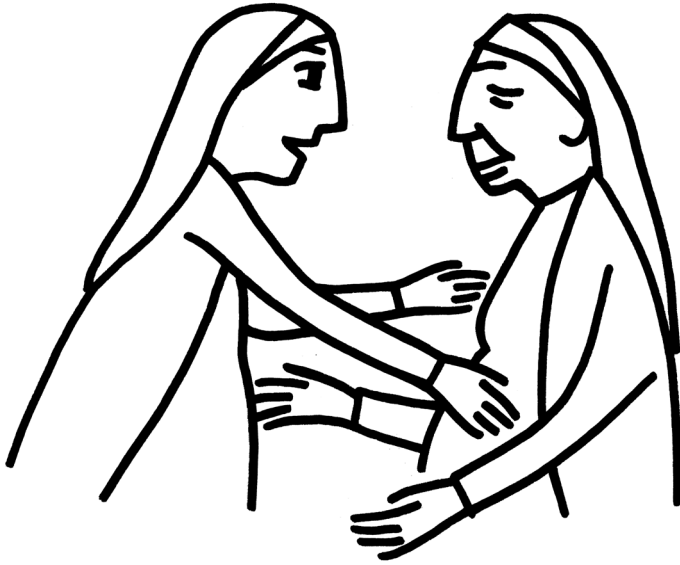


SUNDAY- DECEMBER 22, 2024 -9:00 AM



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

ELC@MHTC.NET - 608-437-5012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 22, 2024 | Fourth Sunday of Advent | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

*You are encouraged to use the time during the Prelude
for quiet reflection and preparing for worship.*

WELCOMING WORD *Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight— "we proclaim the Lord's death."*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

272 - Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (vs 1-2)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

L: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O [fill in name of church or community], from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

C: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

L: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

272 - Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (vs 3-4)

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. 139 *“Glory to God in the Highest...”*

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 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.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: *How Far Is It to Bethlehem
We Have Seen the Messiah*

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me, one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” ⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 1,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

+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,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"Silent Night"*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

"Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly" (insert)

+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105

+SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

MUSIC - *Born in Bethlehem* – by Praise Team

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:

251 - *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

+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 22, 2024

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

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 113, God the Helper of the Needy

Tuesday, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20), The Christmas Story

Wednesday John 1:1-14, In the Beginning

Thursday, Matthew 23:34-39, The Lament over Jerusalem

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

Saturday, Matthew 2:13-18, The Escape to Egypt

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,” -- Luke 1:46

Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

- Elizabeth and Mary experienced unexpected blessing. When have you had the same? (Luke 1:39-45)
- How does the God who cares for “the little clans of Judah” care for you? (Micah 5:2)
- The lament of Psalm 80 rings as true today as ever. What lands or people come to mind with such suffering?

PRAY: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever. Amen.

Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly



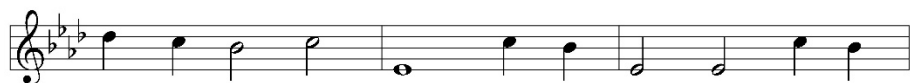
1 Sing of Mar - y, pure and low - ly, vir - gin
2 Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, in the
3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; glo - ry



moth-er, wise and mild. Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, who be -
home at Naz - a - reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry love en -
be to God the Son; glo - ry be to God the Spir - it; glo - ry



came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of fair - est moth-er, God the
dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the love he gave her, though he
to the Three in One. From the heart of bless - ed Mar - y, from all



Lord who came to earth, Word made flesh, our ver - y
went forth from her side, forth to preach, and heal, and
saints the song as - cends, and the church the strain re -



broth - er, takes our na - ture by his birth.
suf - fer, till on Cal - va - ry he died.
ech - oes un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

Text: Roland F. Palmer, 1891-1985

Music: RAQUEL Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1944-1992