

WELCOME TO THIS
WORSHIP CELEBRA-
TION of the living
Christ's presence in
our midst. Christ
comes to us with new
life and strength for
Christian living in
daily life through the
hearing of the Word,
preaching, prayer,
song, and community.

*As the Confession and
Forgiveness begins, all
may make the sign of
the cross, the sign that
is marked at baptism.*

*Congregational re-
sponses are in bold*

** Asterisks through-
out the order of
worship indicate
the people stand-
ing, in body and/or
in spirit.*

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katharine Marshall, Reader

PRELUDE "Abide with Me"

J.S. Bach

Shirley Newhart, organ

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us
completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**People: you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen**

Leader: The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

People: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG "Arise, Your Light Has Come"**

Hymn 314



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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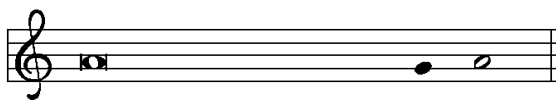
***GREETING**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Kyrie" is a Greek word meaning "Lord." In Christian liturgy, particularly in Kyrie Eleison, it's used as a plea for God's mercy. The full phrase, "Kyrie eleison," translates to "Lord, have mercy," and has a common element in various Christian worship services since the 4th century.

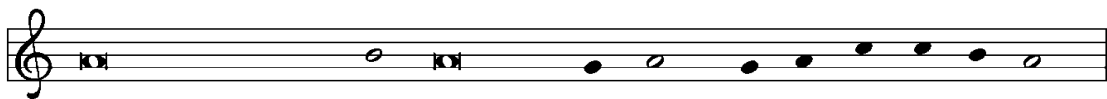
*KYRIE



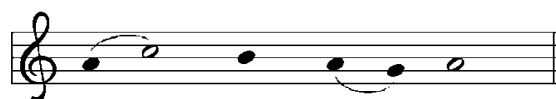
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



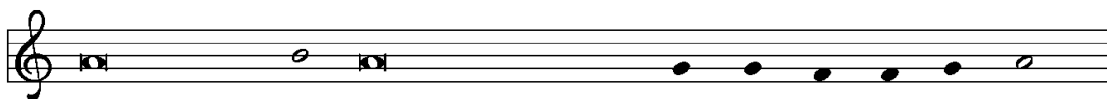
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy 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, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



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



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.



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. A-men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM "Have You Heard"

Althouse

Chancel Choir

Trevor Olson, soloist

Have you heard the story of the baby boy, baby boy, baby boy? Have you heard the story of the baby boy, born in Bethlehem?

The angels sang that blessed night, born in Bethlehem. They came from heaven, dressed in white, born in Bethlehem.

Three wise men came from far and wide, born in Bethlehem. They followed the star to the baby's side, born in Bethlehem.

The angels played in a heavenly band, born in Bethlehem. Spreading good news and joy all across the land, born in Bethlehem.

WORD

Katharine Marshall, Reader

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

Old Testament 638

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

The reading of Scripture is when God makes known his will: God desires mercy and salvation.

Ultimately, this word points us to the Word, the incarnate Son of God.

Through Christ — God's only Son — are we able to know the Father's favor and grace.

⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord
and my reward with my God.”

⁵ And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶ he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 40:1-11

I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)

¹ I waited patiently upon the Lord,
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² **The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³ The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴ Happy are they who trust in the Lord!

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

⁶ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;

you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required. R

⁷ And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ 'I love to do your will, O my God;

your law is deep within me.'"

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

¹⁰ I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

¹¹ You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;

may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

New Testament 145

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

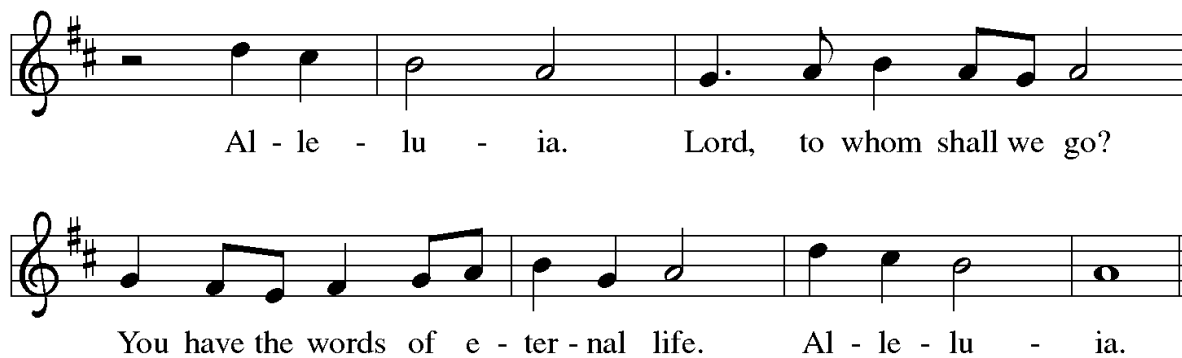
³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: John 1:29-42**

