



THE GIFT OF GOD

Obedience and Sacrifice

Messiah Lutheran Church | Sunday, December 29, 2024

MESSIAH

THE GIFT OF GOD: OBEDIENCE AND SACRIFICE

We may naturally think that obedience and sacrifice is what God demands of us. Many manmade religions assume that one must offer countless sacrifices to appease the deity. God's law demands our perfect obedience.

The good news of Christmas is that obedience and sacrifice are not the things God demands, but gifts he gives through his Son, Jesus Christ! Jesus gave the gift of obedience as he perfectly obeyed his earthly parents and his Father in heaven as our Savior and substitute. Jesus was born not only to live, but also to die as the perfect sacrifice in our place. Today we marvel at the gift of God and his perfect obedience and sacrifice.



Connect with us!

We invite everyone to fill a connection card. Scan the code above or sign the guestbook in the lobby.

Welcome to Messiah

Restrooms are located in the fellowship hall. Exit the sanctuary turn right, and go through the double doors.

Quiet room. Children are always welcome in worship and we love hearing their little voices. However, if needed, a quiet room is located in the fellowship hall. Turn right when exiting the sanctuary and the quiet room will be on the left.

Ushers are available in the entry way to answer any additional questions you may have.

WE WORSHIP THE LORD

Call to Worship

We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Speak, O Lord

CW 633

- 1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy Word;
take your truth, plant it deep in us,
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all your purposes for your glory.
- 2 Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility;
test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
let their truth prevail over unbelief.
- 3 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,
truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built,
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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Prayer

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4–9

The Servant of the LORD spoke through the prophet Isaiah. As our substitute Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience and trust, even when his Father asked him to be the sacrifice for our sin.

⁴The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.
He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.
⁵The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.
⁶I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.
⁷Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,
I will not be disgraced.
Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.
⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!
Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!
⁹It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.
Who will condemn me?
They will all wear out like a garment;
the moths will eat them up.

Gospel

Luke 2:41–52

Even as a boy, Jesus was acting as our substitute, demonstrating obedience to the Heavenly Father and respect for God's holy Word.

⁴¹Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.
⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

⁴⁷Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

What Child Is This

CW 344

- 1 What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping,
whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Text: Public domain

Our Perfect Brother

¹⁰In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹²He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

What Grace Is This (10:30 a.m.)

CW 395

- 1 What grace is this! My Lord and King
has set his face to suffering.
My God eternal dies to bring
eternal life to me.
- 2 What grace is this—that very God
would stoop to lift a cross of wood
and walk a road of rock and blood,
a sinner’s road, for me.
- 3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
he yields to Pontius Pilate’s law
and lets the Roman hammers draw
a rush of blood for me.
- 4 What grace is this! Rude agonies!
With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.
The sinless Son bears each misdeed;
he pays for all, for me.
- 5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths
and gently laid in manger-trough,
he’s taken, dead, from wretched cross
and wrapped again for me.
- 6 What grace is this? How can it be?
He wears this raw humility
to lift me to eternity.
Such grace—sweet grace—for me.

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965

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Offering

We give thanks to the Lord with our offerings. If you are our guest today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. Members of Messiah give generously and freely out of thanksgiving to the Lord and in support of Messiah’s mission to preach the good news of Jesus Christ in Nampa and to the ends of the earth.



Give online.

*If you are
interested in
giving an offering*

Prayer and 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.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

CW 930

- 1 Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.

- 2 Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.

- 3 Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.

- 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
and give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you
and give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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SERVING AT WORSHIP

Pastor	Justin Gran
Accompanist	Rhonda Henke
Song Leader	Amy Hall
Cameras	Josh Bingaman
Projection	Jenny Wockenfuss
	Tonya Atwood
Sound/Lighting	Hayden Bingaman
Ushers	Steve Davis
	Ron Snyder & Barb Halen

LOOKING AHEAD

January 07	Afternoon Bible Class.....	1:30 p.m.
	Small Group Meeting.....	6:00 p.m.
January 08	Women's Bible Study.....	6:30 p.m.
January 13	Ministry Council Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.
January 14	Afternoon Bible Class.....	1:30 p.m.
	Admin Council Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.
	English Classes.....	6:30 p.m.
January 15	High School/Middle School Hangout.....	7:00 p.m.
January 21	Afternoon Bible Class.....	1:30 p.m.
	Small Group Meeting.....	6:00 p.m.
	English Classes.....	6:30 p.m.
January 22	Women's Bible Study.....	6:30 p.m.
January 27	Bible Information Class.....	6:30 p.m.
January 28	Afternoon Bible Class.....	1:30 p.m.
	English Classes.....	6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preschool family in need.

We have a preschool family in need of assistance with tuition. In the past, when such a need has arisen members of Messiah have generously sponsored a student. If you would like to help, please speak with Jenny Wockenfuss, our preschool director, for more information (contact information printed on the back page of bulletin).

Afternoon Bible Study on Revelation

Afternoon Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, January 7, at 1:30 p.m. Join us as we study the book of Revelation. Afternoon Bible study meets Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. throughout the year. The smaller group allows for deeper discussion as we dig into God's Word together.

English Classes Resume

A new session of English classes will begin Tuesday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. Thanks to all who helped make our first session of English classes a success! Current students are eager for another session and new registrations have already come in for our next session. If you would like to volunteer for this upcoming session, please speak with Pastor Gran or contact Kelly Heuer (kellyjheuer@gmail.com).

Looking for Ushers

Would you be interested in serving as an usher? You generally only serve 2 months out of the year. You can contact Rick Weigel at ramair16@gmail.com or call him at 208-870-8632. Please consider serving in this way. Thank you!





MESSIAH

Our Mission

Knowing Jesus, Sharing his Love.

Our Core Values

Servant Heart. *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23).*

A Caring Community. *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).*

Anchored in the Word. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).*

Adaptable. *"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).*

Outreach Focused. *"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15).*

Contact us

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WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

*Messiah is a member
of the Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran
Synod.*

Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Bible Class/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Kids' Church