

SUNDAY- DECEMBER 18, 2022-9:00 AM



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love
with all people.*

MINISTERS
PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
JOHN TWITON

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 18, 2022 | 4th Sunday of Advent | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *We begin today by hearing the lessons for this last Sunday of Advent: Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. Then we turn our attention to our Sunday School Christmas program "Not Sold in Stores".*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: #264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

READER: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David" (Luke 2:1,3-4). Today we remember the LOVE that Joseph held for God. For the sake of his family, he did what was necessary. When there was no room for Joseph or his family, he knew that God's LOVE would provide.

ALL: Dear God, as our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion, grant us the courage to share your love. Love for the unexpected challenge, Love for the vulnerable one. Love for the presence of God. Amen.

Reader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Love, the love of Christ that brings us all into God's Kingdom.

CHRISTMAS CAROL: #292 *Love Has Come*

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

L: The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 1

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill

what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: # 286 - *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
“NOT SOLD IN STORES”**

Cast: Jill Mitchell (Mom)

Bryson Mitchell (Son)

Jingle Sparkletoes

Jolly McSnowflake

Sara Zelle

Gabe Sadler

Zoe Stack

Peter Walton

Part 1 - Peace

Praise Team - “Prince of Peace”

Part 2 - Joy

Senior Choir - “What Child is This?”

Part 3 - Giving

Song Away in a Manger

-Sung by Sunday School children

Part 4 - Love

OFFERING

MUSIC - Praise Team “Heirloom”

OFFERTORY #186 “Create in me....”

THE PRAYERS (pg. 143)

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words:

“Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**”)

+THE LORD’S PRAYER (pg. 145) (right hand column)

SENDING

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: 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.

C: Amen.

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: #290 - “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God’s grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ’s love, we welcome you.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11TH, 2022

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

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Hannah's Prayer

Tuesday, Genesis 21:1-21, The Birth of Isaac

Wednesday, Genesis 37:2-11, Joseph's Dream

Thursday, Luke 1:46b-55, Mary's Song

Friday, Galatians 3:6-14, The Righteous Live by Faith

Saturday, Isaiah 9:2-7, The Coming King

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

**“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us” -- Matthew 1:21**

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

- Have you ever asked God for a sign? If not, why? If so, did you receive it? How did it change you? (Isa 7:11)
- Paul says he is "called to be an apostle." What calling could you name when you introduce yourself? (Rom 1:1)
- The prophet says the Messiah will be called Emmanuel, "God with us." How does the name speak to you? (Matt 1:23)

PRAY: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESS: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.