New Testament 80

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

The Holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend

*Altar Flowers are
given today by **Craig
Geriner** “in loving
memory of Betty &
Richard Geriner.”*

and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Reverend Jason Talsness

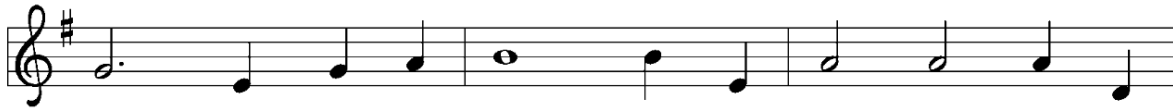
***HYMN OF THE DAY** "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"

Hymn 696

Verses 1-4



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me:"
kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

***APOSTLES' CREED**

People: 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**

(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is offered.)

Leader: Merciful God,

People: Receive our prayer.

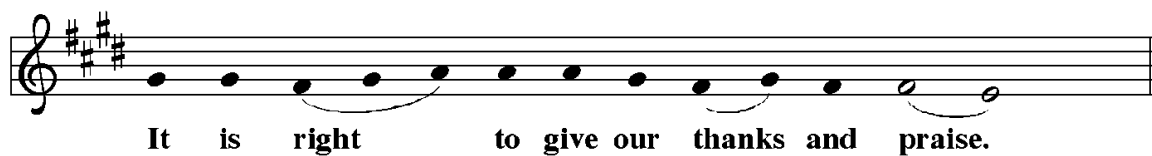
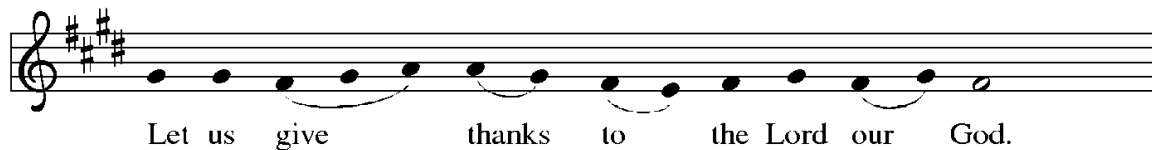
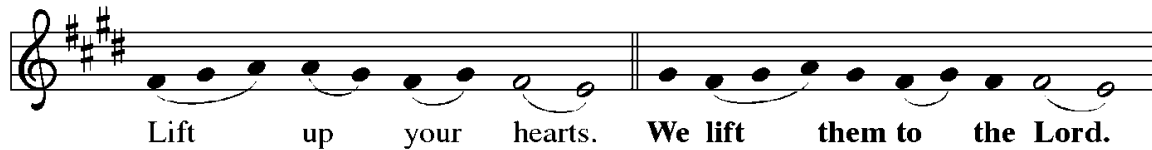
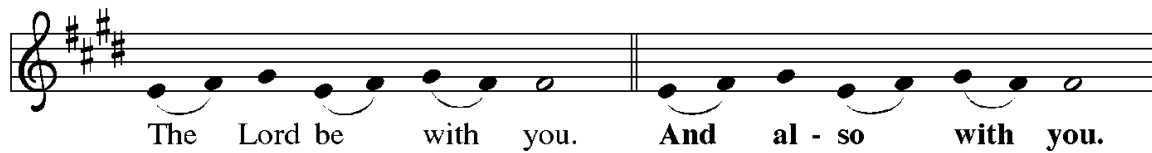
(Final petition and response.)

Leader: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

People: Amen.

