

WELCOMING WORD *God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;

C: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: Turn again, O God of hosts;

C: look down from heaven, and see;

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;

C: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

OPENING HYMN #35 Hark, the Glad Sound!

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long; Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – The Candle of Peace

P: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that the Prince of Peace is coming.

Sung Response: #65 Silent Night, Holy Night (vs. 1 & 2)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C: With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 ¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 16:25-27 ²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38 ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

MESSAGE – Sunday School presents: **O Zoom All Ye Faithful**

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HYMN #194 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

All who believe and are baptized shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ, They are a new creation;
Through Christ's redemption they will stand
Among the glorious heav'nly band of ev'ry tribe and nation.

With one accord, O God, we pray, grant us your Holy Spirit;
Help us in our infirmity through Jesus' blood and merit;
Grant us to grow in grace each day
By holy Baptism, that we may Eternal life inherit.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths (*Nearby churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues may be named*). Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Love Incarnate, you are with us at the manger, on the cross, and on the resurrection road. Walk with all who live with depression, grief, or heartache in this season. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Ever-living God, you are Alpha and Omega. We thank you for all who sing now in the heavenly choir, especially those dear to us. Join our voices with theirs in praise of the Christ child. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: #627 My Lord, What a Morning

**Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.**

You'll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.



OUR SYMPATHIES & PRAYERS are with:

✠ The family & friends of Bernadine Johnson who passed away on December 10.

✠ The family & friends of David Chellevold who passed away on December 15.

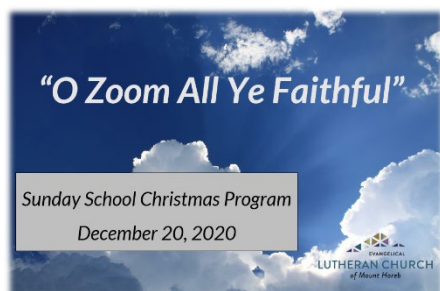
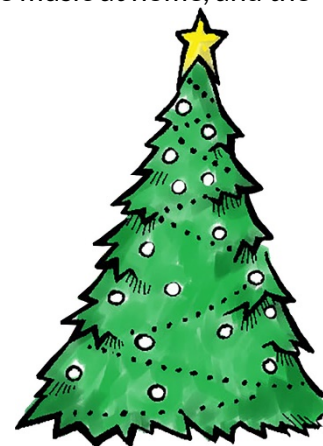
PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin)
Allen Olson (father of Ingrid Frank)
Delores Bryant
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Jeannie U'Ren
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Irene Brufat
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)

Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)
Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Makenzee Smith
Brock Howe
Mary Krantz
Ruth Ann Nemet
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Shirley Thompson
Glenn Thronson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS AT ELC will be held virtually this year. Our musicians are recording festive music at home, and the Benefit concert will stream live on **Sunday, December 20, 6:00pm on Facebook Live**. It will be available on ELC's website following the concert. Access it the same way we access the Sunday worship services <https://www.facebook.com/elcmthoreb>. We are requesting donations for our local Neighbors Helping Neighbors (formerly the Community Clothes Closet/MH Food Pantry). **Donations can be mailed to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, PO Box 196, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572**. Any checks sent to ELC with NHN on the memo line will be forwarded. We look forward to sharing our music in a unique way this season.



O ZOOM ALL YE FAITHFUL Thanks to our Sunday School youth who performed in our program today. Thank you to our parents and leaders for additional help throughout our Sunday School Zoom experiences.

Our cast:

Gabriel - Drake Ploessl

Mary - Evelyn Wyss

Angels - Josie Sailor

Chelsea Sailor

Willie Wyss

Otto Wyss

Caleb Gaulke

Leah Gaulke

Sammy Knudson

Violet Steel

Scarlett Plossel

Jax Plossel

Leaders: Intern Tamara, Jay & Deb Schneider, Brenda Martin

FUSE NIGHTS on ZOOM Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, Tuesday, December 22nd, at 7 pm for a Christmas Party. Invite your friends to join us.

BUCKY BOOKS - ONLINE ONLY (Great Christmas gift)- Bucky Books can still be available for online orders, through our link below till mid January. Please share the link with family and friends. Books are shipped directly to your home. Books sell for \$35 each. Profits help our youth with future summer programming. Thank you for continued support.*** ORDER ONLINE AT: <https://www.buckybook.com/evangelical-lutheran-church-mt-horeb>

SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM- Join us on ZOOM, 9:00 - 9:30 am, on Sundays. We will have a break from our ZOOM times on December 27 & January 3rd. We will resume our online time on January 10th.

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on ZOOM - Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM each week to catch up with our church family. Time to connect and see each other! Zoom link is emailed each week. If you need the link, contact Pastor John, Tamara or Brenda.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE - There will be no confirmation online classes on Dec 23 and Dec 30th. 7th & 8th graders will resume with classes on Zoom on Jan 6th at 7 pm.

ELC: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP AT THE CLOTHES CLOSET LATER IN THE MONTH

Members of ELC staff the Clothes Closet the last week in December and the entire month of January. If you might be able to help, click on the sign-up link on the elcmthoreb.org website under the "Serve" tab. Precautions like wearing masks and limiting the number of shoppers and volunteers in the facility are in place to keep both patrons and workers safe. If you would like more info, call or email Kate Hook (katehook63@gmail.com) or 608-327-9944)

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Luke 1:46b-55, Mary's song

Tuesday, Hebrews 8:1-13, Jesus as Mediator

Wednesday, 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Hannah's prayer

Thursday, Luke 2:1-20, The Christmas Story

Friday, Isaiah 9:1-7, The Reign of the Coming King

Saturday, John 1:1-14, The Word became Flesh

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: *"And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her." Luke 1:36-38* In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

- Have you ever felt called to do something for which you felt inadequate?
- Does the promise "nothing will be impossible with God" suddenly make everything clear, or does Mary just trust God?
- Can God still be trusted to make extraordinary things happen through our very ordinary lives?
- When's the last time you answered God's call to do something for others?

PRAY: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come with your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESS: May you feel the excitement of a new hope coming at Christmas. Amen!