

SUNDAY- DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 -9:00 AM

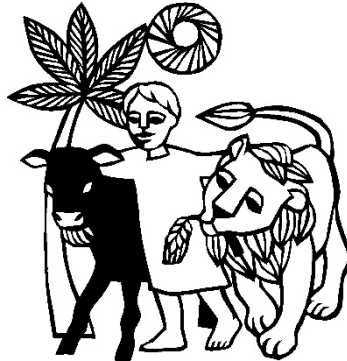
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

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

WELCOMING WORD

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction.

From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.



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.

MINISTERS
PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
KAREN HOFSTAD



ELC@MHTC.NET - 608-437-5012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 7, 2025 | Second Sunday of Advent | 9:00 AM

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

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #239 Hark, the Glad Sound!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ⲥ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.

L: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

GREETING

+KYRIE pg. 147

+HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 149 *"This is the feast ..."*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS *Messiah*

I Believe in Jesus

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

+ACCLAMATION pg. 151

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

+L: The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 3.

+C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?” ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume 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. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord.

+C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM Arise, Your Light Has Come

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Pastor Karen Hofstad

MESSAGE Pastor Karen Hofstad

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
(vs. 1, 3, 5)

+NICENE CREED pg. 104

+THE PRAYERS pg. 152

The leader concludes each petition with the words:

“Lord in your mercy...”

The people respond: Hear our prayer.”

+SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING BELL CHOIR Christmastime

+OFFERTORY #182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

+OFFERING PRAYER

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING pg. 152

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+THE LORD'S PRAYER pg. 154 (right hand column)

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #487 What Feast of Love
#248 People, Look East (vs. 1, 3, 4)**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(vs. 1, 2, 6, 7)**

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

**"I am God's child, deserving of love and respect, and God
will use me to change the world."**

*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.*

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

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, Psalm 126, A Harvest of Joy

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

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

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

Friday, Amos 8:4-12, Warning for Ignoring the Poor

Saturday, Amos 9:8-15, God's Judgement

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 3:4

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, O Lord, 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: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.