



The Fruit of Love:
First given by Christ,
so we can love others

+ Midweek Advent 1 +
Wednesday, November 29, 2023



**Messiah Lutheran
Church**

1531 Townline Ave. Beloit, WI
(608) 365-3794

Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping the Lord with us today!

Midweek Advent Meditative Worship

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Fruit of the Spirit: Love

FROM THE LAY ELDER-DEACONS: Welcome to Messiah. We want to make sure your worship experience goes well. So just as a reminder, ***please have cellphones ringers off during worship. Please, no gaming, texting, or social media. If you need to use your phone or have a conversation with someone, please excuse yourself from the sanctuary. Thank you.***

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: Live audio of the worship service is available in the room next to the Narthex. It is located just off the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. The room has a bathroom. This room is a safe place for anxious children (or adults) to go and still be a part of the worship service.

Prayer before worship: (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, as we gather in Your house to receive the gift of forgiveness through Your Word, guard us from vain and distracting thoughts. Grant us pause from our busy lives. Open our hearts so that we are receptive to the proclamation of life with Your Son, and do not close our ears to the offering of salvation. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen. (Adapted from **Right Worship of God** prayer in *Portals of Prayer*, April through June, 2011)*

PRELUDE

WORSHIP THEME: Advent looks to the past to prepare us for the future. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's First Advent when He became incarnate as man, we review the promises of God as we prepare for Christ's Second and Final Advent.

This year our Midweek Advent theme is "**Dining on the Fruit of Spirit.**" Between midweek Advent and midweek Lenten services we will explore 9 characteristics that make up the Fruit of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. These are how the Holy Spirit is working in us to be more like Jesus. Tonight, you will receive a fruit tree and a piece of fruit to put on that tree.

This week we explore the Holy Spirit's Fruit of Love. It is quite different than how our society defines love. When we dine of God's Love our lives look differently and are infinitely better. God bless you with more of His love as you feed on God's Word tonight.

OFFERING: ***Please put your offering in the plates at the entrance. Thank you for your support.***

PRELUDE

WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – GREET EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

Bible Verse of the Month: 1 John 3:1 ESV

P: See what kind of love the Father has given to us,

C: that we should be called children of God.

P: God bless you as children of God to see the love the Father has for you as you worship Him.

(Lighting of the candles...to symbolize the special presence of Christ when we invoke the Name of God in which we were baptized.)

Adapted from the Order of Vespers from the Lutheran Service Book

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord. 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.

P: World without end.

C: Amen.

P: Praise to You, O Christ.

C: The King who comes to save us

HYMN OF NIGHT..... "Jesus Name of Wondrous Love".....LSB 900



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."
When the cup of hu - man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Galatians 5:16-26 ESV

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy,^[d] drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do^[e] such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

SCRIPTURE READING #2: 1 John 4:7-12 ESV

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY: "Fruit of Love: First given by Christ to Love Others" 1 John 4:7-12

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT:

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a Righteous Branch

C: This is the Name by which He will be called: The Lord is Our Righteousness.

P: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C: This is the Name by which He will be called: The Lord is Our Righteousness.

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

C: This is the Name by which He will be called: The Lord is Our Righteousness.

(Please be seated)

PRAYERS FROM THE PEW

(At the end of each prayer petition)

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense.

C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

(At the conclusion of the prayers, if you are able, please stand)

KYRIE (as sung to the tune in The Lutheran Hymnal, page 7)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

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.

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.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: *Now that we better appreciate God's everlasting blessings, here are some suggestions for ways we can show that thanksgiving through service and participating in our congregation.*

BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN.... "God Loves Me Dearly"LSB 392



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

P: With the light of Christ, go in peace with the Holy Spirit, living the fruit of Christ's love.

C: Thanks be to God.

Poinsettias If you are donating a poinsettia for the Advent season please place it on the table in the hallway. Poinsettias will be brought into the sanctuary for each service and then returned to the table for watering and light.

