

“LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!”



Here, at The Lutheran Church and School of Messiah, we firmly believe that God has put us right here—on 12th and Teller—for a reason!!!

We hope and trust and love the fact that God has called us into *“Preaching and teaching the truth to His expanding kingdom, reaching out to all!”*

You have probably heard that “location is everything.” And, it is also true in in our spiritual lives. So often, we feel behind or buffeted or surrounded by enemies... but, the reality is that even if we are behind, we look forward in hope. Even if we are buffeted, we are buffeted on faith. And, even if we are surrounded, we are surrounded by the Father’s love.

As we pilgrim through this dark world together, Christ is our center and our guide. And, it is only our hope in Him that we can be there for others.

How can you be there for others this season? Share your hope. Spread the faith. Surround them with God’s love as we yearn for Christ’s coming in Christmas and on the Last Day to save us.

**BEHIND,
BUT WITH HOPE**
† *Soli Deo Gloria* †

So many things leave even us Christians feeling helplessly behind. But, God put Moses behind his glory and filled Moses' with hope. The coming of Jesus does the same for us!

Opening Hymn ‘The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns’
LSB 348

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

† Preparation †

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession

From Romans 6:15; 20-23; 1 John 1:5-9; John 1:5-14.

P What do you say? Should we sin because we are covered by grace and not under the law?

C **By no means!!!**

P But, when you were slaves of sin, you were free from the law of God.

C **That only brought us shame!!! The fruit of sin is always death.**

P Now that you have been set free from sin and have become servants of God how is it any different?

C **The fruit of God is eternal life and holiness!!!**

P This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light.

C **In Him is no darkness at all!!**

P If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

C **But, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.**

P The blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Leader:

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:

the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:

and the day is al - most over.

Leader:

Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:

and shine within your peo - ple here. —

2 poco rit.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

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

P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... The true light which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all of your sins.

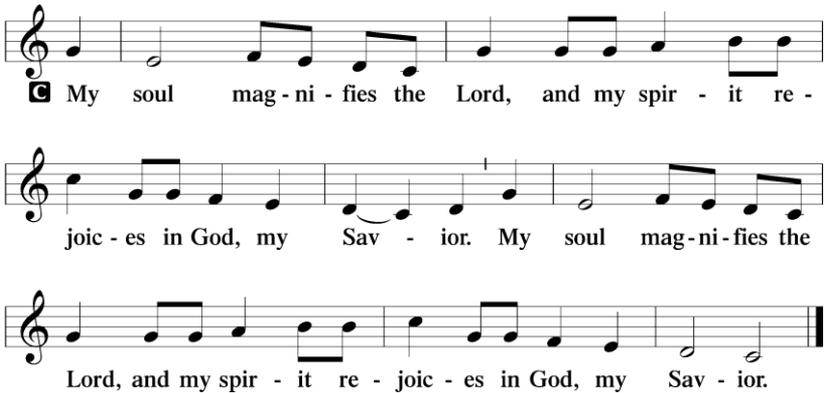
As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His command and His authority, I therefore forgive you

all your sins in the name of the Father and of the †
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Magnificat

LSB 248 v.1-2



My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag - ni - fies the
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

v. 1 For he has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

v. 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

The First Reading

Exodus 33:13-23

¹³Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” ¹⁴And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will

give you rest.” ¹⁵And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”

¹⁷And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” ¹⁸Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” ¹⁹And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” ²¹And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²²and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

P This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light

of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:45-55

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sermon Hymn “Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

LSB 353

- 1 Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.

- 2 Jesus comes again in mercy
 When our hearts are worn with care;
 Jesus comes again in answer
 To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Comes to save us from despair.
- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
 Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
 Jesus comes with words of gladness,
 Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Hope to all the world is giv'n.
- 4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
 Shares alike our hopes and fears;
 Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Comforts us in failing years.

“BEHIND, BUT WITH HOPE”- Pastor Joshua Vanderhyde

Advent Anthem

LSB 352 v.1

**C Let the earth now praise the Lord,
 Who has tru-ly kept His word
 And at last to us did send
 Christ, the sin-ner's help and friend.**

Prayers of the Church

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.

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 T give you
peace.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

LSB 352 vv. 2, 3, 5, 6

- 2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets’ heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram’s promised great reward,
Zion’s helper, Jacob’s Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.
- 5 Bruise for me the serpent’s head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.