

SUNDAY- DECEMBER 8, 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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 8, 2024 | Second 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 Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

"Lift Up Your Heads" (vs 1 & 2) (insert)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

L: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

C: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

L: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

"Lift Up Your Heads" (vs 3 & 4) (insert)

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 our hearts, Lord God,

C: 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.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS: *Prepare the Way
Messiah*

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full

insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

+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 3,

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Like a Dove"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

249 - On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105

+SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

MUSIC - Prepare the Way - 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:

264 - Prepare the Royal Highway

+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 8, 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 126, A Harvest of Joy

Tuesday, Isaiah 19:18-25, Egypt, Assyria, and Israel Blessed

Wednesday Isaiah 35:3-7, The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

Thursday, Isaiah 12:2-6, Thanksgiving and Praise

Friday, Amos 8:4-12, God's Judgment on Injustice

Saturday, Amos 9:8-15, Destruction and Restoration

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.’

– Luke 3:4b

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

- When have you seen or experienced new life in yourself or someone else? (Luke 3:6)
- Can you think of a time you were a messenger who prepared the way for good news? (Mal 3:1)
- If “thoughts and prayers” seem trite, who might you consider telling “I hold you in my heart”? (Phil 1:7)

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.

Lift Up Your Heads

TRURO. L. M.
With spirit

THOMAS WILLIAMS
Psalmody Evangelica, 1789

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates, Be - hold the
2. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the

King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and

draw - ing near, The Sav - iour of the world is here.
hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! A-men.

3 Fling wide the portals of your heart,
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

4 Redeemer, come! with us abide;
Our hearts to thee we open wide,
Let us thy inner presence feel,
Thy grace and love in us reveal. Amen.

Georg Weissel, 1590-1635
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78