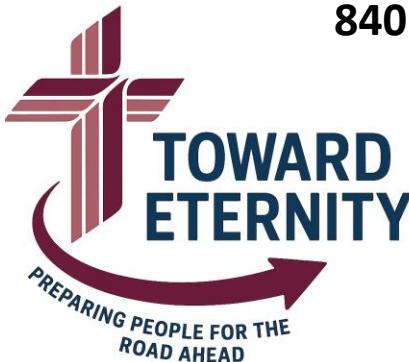




Before the Dawn, the Fire Heals
Malachi 4:1-2

*PREACHING AND TEACHING THE TRUTH TO HIS EXPANDING
KINGDOM, REACHING OUT TO ALL!*

Nov 16th, 2025



**The Lutheran Church & School of Messiah
840 N. 11th St. Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-245-2838**

The 2nd Last Sunday of the Church Year (November 16, 2025)

The Lord's Supper: If you are visiting with us or have not been instructed in the unique Lutheran teaching regarding the Lord's Supper, we kindly ask you to speak to the Pastor before communing. If you would like to come up for a blessing, feel free to do so. Simply cross your arms over your chest to let the Pastor know you would like a blessing. Thank you.

Offering: a basket is located at either end of the back pews. Or feel free to use the QR code

Pass Attendance/Visitor cards to center aisle. The ushers will pick them up after the offerings.

Announcements & Sharing of Christ's Peace

Confession and Absolution

Stand as you are able

513 The Clouds of Judgment Gather

sts. 1-2

1 The clouds of judgment gather, The Let
 2 A - rise, O true dis - ci - ples;

time is grow - ing late; Be so - ber and be
 wrong give way to right, And pen - i - ten - tial

watch - ful, Our judge is at the gate:
 shad - ow To Je - sus' bless - ed light:
 The judge who comes in mer - - cy, The
 The light that has no eve - ning, That
 judge who comes in might To put an end to
 knows no moon or sun, The light so new and
 gold - en, The light that is the but right.
 vil And di - a - dem the one.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Tune: Welsh

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000694

Tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 C **Amen.**

Exhortation

184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
 C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
 C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

185

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 98

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

²The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

4Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
5Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!
6With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!
7Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!
8Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together
9before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Kyrie

186

C Lord, have mercy upon us.
 Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Lord, have mercy upon us. *[Mark 10:27]*

Gloria in Excelsis

187

P Glory be to God on high:
C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
 We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
 O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy
 upon us.
 For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *[Luke 2:14;
John 1:29]*

Salutation and Collect of the Day [2 Timothy 4:22]

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 4:1-6

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

¹Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, ²and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. ⁴And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in yourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Handbells “Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word,” arr. McChesney

Stand as you are able

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:5–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁵While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ⁷And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. ⁹And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.”

¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹²But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. ¹³This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they

will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

*Creed [“Creed” comes from the Latin *credo*, which means “I believe.” From the time of Pentecost, the Ancient Christian Church has confessed a creed. The Early Christian Church has always believed, taught, and confessed these Scriptural teachings. This is why we are called a Creedal Church.]*

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Catechism Moment

[XVII: Christ's Return for Judgment]

**[W]e confess that Christ will appear at the consummation of the world
and will raise up all the dead, giving eternal life and eternal joys to the
godly but condemning the ungodly to endless torment with the devil.¹**

The Second Article: On Redemption

... [H]e will come to judge the living and the dead.

What is this? Answer:

**He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the
power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious
blood and with his innocent suffering and death. ... He has done all this
in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and
serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as
he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most
certainly true.²**

¹ Robert Kolb, Timothy J. Wengert, and Charles P. Arand, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000), 233.

² Robert Kolb, Timothy J. Wengert, and Charles P. Arand, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000), 355.

664 Fight the Good Fight

1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your
3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; His bound - less
4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He chang - es
strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way be -
mer - cy will pro - vide. Trust, and en - dur - ing
not who holds you dear; On - ly be - lieve, and
it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
fore us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.
you will see That Christ is all e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-75, alt.
Tune: The Methodist Harmonist, 1821, New York
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon *Before The Dawn, The Fire of Healing*

Malachi 4:1-2

Stand as you are able

Offertory [Psalm 51:10-12]

LSB 192

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering: a basket is located at either end of the back pews. Or feel free to use the QR code

Prayer of the Church [1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Service of the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper: If you are visiting with us or have not been instructed in the unique Lutheran teaching regarding the Lord's Supper, we kindly ask you to speak to the Pastor before communing. If you would like to come up for a blessing, feel free to do so. Simply cross your arms over your chest to let the Pastor know you would like a blessing. Thank you.

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus [Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]

LSB 195

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name
of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9-13]

196

**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.**

[The Conclusion for the Lord's Prayer is not in Matthew or Luke. The Conclusion is from 1Chronicles 29:10-11, King David's prayer in the assembly.]*

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

[Matthew 26:26-38; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25]

Pax Domini [Latin for Peace of the Lord; John 20:19]

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei [John 1:29]

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the
world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the
world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532-99; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832-1919, alt.

