



The Song of Simeon

Preaching and teaching the truth to His expanding kingdom, reaching out to all!

Lutheran Church and School of Messiah

840 North 11th Street Grand Junction, CO 81501
Office (970) 245-2838; Fax: (970) 245-8145; www.messiahlutherangi.org

First Sunday after Christmas

(December 27, 2020)

"The Lord's Supper: If you are visiting with us here or have not been instructed in the unique Lutheran teaching regarding the Lord's Supper, we kindly ask you to speak to the Pastor before communing. Thank you."

† DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR †

Greeting and Announcements

Opening Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting light.
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
 And, gathered all above
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wond'ring love.
 O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing to God the king
 And peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heav'n.
 No ear may hear His coming;
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him, still
 The dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin, and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Immanuel!

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

Psalm

Psalm 111; antiphon: v. 9a, b

- ¹Praise the LORD!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
²**Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**
³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
⁴**He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;**

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶**He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸**they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

Kyrie

P 204

**C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria in Excelsis

P 204

**C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,**

Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
“Amen!” our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Kids Talk (10:30am)

Sermon Hymn "O Sing of Christ"

LSB 362

- 1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known
The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone
So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
The icon of His grace.
- 2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim,
And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came
To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right
God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light
And our redemption won.
- 3 He came to that which was His own,
But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,
And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be
The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry
But born of God in love.
- 4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell
Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel,
To bring this holy birth.

In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB 358

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;

Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

- 2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.
- 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.
- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.

- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Communion Blessing

Nunc Dimittis

P 211

- C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.
- 2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect

P 212

Benedicamus

P 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn “What child is this”

LSB 370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
 The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 The virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

**The Worship Service Sunday Morning
December 27th, 2020**

Preacher	Rev. Joshua Schmidt	
Liturgist	Rev. Michael Redeker	
Elders	Boyd Arnold, Billy Diaz,	8:00am 10:30am
Organist	Marilyn Smith	
Acolyte	Aveleen Walsh, Brielle Krizman Cal Diedrich, William Diaz	8:00am 10:30am
Ushers	Bill Buxman, Ray Seeley Chad Bruner, Matt Meyer	8:00am 10:30am
Videographer	Jeremy Knizley	8:00am
Solo	Abby Bridgette	8:00am

These next few months are going to be tough for everyone.

But, we will get through it together by the grace of God.

**If you or someone you know is in Spiritual,
Physical, or any other need:**

We are here for you.

Pastor Redeker: (314) 608-5538

Pastor Schmidt: (314) 261-3180

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements December 27th, 2020

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the narthex. If you do not have offering envelopes, and would like some, or if you have envelopes and do not use them please let the Church office know.

****Please be aware that your number might have changed. ****

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS- Thanks to everyone who brought their poinsettia to share. Please pick up your poinsettias after service today.

NO NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

GIVING TREE- Thank you to everyone who gave to the Giving Tree it was a blessing to our families of Messiah Church and School. The gifts and cash donations were very much appreciated.

LWML INGATHERING-Thank you to all the ladies who gave to our ingathering for the Pregnancy Center and Birthright. We collected \$505.00 in cash and gift card donations plus diapers, wipes, blankets, socks, formula, lotions, etc. What a blessing to have such giving members who help support these women and families. The staff was so thankful for our donations and the support to these women. God Bless you all!

PREGNANCY CENTER AND

BIRTHRIGHT- There is a "tree" in the Narthex with needed items listed on the leaves. If you are able please take a leaf, purchase the item, and return to Messiah. We will deliver to the Pregnancy Center and Birthright. Thank

you for supporting this very important outreach.

PREGNANCY CENTER AND BIRTHRIGHT UPDATE- The very generous donations brought to the Vespers service on December 10th were divided and delivered on December 15th as follows:

Pregnancy Center- 4 boxes of disposable diapers, 1 box of baby food, 1 box of Pediture, 1 package of baby wipes, and \$245 in gift cards.

Birthright- 4 boxes of disposable diapers, 1 box of baby wipes, 1 bag of baby clothing and miscellaneous baby items, and \$260 in gift cards.

Both the Pregnancy Center and Birthright were overwhelmed and very thankful for your generosity.

