

***Patience:
Good
things
come to
those
who
wait for
Jesus!***



+ Midweek Advent 4 +
Wednesday, December 20, 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, December 20, 2023

Fruit of the Spirit: Patience

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 remove hats, no earbuds, no gaming, no texting, and no 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.

"Dining on the Fruit of Spirit." Between Midweek Advent and Midweek Lenten services we are exploring 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 Patience. How does this Fruit that we are given help benefit us in how we are to live for Christ? As we explore patience we will see similar words to help us better understand this virtue including endurance, perseverance, and waiting. God bless you with more of His patience as you feed on God's Word tonight and as you are about to embark on this holiday season.

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

Bible Verse for Advent: *Isaiah 64:8 ESV*

P: But now, O LORD, You are our Father;

C: We are the clay, and You are our Potter;

P: We are the work of Your hand

C: Mold me and make me Your treasure as we worship You.

(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.

(Psalm 37:1-9 ESV)

P: Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

C: For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

P Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

C: Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

P: Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

C: He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

P: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

C: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

P: For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Savior of the Nations Come"(Red Hymnal #95 for notes)

(Verses 1-4)

1. Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood,
but the Spirit of our God,
was the Word of God made flesh-
woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
of the virgin undefiled!
Tho' by all the world disowned,
still to be in heav'n enthroned.
4. From the Father forth He came
and returneth to the same,
captive leading death and hell-
high the song of triumph swell!

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Galatians 5:22-25 ESV

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: Isaiah 40:28-31 ESV

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

SCRIPTURE READING #2: Ephesians 4:1-6 ESV

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

SCRIPTURE READING #3: James 5:7-11 ESV

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

SCRIPTURE READING #4: 2 Peter 3:8-9 ESV

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY: "Fruit of Patience: Good Things Come to those Who Wait for the Lord"
Text: Isaiah 40:28-31

(If you are able, please stand)

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 the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN.....“Savior of the Nations Come” (Red Hymnal #95 for notes) (Verses 5-7)

(As the candles are extinguished, the acolyte/elder lights the taper from one of the candles to symbolize the light of Christ going with us as we leave to live our vocations in life, taking Christ's love out into the world. Please follow the light and the cross as they recess.)

5. Thou, the Father's only Son,
hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
when shall we its glories see?
6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine,
glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light
ever be our faith thus bright.
7. Praise to God the Father, sing,
praise to God, the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
ever and eternally.

P: With the light of Christ, go in peace with the fruit of the Holy Spirit's patience, waiting for the Lord with renewed strength so you can serve others.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

- 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, 2024 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.
- Sunday, January 7 at 11am: **Remington Stockdale Baptism**
- Sunday, January 7 at 12:15pm: Lay Elder-Deacon meeting
- Sunday, January 7 at 2pm: **Merger Meeting with Elected Representatives from Messiah, St Johns and Trinity meet in Fellowship Hall.**
- Tuesday, January 9 at 1pm: **LWML Prayer Rally Service.** Open to all.
- Tuesday, January 9 at 5:30pm: **New Member class starts**
- Wednesday, January 10 at 7pm: **Olivia Boos Baptism**
- Tuesday, January 16 at 1pm: **Adult Bible Study** continue in-person and on-line
- Thursday, January 18 at 5:30pm: **Women's Bible Study** premiere in downstairs Conference Room
- Sunday, January 21 at 9am: **Bradley Burrows Adult Baptism**
- Sunday, January 28: at 9am: **New Members Welcomed In**

Messiah Lutheran Church

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