

**SUNDAY- DECEMBER 17, 2023-9:00 AM**



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**

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

MINISTERS  
PASTOR  
INTERIM

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
JOHN TWITON  
ZACH SMIRIS

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GRAPHICS BY *Cali Gorsuch*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday December 17, 2023 | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent | 9:00 AM

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

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

**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."*

**HYMN: #264 Prepare the Royal Highway**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

L: Long ago, the angel told Mary: God is with you.  
There is nothing to fear. And the man in the temple told her:  
There is nothing like this love you will feel.

**All: Jesus, our Brother and our Friend, we name you Love Incarnate. We say your coming makes God known anew – embracing, healing, forgiving, restoring.**

L: You come at Christmastime, and we remember you meet us every day, in each stranger and neighbor, if only we let you in.

**All: We light this candle, and we pray:  
May love light the world this Christmas.**

**CHRISTMAS CAROL: #292 Love Has Come**

## **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.**

## **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 would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the 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." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." <sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I 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 tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever 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?" <sup>8</sup>Now 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; <sup>9</sup>and 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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, <sup>11</sup>from 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. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

<sup>25</sup>Now 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 <sup>26</sup>but 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—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

## **+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)**

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

L: The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 1,

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38** <sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>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.

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**CHOIR ANTHEM - “O Holy Night!”**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

### **Bethlehem @ 9**

*A Christmas Play by Emily Martin 2012*

#### **CAST**

<b>BROADCASTER(S) -</b>	<b>Gabe Sadler; Leah Zelle</b>
<b>INTERVIEWER -</b>	<b>Zoe Stack</b>
<b>MARY -</b>	<b>Sarah Zelle</b>
<b>JOSEPH -</b>	<b>Caleb Gaulke</b>
<b>WISE MAN -</b>	<b>Jackson Corrigan, Dalton Corrigan, Addison Klaetsch</b>
<b>SHEPHERDS -</b>	<b>Scarlett Ploessl</b>
<b>ANGEL -</b>	<b>Ellie Woolard</b>
<b>ANGEL ASSISTANT -</b>	<b>Parker Woolard</b>
<b>INNKEEPER -</b>	<b>Ilana Hartenberger</b>

**WELCOME - Broadcasters for Bethlehem at 9**

**“The First Noel”, ELW# 300**

**Congregation Sings (SS children enter)**

**INTERVIEWS with Inn Keeper & Shepherd**

***“Do You Hear What I Hear”***

***Sung by the SS children***

**INTERVIEWS with Shepherd and Wisemen**

***“Away in a Manger”***

***Sung by the SS children***

**INTERVIEWS with Mary and Joseph**

***“The Magnificat”***

***spoken by Mary, (Sarah Zelle)***

**INTERVIEW with Mary, Joseph, Angel, and Angel’s Assistant**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

**+HYMN # 279 - *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**NICENE CREED - pg. 104**

**OFFERING - SONG - “Messiah”**

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

### **MEAL**

**+ Offering Prayer: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**+The Great Thanksgiving pg. 144**

**+Words of Institution**

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

**Communion Hymn: #256 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People***

**Prayer after Communion: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 #290 - Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

## **+DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2023**

**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,** John 1:1-14, The Word Became Flesh

**Tuesday,** Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60, The Stoning of Stephen

**Wednesday,** John 21:20-25, Jesus and the Beloved Disciple

**Thursday,** Matthew 2:13-18, The Escape to Egypt

**Friday,** Psalm 148, Praise for God's Glory

**Saturday,** 2 Peter 3:8-13, The Promise of God's Glory

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

**"For nothing will be impossible with God."**

**- Luke 1:37**

*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.*

- After all God did for David, God promises more. How do we also respond with gratefulness and humility? (2 Sam 7)
- How does your congregation share the secret of God's gracious salvation with the world? (Rom 16:25-27)
- We hear much impossibility today. How does this story of possibility ring true for you this season? (Luke 1:37)

**PRAY:** *Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**BLESS:** The God of peace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. Amen.