MEAL

*DIALOGUE

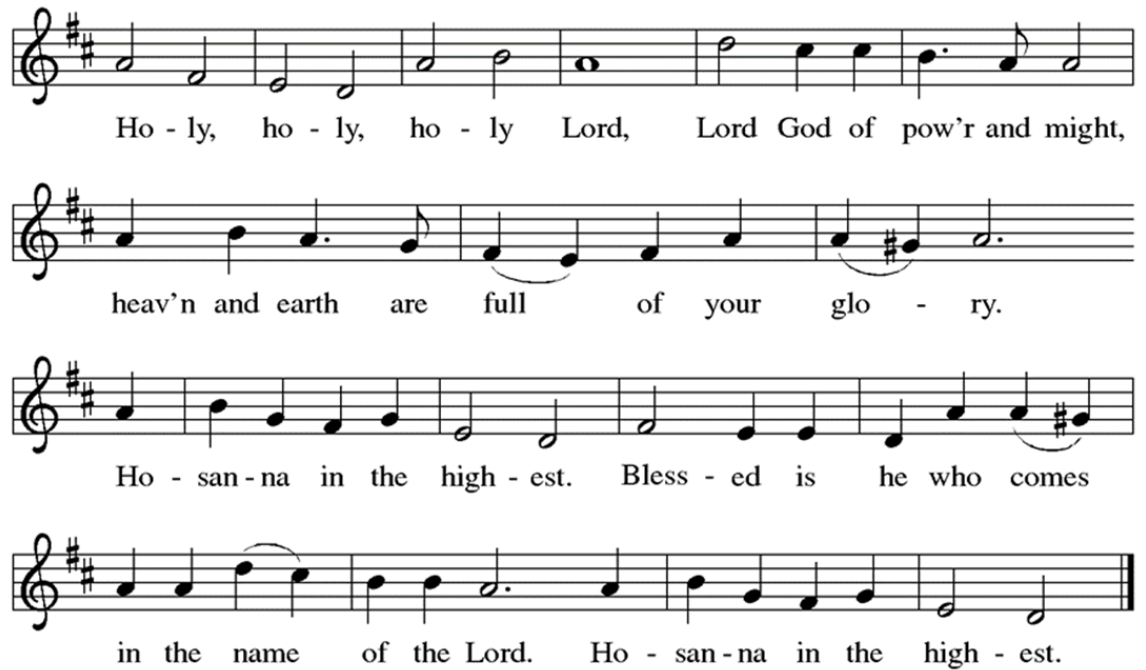


*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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**

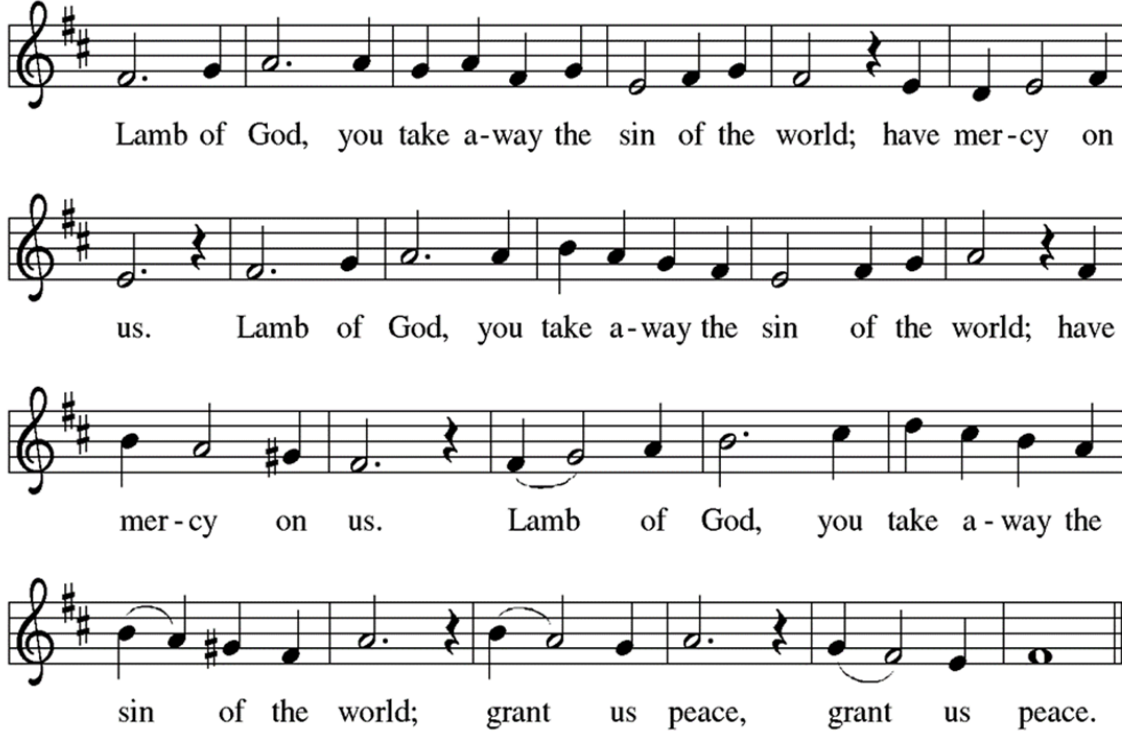
***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION SONG “Lamb of God”



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.