663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

Text: Johann Burkhard Freystein, 1671-1718; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Stand as you are able

Nunc Dimittis: [Latin for Now Dismiss—Song of Simeon; Luke 2:29-32]

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving [Psalm 107:1]

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
...
C **Amen.**

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction [Latin for God's "Good Speak" to you]

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
C **Amen, amen, amen.**

513 The Clouds of Judgment Gather

sts. 3-4

3 The home of fade - less splen - dor, Of -
4 Oh, hap - py, ho - ly por - tion, Re -
blooms that bear no thorn, Where they shall dwell as lief for all dis - tressed, True vi - sion of true
chil - dren Who here as ex - iles mourn; beau - ty, Re - fresh - ment for the the blest!
The Strive peace of all the that faith glo - ful, The Toil
calm of all the blest, In - vi - o - late, un -
now to gain that light; Send hope a - head to
fad - ing, Di - vin - est, sweet - est, best.
grasp it Till hope be lost in sight.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Tune: Welsh

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000694

Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Reflection Questions — “Before the Dawn: The Fire That Heals”

1. Where in my life am I believing the devil’s lie that I “don’t need God”?

Satan’s oldest trick is independence: “You can handle this. You can fix yourself.” Where is pride making me spiritually numb or self-sufficient?

2. When God’s holiness exposes my sin, do I run from Him or toward Christ?

Malachi says the same fire burns the proud and heals the humble. When conviction hits, what direction does my heart move?

3. What am I treating like a game that Jesus treats as life-and-death?

This is not child’s play.

Where have I become casual about temptation, complacent about my soul, or distracted from what matters most?

4. How is Jesus calling me to wake up—to stop drifting and start trusting?

Gen Z and Nones often describe life as “adrift,” “aimless,” or “numb.”

Where is Jesus calling me out of numbness and into the light of His healing?

5. If the “Sun of Righteousness” rose today, would I experience His fire as judgment or as healing? Why?

This is the heart of Malachi 4.

What would Judgment Day reveal about where my trust truly lies: in myself, or in Christ?



Offering Option: Scan



Pastor: Mike Redeker

Elders: Vic Lozano, John McDowell

DCE: Jonathan Peterson

Acolytes: Dylan Diaz, Harlan Diaz

Ushers: Brian Bruns, Jack Messenger,

Oliver Messenger, Ed Morris

Organist: Richard Scott

Greeters: Marsha Brodak, Karen Stoll

PRAYER REQUESTS— *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* Prayer requests for you, family with permission, or by a pastor, may be sent to admin@mlgj.org & sec@mlgj.org

Messiah's Prayer List

Continued health and healing: Chris

Ballard, Ralph Bickel, Mary Ann Bradshaw, Peter Chaney, Darlene & Darrel Clark, Lucy Clemmer, Linda Currey, John Feliciano, Carol Haller, Stephen Hildebrand, Jimmie Kenner and family, Emogene Kukuk, Carrie Lamgo, Jack Messenger, Jess Messenger, Tom Moore, Illona Rennels, Bob Rennick, Dorothy Roberts, Esther Schlauger, Karen Skoog, Bill & Deborah Stacy, Shane Walz, Romaine Webb, Jeff Vagneur, Ed Morris.

Fighting serious diseases: Sharon Breshears, Denise Currie, Courtney Grieger, Misty Hannah, Steve Kaskus, Shane Larsen, Anna Marie Mautz, Barb Moore, John Moseman Sr., Melani Perschbacher, Debra Proctor, Diana Walcher.

Continue to fight cancer: Ralph Bickel, Karen Caldwell, Tyler, Rhonda Covington, James Hamleton, Les Hawkins, Barbara Huff, Mike Jerome, Arthur Kluegel, Chuck Magner, Marshall Mead, Walter Netzke, Amy Poulin, Rick Reimers, Loretta Siilata, Skogen, Karen Shoda

Home Hospice Care: Kathleen Michels

Called Home:

Serving in the military: Jake Bradshaw, Jack Eberhard, Elijah and Rachael Messenger, Karen and James Moore, Caleb Schmidt, Brandon & Kayt Soine, Eric Stahly.

Messiah Lutheran members

Messiah Lutheran faculty & staff

Messiah Lutheran Church/School

High School Students

Mavericks of Messiah: *Continue to pray for the college students.*

Missionaries: Rev. Tim Norton to the Navajo Nation and **Rev Dr. Karl Heimer**, Ysleta, El Paso Texas.

Celebrating Birthdays:

17-Nov Shelly Lewis

18-Nov Josiah S. Stone

19-Nov Dennis L. Weisshaar

21-Nov Elijah A. Vrbas

22-Nov Ralph Seeley

Wedding Anniversaries:

Lowell and Arliss Bridgett (39)