WELCOME TO MESSIAH—It is a blessing to share God's love with so many families and students through our school. Prayer partners are something the kids always remember—that and Mrs. Skoog's loft. —This year, we are hoping you will spread the word about our school to encourage families—both inside and outside of our church—to attend one of the few Christian-based academic environments in the area. The students excel at pretty much anything they set their minds to (honors programs, Math Counts, sports, etc.), but the main thing that sets us apart is our trust in Jesus Christ. Please, share our "Open House" video that will be up January 5th at 7am on our Facebook page. #MessiahGJ #CharacterProducesHope

A VERY SERVING CHRISTMAS---THANK YOU for your prayers and support. You made the virtual Christmas program A SUCCESS (on our Facebook page). Our school was able to donate over 400 blessing bags to “the House” for homeless teens (paid for by generous donors and the online auction). And, while the Navajo Nation rules still don’t allow for gatherings of any kind, Pastor Norton and his family will be welcoming groups into their home one-at-a-time to share their brand new Christmas Program costumes with them for the first time and go through the Christmas story. (This was made possible by God’s work through you—THANK YOU!!!). “I’m SO excited for them to see the new costumes-they don’t know about them yet! I will take pictures!” -Mrs. Heidi Norton

GIFT PLANNING - December is a month of giving. Your estate plan is a way for you to plan gifts, too. All gifts, given by faith, are acts of **love**, expressing our life in Jesus Christ. Why would your estate contain both gifts to family and gifts for ministry? It is because you **love** people and want them to know the true life of Jesus. Your Messiah Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org by email, by Phone: 800-741-4138, or the website lwmlgiftplan.org. Our Rocky Mountain District Gifts of Love Advocate Elizabeth Weber by email

weber4342@acsol.net or on her cell phone (970) 361-0794

FOR SALE - The quilt ladies have a beautiful Bendolf Medallion Variation Quilt designed by Louisiana P. Bendolf for sale. It is 52” x 76” and 100% cotton. Custom Machine quilted bold and vivid colors. Suitable for a man or teenager Christmas gift It is available for sale on Tuesday mornings 9:00am to 11:30am for a donation (suggested donation of \$200.00) proceeds will go to buying needed quilting supplies. Thank you for your support.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT- “And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord...” (Luke 2:39). The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. And the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living and the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

The Board of Stewardship

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS- Thrivent members do not forget to direct your Choice Dollars® to the church general fund or to the school scholarship fund. You have two easy options to direct your Choice Dollars: Online at www.thrivent.com or by calling 800-847-4836

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR 2021 Communion set up and cleanup. The sign up is posted in the narthex. Contact Laura Ryden (970) 260-6766 for

more information. Our Thanks to those who have previously given generously of their time in service to our Lord!

MESSIAH'S RADIO MINISTRY-Sunday mornings at 8:30am -9:00am on 1100AM/KNZZ radio station. If you would like to be a sponsor for this ministry contact the church office, 970-245-2838. This is followed by Lutheran Hour at 9:00am.

Calendar for the Week

Sunday	8:00am	Divine Service/Communion/Facebook Live
	9:30am	Adult Bible Study/Sunday School/Facebook Live
	10:30am	Divine Service/Communion/Kids Talk
Monday	-----	NO SCHOOL
	9:15am	Office Staff Meeting
Tuesday	-----	NO SCHOOL
	8:00am	Weekly Bulletin Announcement deadline
	9:00am	Quilt Ladies/Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	-----	NO SCHOOL
	8:00am	Weekly Bulletin Announcement deadline
	8:30am	No Chapel
	11:00am	Wednesday Bible Class/Isaiah/Zoom
	7:00pm	Wednesday night service/Communion
Thursday	-----	NO SCHOOL
	6:30am	Men's Morning Bible Study/Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Online Bible Study
Friday	-----	NO SCHOOL
	-----	Pastor Redeker's Day Off
	-----	Pastor Schmidt's Day Off
Saturday	-----	
Sunday	8:00am	Divine Service/Communion/Facebook Live
	9:30am	Adult Bible Study/Sunday School/Facebook Live
	10:30am	Divine Service/Communion/Kids Talk

Please remember to let the office know of any changes of individuals that you have placed on the Prayer List.