



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONAL CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE 8 PM

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

MINISTERS  
PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
KAREN HOFSTAD

# Family Christmas Eve – 8pm

**PRELUDE** Ruth & Paul Heinecke and Diane Dangerfield

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING CAROL** O *Come All Ye Faithful*” (vs. 1-3) #283

## **CHRISTMAS LITANY**

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

**He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

**With the heavenly host we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven.”**

In Christ, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.

**With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

**CAROL** “Go, Tell it on the Mountain” #290

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. **Amen.**

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✙ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **1<sup>st</sup> READING – Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**CAROL “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (v. 1-2, 4)**

**#282**

**PSALM – Psalm 96** (We will read responsively.)

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**

Declare God’s glory among the nations and God’s wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> READING – Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**CAROL**

***“Joy to the World” (vs. 1-2, 4)***

**#267**

## **GOSPEL READING – Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. <sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were

amazed at what the shepherds told them,<sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

**CAROL**                    *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*                    **#289**

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**CAROL** *"Love Has Come"*                    **#292**

## **THE PRAYERS**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

## **THE PEACE**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERING RESPONSE** *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*                    **#276**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **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.

## **COMMUNION**

## **COMMUNION SONGS**

*"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord Are We"* (vs. 1-3)                    **#286**

*"All My Heart Rejoices Again"* (vs. 1-3)                    **#273**

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1-14**

## **CANDLE-LIGHTING**

*(Please tip unlit candles to receive the flame.)*

### **CAROL "Away in a Manger"**

**#277**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER by Robert Louis Stevenson**

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

### **CAROL "Silent Night"**

**#281**

### **BLESSING**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherd, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*(Please extinguish your candles))*

### **DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*If you would like more information about ELC of Mount Horeb  
please fill out the visitor cards in the pew pads  
which are passed during offering.*