Men's Group Saturday, December 9 at 9am: Meet in the downstairs Conference Room. We've started new Bible Study on the Book of Galatians. Coffee and donuts available. Members and non-members invited. The group meets the 2nd Saturday of the month. To find out more, call or text/call Mark Peterson at 608-322-2099, Bob Altenberg at 608-751-8139 or Mark Boos at 608-931-3701.

Giving Tree: The Evangelism Committee will be sponsoring the Giving Tree to provide gifts to children who are residing at the Defy Domestic Abuse Shelter. The tree is up with tags from

which you can choose. Gifts will need to be wrapped, tagged, and back to church by Tuesday, December 11.



Christmas Tree Decorating: The youth group is hosting the tree decorating in the sanctuary again this year THIS Saturday Dec. 2nd, but we need your help. Decorate from 10am to noon, and enjoy a potluck following. Zach and Samantha Anderson will be providing the main dish and hot cocoa/juice, so please bring a dish to pass and your Christmas cheer! :) If you are planning on attending or have questions, please call or text Samantha (608-312-6683) or Zach Anderson (608-207-0509).

Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 16 at 10am: We would like to assemble three teams featuring 4 singers a piece to carol to our Homebound members. Afterwards, we would have a great lunch together. If you are interested, please call or text Debbie Drost at 608-322-7253 or Pastor Dan at 314-775-7371.

Free Artificial Christmas Trees: 6 foot Westley Pine, 7 foot Elwood Pine, 7.5 foot Fake Needle, and 12 foot Rockford. If you or someone you know are in need of a tree, please contact Teresa Behl at the Church Office at 608-365-3794.

Upcoming Events at Messiah

- Wednesdays: December 6, 13, and 20:
5:45pm - **Midweek Advent Suppers**
7pm - **Midweek Advent Services**
- Saturday, December 2 from 10am to 2pm: **Christmas Tree Decorating Event**
- Saturday, December 9: **Men's Group** in Downstairs Conference Room
- Sunday, December 10: **LWML Hosting Fellowship** to raise money for missions
- Sunday, December 10: **Congregational Meeting** after the 9am service.
- Sunday, December 16 at 10am: **Christmas Caroling for Homebound Members**
- Sunday, December 17 at 11am: Sunday School **Christmas Program**
- Sunday, **Christmas Eve**, December 24: 10am with Holy Communion (Mary's Song).
No Sunday School or Fellowship
- Sunday, **Christmas Eve**, December 24: 5pm with no Communion (Joseph's Song).
Family Candles. Different service from 10am
- Monday, December 25 at 10am: **Christmas Day** Worship (Jesus' Song) with Holy Communion

- Wednesday, December 27 at 7pm: Repeat of Christmas Day Service
- Sunday, December 31 at 10am ONLY with Holy Communion. No Sunday School or Fellowship
- Wednesday, January 3 at 7pm: Repeat of Sunday's service.
- Saturday, January 6: **Lutheran Chicks' Shopping Spree Event** at Johnson Creek. Leave from Church at 9am
- Sunday, January 7: Normal Schedule returns with 9am and 11am services. Sunday School and Fellowship return.
- Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 1pm: **LWML Prayer Rally Service**. Open to all.

| | | |
|----------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday | 5:30am | New Member Class – Upstairs Conference Room |
| Saturday | 9am | Choir Practice - Sanctuary |
| | 10am | Christmas Tree Decorating Event and Pot Luck |
| Sunday | 9am | Divine Worship with Holy Communion |
| | 10am | Sunday School and Fellowship |
| | 11am | Divine Worship with Holy Communion |
| | 12:15pm | Lay Elder-Deacon Meeting – Upstairs Conference Room |

Messiah Lutheran Church

1531 Townline Avenue, Beloit, Wisconsin 53511 Phone: 608-365-3794
 Website: mlcbeloit.com - Facebook: "Messiah Lutheran Church-Beloit, WI"
 YouTube Channel: **Messiah Lutheran Beloit**
 Prayer Line: 608-365-4724

Divine Worship Schedule

Sundays with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM and 11AM
 Midweek Advent Wednesdays – Non-Communion - 7:00 PM

Messiah is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

