

SUNDAY- DECEMBER 15, 2024-9:00 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

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
JOHN TWITON

ELC@MHTC.NET - 608-437-5012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 15, 2024 | 3rd 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 *Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

HYMN: # 263 - Savior of the Nations, Come (vs 1-2)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

L - No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

C - **Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

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Light the third (pink) candle of the Advent wreath.

HYMN: # 263 - Savior of the Nations, Come (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.**

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 SONG: "Bethlehem Highway"

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

+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 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹ 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.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM: “In the Bleak Midwinter”

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

“Christmas Play by Play”

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SONG: “Christmas Play by Play”

CAST:

Co-Captain 1 - Zoe Stack

Co-Captain 2 - Caleb Gaulke

Joseph - Jackson Corrigan

Mary - Maria Van Ooyen

Narrator 1 - Hannah Schulenberg

Narrator 2 - Gabe Sadler

Angel 1 - Sarah Zelle

Angel 2 - Samantha Knudson

Angel 3 & 6 - Leah Gaulke

Angel 4 - Ivy Christiansen

Angel 5 - Sophia Christiansen

Shepherd 1 - Natalie Schulenberg

Shepherd 2 - Evelyn Eggers

Shepherd 3 - Dalton Corrigan

Wiseman 1 - Leah Zelle

Wiseman 2 - Ilana Hartenberger

Wiseman 3 - Sedona Vondra

SONG: *"Best Day of Your Life"*

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

BENEVOLENCE PRESENTATION -

Cecilia Hook, Young Adults in Global Mission

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: *"Light of the Stable"*

OFFERTORY - #182 *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

MEAL

+ Offering Prayer: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. Amen.

+Words of Institution

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

Communion Hymn: # 282 - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Prayer after Communion: Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, 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 # 239 - Hark, the Glad Sound

+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.