

LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

2 Advent

December 8, 2024 + 9:30 am

Prepare the way of the Lord

Learn Live and Share God's Word

The Lord is a refiner's fire who warms and molds us

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 prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus 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 the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

GATHERING MUSIC

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

arr. M. Thompson

At the sound of the bell please stand if you are able and face the worship leaders.

ENTRANCE HYMN

"All Earth is Hopeful"

(hymn) ELW 266

in English

**1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**

- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

GREETING

- P** From the One who was, and who is, and who is to come:
Grace and peace be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER AT THE ADVENT WREATH

by Mt Carmel households

A The Spirit and the church cry out:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A All those who await his appearance pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

L We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. In this second week of waiting, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be

light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen.

This Sunday's candle is lit during the singing of the Advent hymn.

ADVENT HYMN

(hymn) ELW 240

“Light One Candle”

stanza 1 - 2

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.**
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us 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.

C Amen.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

...Word of God, come down to us.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Luke 1:68-79 (ICEL)

*In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (1:78)*

The canticle of Zechariah or Benedictus is one of the three canticles (Biblical songs) in the first two chapels of Luke, the others being the "Magnificat" (canticle of Mary) and the "Nunc dimittis" (Lord, now let your servant...). The

Benedictus was the song of thanksgiving uttered by Zechariah at the circumcision of his son, John the baptizer. The canticle received its name from its first words in Latin ("Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel", "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel"). It is sung daily in liturgical morning prayer (Matins).

A Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**C You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

A Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

**C to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

A This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**C free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

A And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**C to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

A In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**C to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow
of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how

tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

Paul writes to the church at Philippi:

I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I 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. ⁷It 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. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

...Word of God, come down to us.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 3 p. 142

The assembly stands and welcomes the gospel, singing:

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Prepare the way of the Lord

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, 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.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ELW 264

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

stanzas 1, 2, 4

**1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

- 2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain**

- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: Refrain**

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

A We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

ADVENT CONFESSION

P As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sin
and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

silence is kept for reflection

P I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed.
Therefore, I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon,
forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

P Amen.

C I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed.
Therefore, I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon,
forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.

A Awaiting the promised light,

let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

each petition concludes:

...Come Lord Jesus.

C Bless us with your presence.

finally:

P ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

"Lo, How a Rose"

arr. Baker/Koln

Presentation of the Gifts

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

C God of abundance,

**we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.**

**Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

The assisting minister pours out the wine.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P ...and join their unending hymn:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1789)

P As Christ teaches, we pray:

C 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.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Communion

“Lamb of God”

setting 3; page 146

silence for reflection concludes the communion

**C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin
of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take
away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread
and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome
Christ into our lives, and send us forth to be your people in
the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus
Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

We are sent to be God's hands in the world

BLESSING

P May God direct your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(hymn) **ELW 239**

“Hark, the Glad Sound”

stanzas 1, 3, 4

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.**
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.**
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.**

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

DISMISSAL

Please face the worship leaders for the dismissal.

A Go in peace. Prepare the way.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Hark The Glad Sound”

arr. Doddridge

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Audrey Erickson, *assisting minister*

Nancy Felicetta, *reader*

Gurneys, *Advent wreath household*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Chancel Choir

Erik Ruser, Matti Gurney, *technology*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Doug and Linda Jones, *ushers*

Al Erickson, *bus ministry*

Karl Breitbarth, Diane Langer, *coffee hosts*

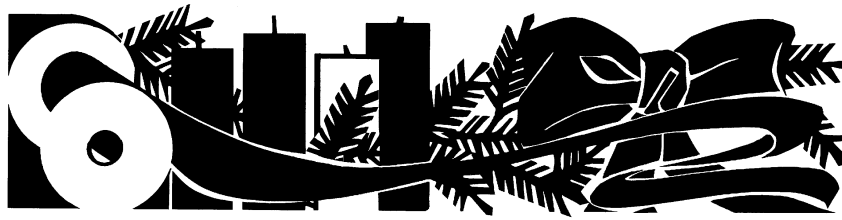
Chancel flowers this weekend are given by Janell Wampler in honor of everyone with December birthdays.

If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for pie & coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.

This service is being streamed live on the internet.

WELCOME



Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

MT. CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

learn, live and share God's word

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