COMMUNION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Radiant God,
People: we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP COMMISSIONING

SENDING

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

Leader: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise † bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

*SENDING SONG “Brightest and Best of the Stars”

Hymn 303

Verses 1-4



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE “Allegro”**

Shirley Newhart, organ

Handel

PERMISSIONS

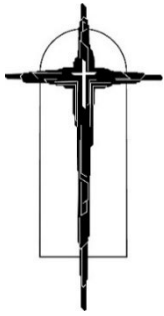
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 18	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class <i>12:30 pm Skidaway Abigails</i>
Monday, January 19	MLK HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, January 20	2:00 pm Outreach Ministry 3:00 pm MLC Staff Meeting <i>4:00 pm Landlovers Meeting</i>
Wednesday, January 21	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group <i>4:00 pm Landlovers Meeting</i> 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursday, January 22	3:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday, January 23	<i>10:00 am Stamp Club</i> 3:30 pm Understanding Your Grief
Saturday, January 24	

Italics indicate outside group



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Director, Faith Formation	Ken Ritz
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Dawn Meade
Reader	Katharine Marshall
Evangelism Greeters	The Nguyen Family
Ushers	Jim Dawson and Greg Stinson
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread, Dawn Meade, Marcia Stinson, and Randi VenHuizen
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Lynn McLauchlan (Host) Jennifer Nguyen (Treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Pam Allen 01/19, Pattye Field 01/19, Eric Gladden 01/23, Joy Olson 01/23,

Anniversaries: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERESTED IN JOINING MESSIAH?

Messiah's Evangelism Ministry is planning a get-together for people interested in learning more about Messiah. The event will be in mid-January. It will be an opportunity to learn more about Messiah and to enjoy fellowship with other potential members and the Evangelism team. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Talsness or Claire Cornwell-Williams, Evangelism Chair (912.658.4114; cwilliams17@comcast.net).

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia

January's food is soup.

PLANNING SURVEY

A special email went out on Wednesday with the link to the strategic planning survey. Your participation is important—so please take a few minutes to complete the survey. If you did not receive the email, please contact the Church Office to request a follow-up. If you prefer to complete a paper copy of the survey, you can also request a hard copy from the Church Office. If you have questions, talk to the Strategic Planning Team: Howard Anderson, Ken Hylander, or Pastor Talsness.

SERMON PREVIEW

An Invitation to Illumination

John 1:29–42 continues the reflection on Jesus' baptism. John the Baptist names Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and testifies that the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove. As Jesus passes by, two people follow him. He turns and asks, "What are you looking for?" and invites them to "come and see." After spending time with Jesus, they announce that they have found the Messiah. Their witness draws others to Jesus, including Simon, who will be called Peter, the first named among the twelve disciples.

Questions for reflection:

- What does it mean for John to point away from himself and toward Jesus?
- How do Jesus' questions and invitations shape the beginning of faith in this passage?
- What role does simple testimony play in drawing others to Jesus?
- Where do you see yourself in this story: as one who points, one who follows, or one who is brought along?

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

Jason Talsness, Pastor

770.570.7407

skidawaypastorj@gmail.com

Randi VenHuizen (2028)

Education & Discipleship Ministry

402.216.3067

Randiv1026@gmail.com

Claire Cornwell-Williams (2028)

Evangelism Ministry

912.658.4114

cwilliams17@comcast.net

Vacant

Finance Ministry

Lisa Oswald (2026)

Outreach Ministry

203.554.5845

laoswald@icloud.com

Gayle Denny (2026)

Parish Life Ministry

513.604.0764

gdgardener@comcast.net

Rick Tallon (2028)

Property Ministry

417.294.2002

rick.tallon@gmail.com

Greg Stinson (2026/2027)¹

Staff Support/Mutual Ministry

912.704.4084

gtstinson@comcast.net

George Lawrence (2026/2028)²

Stewardship Ministry

912.484.2818

Mppgg13@gmail.com

Parker Pearson (no term)

Treasurer

410.349.7704

parkpear@col.com

Pat Cooper (2027)

Worship & Music Ministry

912.508.4250

cooperpat5@gmail.com

¹ Greg Stinson is serving the second year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

² George Lawrence is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2028.



nordic
CHOIR

WINTER TOUR 2026 • ANDREW LAST, CONDUCTOR

LUTHER
COLLEGE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 7 P.M.
Messiah Lutheran Church
1 W Ridge Road
Savannah, Georgia 31411
Tickets \$20 adults/\$10 students; available at tickets.luther.edu
and at the door.

Help Us Host the Visitors!!!

Messiah is committed to providing housing for the 63 undergraduate students in the choir. If you can provide a place for two to six choir members to sleep and have breakfast the next morning, please review the Information Sheet that is on the Narthex Table and follow-up with the Church Office as requested. You can also talk with Pastor Talsness or Lana Gilster. We still need hosts for about 20+ visitors--and our thanks to everyone who has volunteered so far!