

**SUNDAY - DECEMBER 4, 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 4, 2022 | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent | 9:00 AM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / C = Congregation)

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

**WELCOMING WORD** *At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

**OPENING HYMN: #239 - Hark, the Glad Sound**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**Reader:** "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'" (Luke 2:8-10). Today we remember the peace that was brought to the anxious shepherds. They were isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God sent a word of Peace.

**All: Dear God, as we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to be people of peace. Peace in our hearts, Peace in our homes, Peace in our communities. Amen.**

**Reader:** On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the PEACE candle - the peace that is Christ Jesus.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL: #281 Silent Night (vs 1 & 2)**

## GREETING

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.**

**+ KYRIE pg. 138**

**+ HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 140 "This is the feast..."**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

**C: to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Congregational Songs - "Messiah"

### "Cornerstone"

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10** <sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised-on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his

people”;<sup>11</sup> and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**+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 3

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,<sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”<sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.<sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan,<sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?<sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance.<sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.<sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.<sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

**+C: Praise to you, O Christ**

**CHOIR ANTHEM - “Lift Up Your Heads”**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**+HYMN #249 - On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry**

+ **NICENE CREED** pg. 104

## **THE PRAYERS pg. 143**

(As the leader concludes each petition with the words:  
“Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: Hear our prayer.”)

**OFFERING - SONG - “Great Light of the World”**

**OFFERTORY - #182 *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***

## **MEAL**

+ **Offering Prayer: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

+**The Great Thanksgiving** pg. 144

+**Words of Institution**

+**The Lord’s Prayer** pg. 145 (right hand column)

**Communion Hymn: #272 - *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***

**Prayer after Communion: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **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.**

+**HYMN #631 - *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling (vs.1,2,3)***

#### **+DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2022**

**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,** Psalm 21, Thanksgiving for Victory

**Tuesday,** Romans 15:14-21, Paul's Confidence

**Wednesday,** Genesis 15:1-18, The Covenant with Abram

**Thursday,** Psalm 146:5-10, Praise for God's Help

**Friday,** 2 Peter 3:11-18, Promise of the Lord's Coming

**Saturday,** 1 Samuel 2:1-8, Hannah's Prayer

**TALK:** Consider some of these ideas:

**"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:**

**'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"**

**-- Matthew 3:3b**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

- Does Isaiah's vision of the "peaceable kingdom" apply to nations today? If so, how? If not, why? (Isa 11:6-7)
- The prophet says, "The earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD." What does this say about God's plan for salvation? (Isa 11:10)
- Why did John the Baptist preach such stern warnings? Do they apply to us today? Why or why not? (Matt 3:7-12)

**PRAY:** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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. Amen.