

# Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 16, 2018 Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church West Columbia, SC 9:00am Worship

# **WELCOME**

We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church! If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME, If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK. Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. We offer a digital bulletin that you can download on you tablet at www.mthlc.com/bulletin.html. A nursery is provided for younger children should you want to use it at any time. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome...

**PRE-SERVICE**Make Me A Channel of Your PeaceSebastian Temple<br/>(Chancel Handbells)

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin. Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics.** 

PRELUDE

We Wait

Schram (Chancel Choir)

We are silent as we prepare our hearts for worship.

# THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **†** one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,

the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. *Amen*.

Please turn to face the cross at the entrance of the sanctuary. As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sinfulness and asking for God's forgiveness.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

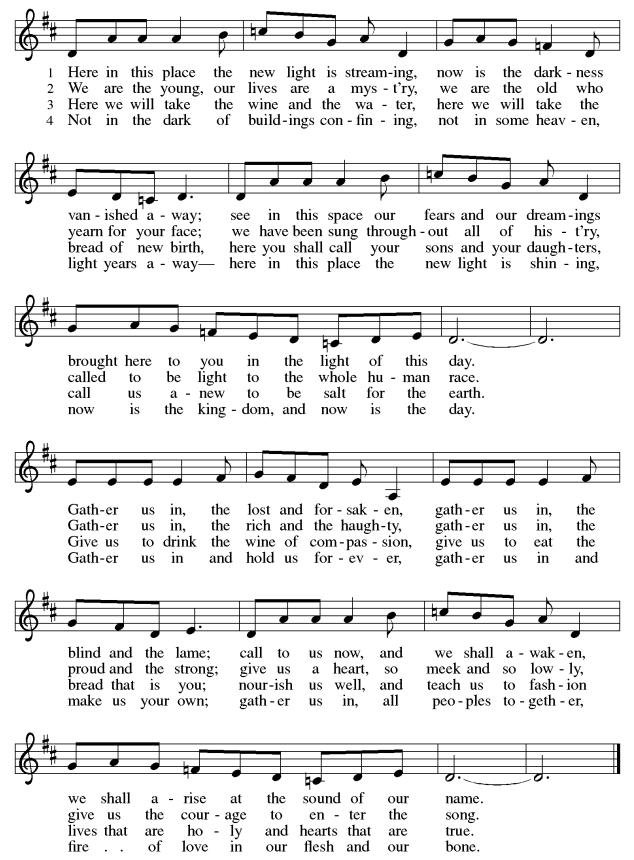
To you, O God, we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of **†** Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. *Amen.* 

As the cross passes your pew, please turn your bodies and worship attention to the front of the sanctuary.

#### Hymn

Gather Us In

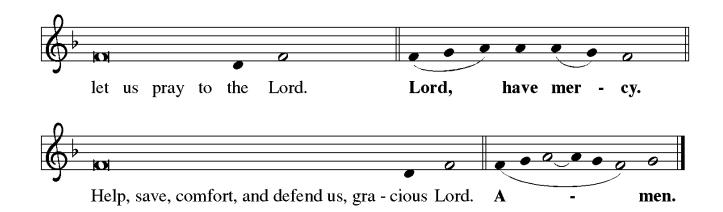


### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *And also with you.* 



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

#### We pray together.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

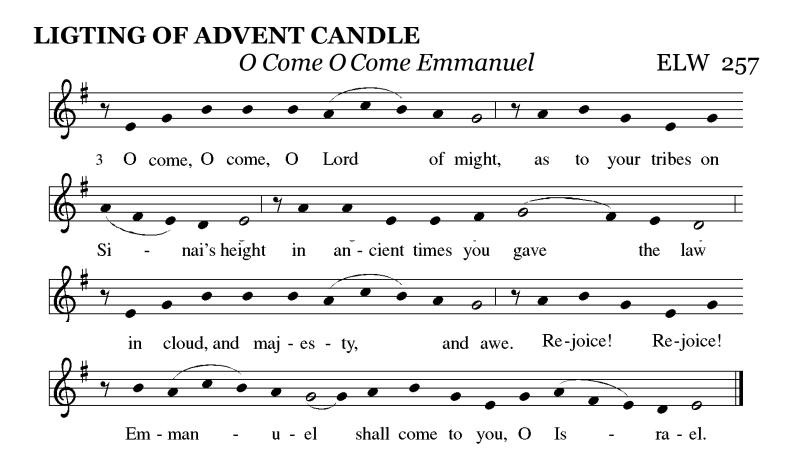
We sit.

