

MESSIAH

LUTHERAN
CHURCH

**December 24, 2025
7:00 and 11:00 p.m.**



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander

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WELCOME TO MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve Candlelit Services
7:00 and 11:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

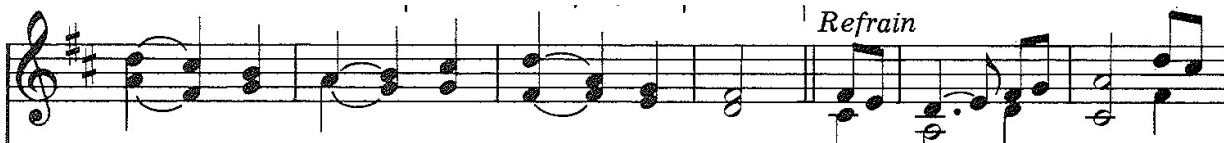
"The First Noel," #136 v. 1-6



1. The first No - el, the an-gel did say, Was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in
2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin-ing in the east, be -
3. And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from
4. This star drew nigh to the north-west, O'er Beth - le - hem it
5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full rev - 'rent - ly up -
6. Then let us all with one ac - _cord Sing prais - es to our



fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep-ing their sheep, On a
yond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And
coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in - tent, And to
took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right
on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres - ence Their
heav'n - ly Lord, That hath made heav'n and earth of _ naught, And



cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
with His blood man - kind hath bought.



el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

CHRISTMAS LITANY ADAPTED FROM ISAIAH 9

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness
All: have seen a great light;
Pastor: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
All: on them has light shone.
Pastor: You have multiplied the nation;
All: you have increased its joy;
Pastor: For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
All: you have broken as on the day of Midian.
Pastor: For to us a child is born,
All: to us a son is given;
Pastor: and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
All: and his name shall be called
Pastor: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
All: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Pastor: Of the increase of his government and of peace
All: there will be no end,
Pastor: from this time forth and forevermore.
All: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
Pastor: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

WELCOME

*"...He will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."*

FIRST LESSON, Luke 1:46-55 (ESV)

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

SECOND LESSON, Luke 23:50-56, 24:1-10 (ESV)

⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

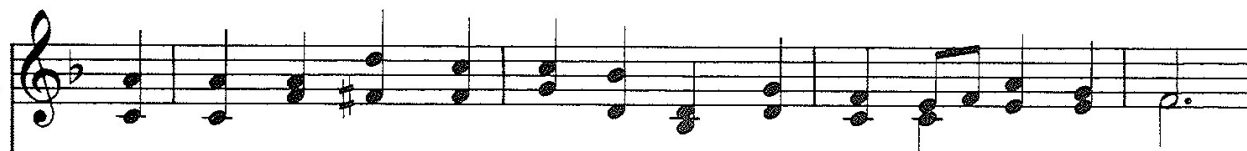
¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles.

HYMN

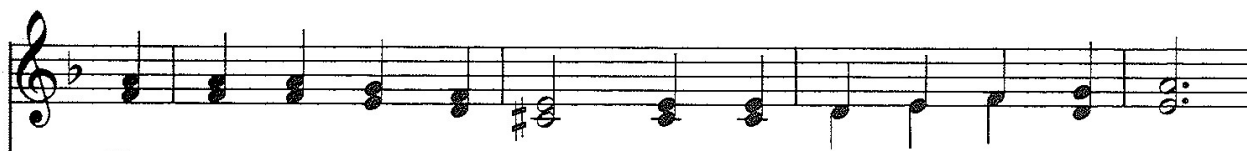
"O Little Town of Bethlehem," #141 v. 1-4



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love,
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el. A - men.

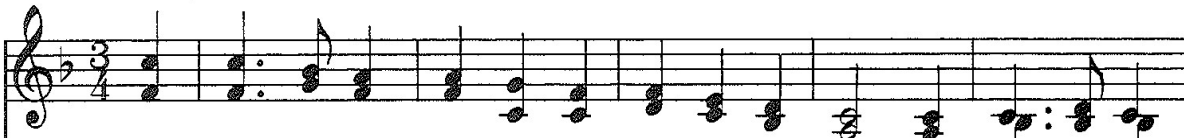
OFFERING

Rose Ann Sochan

GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS (7:00)

HYMN

"Away in a Manger," #157 v. 1-3



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me for -



Je - sus laid down His sweet head; The stars in the sky looked
Je - sus no cry - ing He makes, I love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
Thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en, to live with Thee there.

SANCTUARY CHOIR (7:00)

"Et In Terra Pax (and on Earth, Peace)"
arr. John Purifoy, led by Herb Alexander

MESSAGE

"Christmas Moments"
Pastor Kurt Hoover



HYMN

"O Holy Night," #148 v. 1 & 3



Introduction (use arpeggiated chords in a triplet feeling throughout)

1. O ho - ly night! the stars are bright-ly
2. Led by the light of faith se - rene - ly
3. Tru - ly He taught us to love one an -



shin - ing, It is the night of the dear Sav - ior's birth; Long lay the
beam - ing, With glow - ing hearts by His cra - dle we stand; So led by
oth - er; His law is love and His gos - pel is peace; Chains shall He



world in sin and er - ror pin - ing, Till He ap - peared and the soul felt its
light of a star sweet - ly gleam - ing, Here came the wise men from O - ri - ent
break, for the slave is our broth - er, And in His name all op - pres - sion shall



worth. A thrill of hope the wea - ry world re - joic - es, For yon - der breaks a
land. The King of kings lay thus in low - ly man - ger, In all our tri - als
cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grate - ful chor - us raise we, Let all with - in us



new and glo - rious morn; Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the an - gel
born to be our Friend; He knows our need, To our weak - ness is no
praise His ho - ly name; Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise His name for -



voic - es! O night di - vine, O night when Christ was born!
strang - er. Be - hold your King, be - fore Him low - ly bend!
ev - er! His pow'r and glo - ry ev - er - more pro - claim!



O night, O ho - ly night, O night di - vine!
Be - hold your King, be - fore Him low - ly bend!
His pow'r and glo - ry ev - er - more pro - claim.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for the nations of the world, for our President and the leaders of each country, that there might be peace, justice and freedom. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for our enemies; for their faith and their daily needs. Please enable us to forgive those who have hurt us in any way. Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We remember the poor and the homeless; anyone forgotten and alone tonight. Create faith and hope in their lives. Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We ask your blessing upon our men and women in the armed forces, and for the police officers, firefighters and paramedics who work for our safety. We pray for the missionaries and workers who proclaim the good news of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those who are sick and hospitalized. Please comfort those who grieve the loss of a loved one. Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit that people everywhere may find peace in their hearts and in their families, through their faith relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord. In Jesus' name, Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

THE 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION, from John 1:1-14

The minister taking a large candle, lights it from an Altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world described in John's Gospel. The ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. **The lighted candle is never tilted**, but is always held upright when giving light to another.



HYMN

"Silent Night! Holy Night!" #147 v. 1-3



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight.
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon vir - gin moth-er and Child. Ho - ly In-fant so ten-der and mild,
 Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
 Christ the Sav-ior is born! Christ the Sav-ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

BENEDICTION

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," #133 v. 1-3



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high-est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec-on-ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb:
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail th'in-car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man-u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan