

# ***A Festival of Lessons and Carols***

*December 31st, 2023 - First Sunday of Christmas*



## **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**

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

MINISTERS  
PASTOR  
PASTORAL INTERN

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
JOHN TWITON  
ZACH SMIRIS

[ELC@MHTC.NET](mailto:ELC@MHTC.NET) - 608-437-501

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

**WELCOME**

**+OPENING HYMN**

**#283** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**+GREETING**

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

**Congregation:** And also, with you.

**+CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: At times, it can feel that we walk in darkness.

**Congregation:** we pray for your grace to light the darkness.

Leader: Where there is despair,

**Congregation:** we pray for your hope to light the darkness.

Leader: Where there is hatred,

**Congregation:** we pray for your forgiveness to light the darkness.

Leader: Where there is war,

**Congregation:** we pray for your love to light the darkness.

Leader: Where there is confusion,

**Congregation:** we pray for your peace to light the darkness.

Leader: Where there is injustice,

**Congregation:** we pray for your courage to light the darkness.

Leader: Where there is fear

**Congregation:** we pray for your joy to light the darkness.

Leader: In Christ Jesus, God comes among us as light shining in  
darkness. Today, we proclaim with voice and song, the light of Christ  
shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

**Congregation:** Come, Lord Jesus, may your light come into our  
world! Amen.

## **+PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Eternal Father,

**C: you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING** Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol                    **#276**    *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

## **SECOND READING** Micah 5:2-5a

Carol                    **#279**    *O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1 & 4)*

## **THIRD READING** Luke 1:26-38

Carol                    **# 272**    *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming (vs. 1 & 2)*

## **FOURTH READING** Luke 2:1-7

Carol                    **# 277**    *Away in a Manger*

## **FIFTH READING** 2:8-14

Carol                    **#275**    *Angels, From the Realms of Glory (vs 1 & 2)*

## **SIXTH READING** 2:15-20

Carol                    **#282**    *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (vs. 1 & 4)*

## **SEVENTH READING** Matthew 2:1-10

Carol                    **#300**    *The First Noel vs. 2 & 3*

## **EIGHTH READING** Matthew 2:11-15

Carol                    **#300**    *The First Noel vs. 4 & 5*

## **NINTH READING** John 1:1-14

Carol                    **#295**    *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

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

## **OFFERING**

+Offertory                *#288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

## **+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

## **+LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

## **BLESSING**

Leader: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Leader: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Leader: And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN                      #267 Joy to the World**

**DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Congregation 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.*

***Happy  
New Year!***