# THE WORD

#### **READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

A reading from Zephaniah. <sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>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 <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.* 



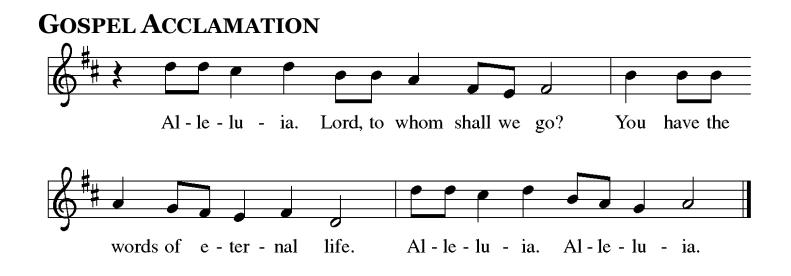
# **READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

A reading from Philippians.

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

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.* 

We stand.



#### GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. *Glory to you, O Lord.* 

<sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>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."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were

questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.* 

We sit. CHILDREN'S SERMON

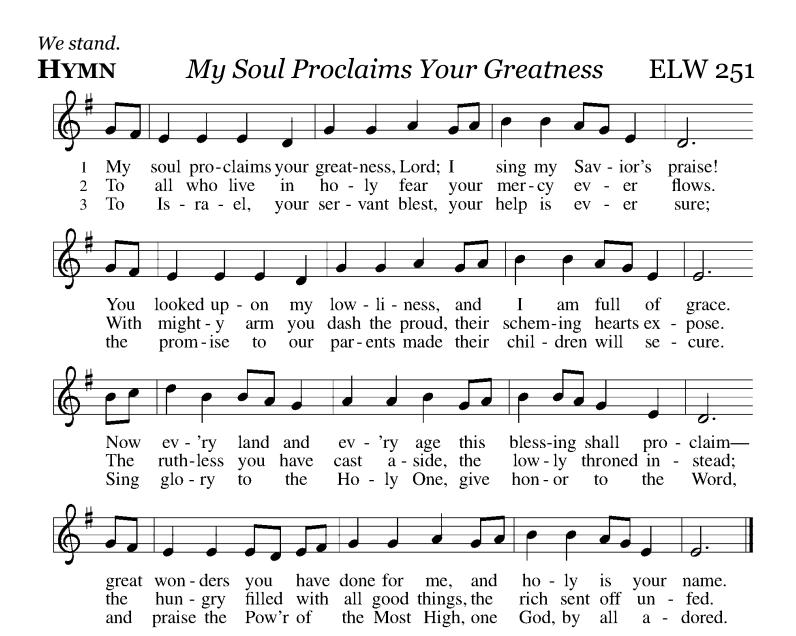
#### **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation.

Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

MESSAGE

Holy Spirit and Fire ?!?



# **INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL**

You have been elected by this congregation to positions of leadership. Among the council, you have elected the officers of Mt Hermon Lutheran Church

To these positions among you.

We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

- To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do longrange planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, education, evangelism, community, property and stewardship.
- To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, or employment.

- To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- To promote a climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

#### **2019 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

President	Terry
Vice-President	Ronr
Secretary	Alyse
Treasurer	Emil
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Anne

Terry Swygert Ronnie Fulmer Alyson Price Emily Morris Annette Price

#### **2019 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

(2019) Jamie Addison, Emily Morris, Al Stevens, Terry Swygert

- (2020) Ann Addy, Diane Boulware, Alyson Price, Devona Price
- (2021) Bryce Addy, Robin Ellisor, Ronnie Fulmer, Joey Koon, Marion Leaphart

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

# Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected? *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Congregation stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? *We will, and we ask God to help us.* 

*Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.* I now declare you installed as council members and officers of Mt Hermon Lutheran Church. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

# **APOSTLES' CREED**

Together as newly installed leaders we lead the congregation in confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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.

#### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you.* 

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

We sit.

# THE MEAL

#### OFFERING

We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may make a contribution any time by visiting **www.mthlc.org** and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship.

Please also take this time in worship to complete the pew registers.

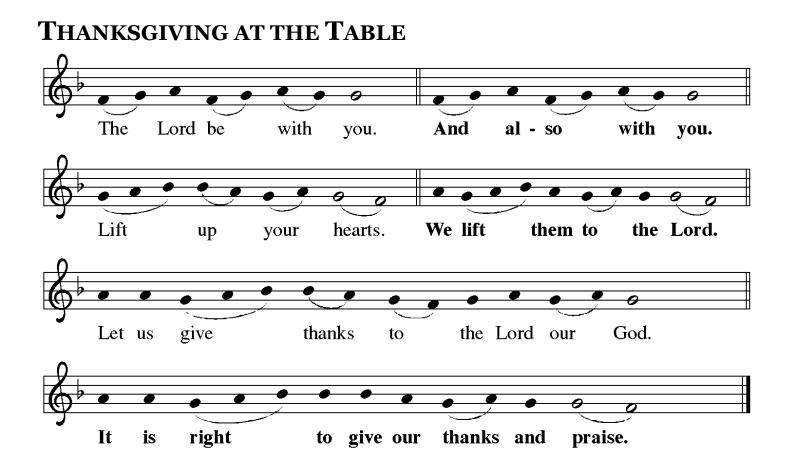
#### **O**FFERING



#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

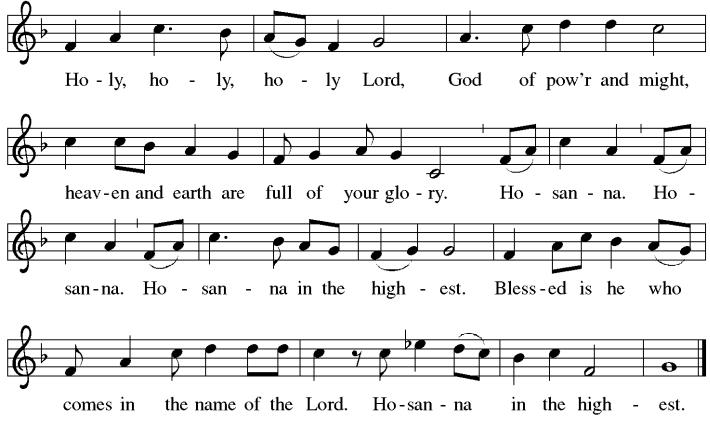
We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together. **God of abundance**,

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 and Lord. Amen.



#### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

In the night in which he was betrayed...

...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.* 

O God of resurrection and new life. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. *Come, Holy Spirit*.

Reveal yourself in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. *Come, Holy Spirit*.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy Father, Eternal Word, Spirit of Peace, one God, now and forever. *Amen.* 

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: 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.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION** God fills the hungry with good things.

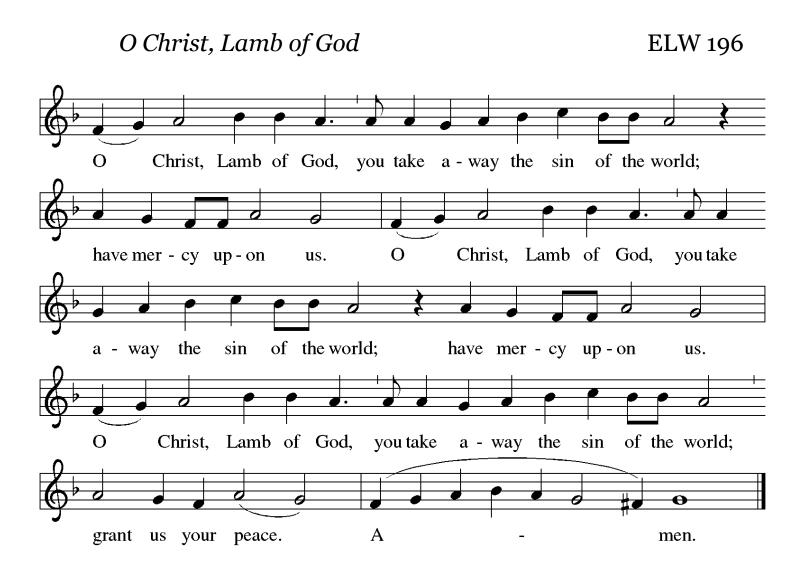
#### Taste and see that the Lord is good.

