



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
KAREN HOFSTAD



ELC@MHTC.NET - 608-437-5012

From Heaven Above: A Service for Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25, 2025 10 am

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

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* ELW 288

DIALOGUE

Who are these angels who come to earth,
bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?

Who are these shepherds who run to see,
and worship the babe on bended knee?

Who is this child, so small, so slight,
of whom the angels sang that night?

Who is this king, a manger his throne,
who humbles himself to make us his own?

Who is this God who sends a Son
into our midst, the promised one?

GREETING AND PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Incarnate God, on this Christmas Day we give you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness. Grant that we, like the angels over Bethlehem, may sing your praises in our hearts and lives.
Amen.

WHO ARE THESE ANGELS WHO COME TO EARTH?

Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ELW 270

WHO ARE THESE SHEPHERDS WHO RUN TO SEE?

Lesson: Luke 2:15-20

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” ELW 276

WHO IS THIS CHILD, SO SMALL, SO SLIGHT?

Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol: “What Child is This” ELW 296

WHO IS THIS KING, A MANGER HIS THRONE?

Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol: "Away in a Manger" ELW 277
WHO IS THIS GOD, WHO SENDS A SON?

Lesson: John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol: "Love Has Come" ELW 292

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Pastor Karen Hofstad

CHOIR *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

(Piano: Barb Underwood; Violin: Eric Albrecht)

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.

You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.

You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.

You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Eric Albrecht

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 SONG *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"* ELW 282

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Send us out into your world to proclaim with joy:

Glorify to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given. Amen.

BLESSING

May the God who comes from heaven above be born in your hearts and lives this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *"Joy to the World"* ELW 267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Christ is Emmanuel, God with us.

Thanks be to God.

Merry Christmas