

# MESSIAH

Sunday, December 28, 2025

First Sunday after Christmas

## ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

*During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the Day as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

### Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

### Prelude

Little Prelude no. 8 in B flat Major BWV 560  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

### Psalm of the Day

Psalm 146:1-5

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God.

### \*Call to Worship

Diane Meier

Leader: All God's people— near and far, on earth and in heaven:

**People: Come and worship!**

Leader: Shepherds, magi, saints, and angels:

**People: Come and worship!**

Leader: All who need the Savior, all who long for salvation and restoration.

**People: Come and worship!**

Leader: All who seek *shalom*:

**People: Come and worship, come and worship Christ, the newborn King!**

### \*Hymn of Praise #22 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

## **Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Leader: Gracious God, in this season of Christmas, we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. You spoke and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. Forgive us for being...feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love.

**People: Give us the power to live as people transformed by the coming of Christ. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon** (based on Isaiah 40:1-2)

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **God's Gracious Will for Our Lives** – 1 John 4:9-12

Leader: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**People: No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.**

**\*Gloria Patri #579** "Glory Be to the Father"

## **RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Children's Message**

### **Old Testament Reading**

Daniel 7:13-14 (p. 893)

Diane Meier

### **Meditation**

Hymn #53 "What Child Is This"

Congregation

### **New Testament Reading**

Luke 22:66-71 (p. 1059)

### **Sermon**

"Jesus, the Human and Divine Messiah"

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**\*Hymn of Response #41** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings**

Raja Chintapalli, Elder for  
Children's Ministry

**Offertory**

Hymn #43 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Congregation

**\*Doxology #592** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Prayers of the People**

Raja Chintapalli

**The Lord's Prayer** (*in unison in English or the language of your choice*)

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. Amen.

## GOING WITH GOD'S MISSION AND BLESSING

**Welcoming Guests & Announcements**

Raja Chintapalli

**\*Hymn of Dedication #31** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**\*Sending and Benediction**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

**Postlude**

Fugue on "Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her" BWV 700  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Ruth Pfister, Organ

*Please remain quietly seated during the postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.*

---

**\*Please stand if you are able.**