allthehousehold.com/st-thomas/>

**(Meal: Soup & Salad, provided by MLC Youth Group)**

# Please keep in your prayers...

**Karen Shrum**, in the unexpected loss of her son-in-law, James, as well as in the death of James' mother, Linda; **Duane Gosch, brother of Karen Shrum**, who suffered a stroke

**We continue to pray for our members and loved ones battling cancer:** Tim Speight, Rob Bentley, Randy Gay, Denny Knutson, Joan Beach, Linda Pancake, Rick Swender, Wayne Kirkland, Ken Blume, Carolyn Blume, Gaelina Strader, Sarah Jarrett, Mike Vandergriff, Rev. Ernie Bernet, Janie Peter, David Grissom.

**...also those with other illnesses and trials:** Vicky Krolczyk, Janet Hazelhurst, Jaana Phillips, Dennis Nietenhoefer, Lisa Preston, Matt Hinde, Lee Masoian, Alli Burk, Amy Lyon, the Lewis family, Bruce Lage, Jaden Chisholm, Chelsea Lage, Grant Smith, William Johnstone, Marlene Eaton, Kris Carter, Wes Liles, Mary Lowry, Patsy Smith, Shelby Renfro, Connie Worley Ramsey, Brooke Lage, The Lowry Family, Sandy McDougal, Jacob Brewer.

**...and those who are unable to worship with us regularly:** Carolyn Blume, Susan Copen, Don & Marilyn Curry, Rudi Milbitz, LaVina Goedecke, Janet Hazelhurst, Ron and Barbara Busse, Ron Klingbeil, Ronald and Brenda Patterson, Marvin Wilken.

**.....all of our college students in and out of state:** Ashley Brewer, Jacob Brewer, Colby Carter, Seminarian David Christensen, Maranda Crutchfield, Dorian Crutchfield, Paul Hedman, Ethan Johnson, Cole O'Dell, Ryan O'Dell, Clara O'Neil, Daniella Osorio, Helena Phillips, Aidan Richmond, Davis Richmond, Mia Salgado, Max Tonniges, Charlie Umayam, Audrey Weber, Emily Weber, Morgan Chryst, Matthew Palmer.

**We remember all those serving our country, particularly our members and loved ones in the military:** Carly Schwarzenburg, Jesus Aranda, Hannah Kajer, Nicolas Towers, Tony Bourassa, Tyler Burk, David Cantrell, Cassie Gessling, Joseph Kajer, Seth Kirch, Andrew Latham, Andrew Lowry, Hannah Pinkston, Brandon Towers, Frank Wilde, Chaplain Peter J. Williams.

## We also pray for...

- Our Braille ministry, that the Word will continue to reach the blind or visually impaired around the world.
- Our educational ministry, especially our Academy, Sunday School, and Catechumens.
- Fellow Messiah members, married couples and children, young couples, singles, Pastor Chryst, and Pastor Christiansen.
- The voters, church council, and leaders of Messiah Church and School as they deliberate on the work the Lord has given His people to do.
- Our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world being persecuted for their faith.
- The spread of the Gospel around our nation and world and the work of our missionaries and relief workers.
- Rev. Solomon Yadessa and his work with the Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas.
- Rev. Dr. Michael Paul and his work in Taiwan.
- The Swaddling Clothes ministry and those who come seeking assistance.
- Those studying at seminary, including David Christensen (4th Year), Tanner Sawall (4th Year), Abram Eggers (1st Year), and Vicar Peter Williams, as they prepare to serve in the Holy Ministry.
- Prayers for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine.

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Church Office Administrator: [linda.pinkston@messiahkeller.org](mailto:linda.pinkston@messiahkeller.org)  
MLCA Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:30am—3:30pm.  
Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm



**MLCA is hiring!** MLCA is in immediate need of a permanent teacher for Grades 6-8 for the current school year. This is a full-time position. If you or someone

you know might be interested in this position, please contact Mrs. Smith at [alison.smith@mlcatexas.org](mailto:alison.smith@mlcatexas.org) for more information!

Jesus' Family Tree



2025 Advent Devotions  
Written by Pastor Mark Birkholz  
Zion Lutheran Church - Naperville, Illinois

Rev. Dr. Mark Birkholz of Zion Lutheran Church in Naperville, Illinois, has written an **Advent Devotion resource for 2025**. Beginning on November 30th, this daily Advent devotional follows the **genealogy of Jesus according**

**to St. Matthew's Gospel**. Pastor Birkholz has generously shared these devotions, and I am happy to set them before you with his permission. May they serve you well as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Savior. You may find the devotion at <https://tinyurl.com/pv6kcjcy>



**Matthew 11:10 – “This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’”** John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus’ ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.



### **ANSWERING ARGUMENTS AGAINST CHRISTIANITY...**

The Christian God is Misogynistic, The Meaning of Life Is Found in Using Technology, We Don't Need the Christian God to Be Good. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to responses to common objections to Christianity at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.



### **A Life Thought in the Church Year for December 14 – Advent 3:**

God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege of sharing Christ's forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.



**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:** Last Sunday: 8:00am: **101** 10:45am: **104** Total: **205**  
**Sunday School: 108 OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK: \$22,459.65** (including online giving to Gen. Fund)  
**WEEKLY OFFERINGS NEEDED TO FUND THE CURRENT YEAR BUDGET: \$ 19,549.00**  
You may use this QR code for your convenience if you would like to give to Messiah. It will direct you to our Vanco System for electronic giving.

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
 it shall blossom abundantly  
 and rejoice with joy and singing.  
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
 They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
 the majesty of our God.  
 Strengthen the weak hands,  
 and make firm the feeble knees.  
 Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
 "Be strong; fear not!"  
 Behold, your God  
 will come with vengeance,  
 with the recompense of God.  
 He will come and save you."  
 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
 then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
 and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
 For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
 and streams in the desert;  
 the burning sand shall become a pool,  
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
 in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
 And a highway shall be there,  
 and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
 the unclean shall not pass over it.  
 It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
 even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
 No lion shall be there,  
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
 they shall not be found there,  
 but the redeemed shall walk there.  
 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
 and come to Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
 they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Epistle: James 5:7-11**

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious

fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15**

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."