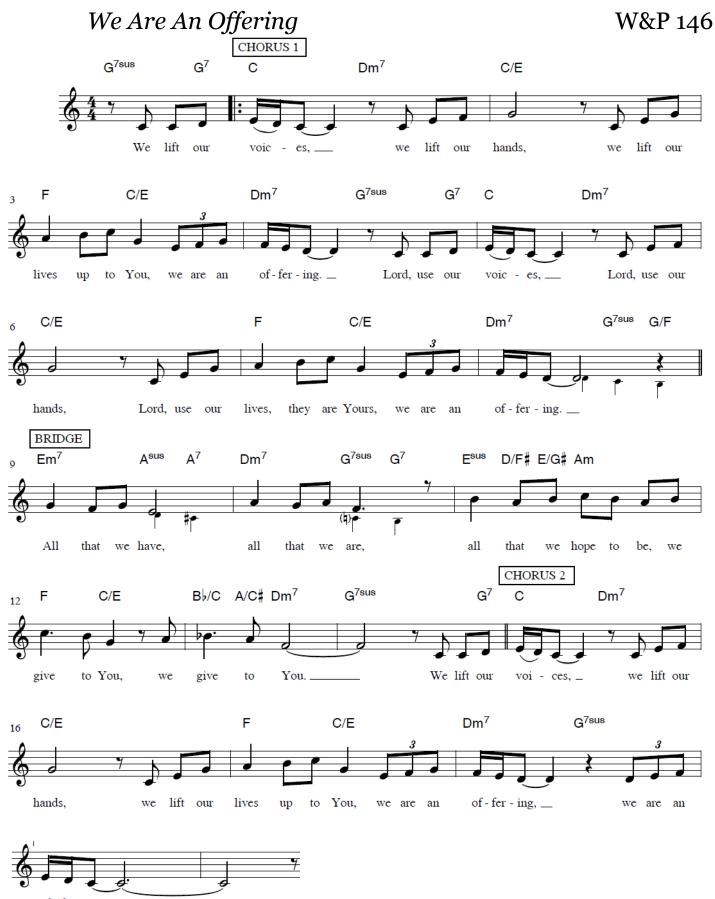
#### We sit.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

All are welcome to this Meal. Come down the center aisle to receive the bread. (gluten free wafers are also available.) Then move to the chalice (cup) of wine, dip the bread in the wine. Return to your pew by the side aisle. Those not communing, may cross their arms across their chest and come forward for a blessing. Those who desire communion but who are not able to come forward will be communed first in their pew.

#### **MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**





of - fer - ing. \_\_\_\_\_

We Bow Down

W&P 149



We stand.

#### BLESSING

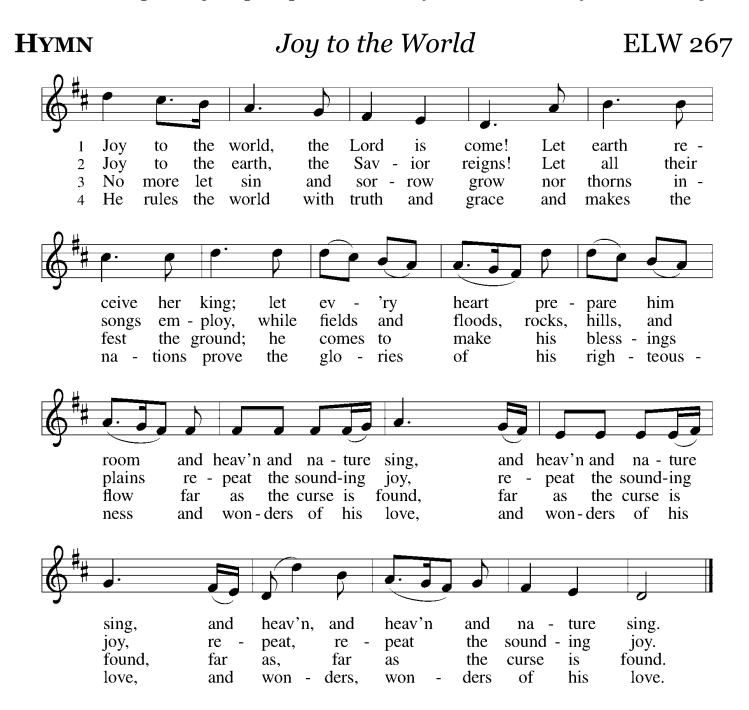
May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. *Amen.* 

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** We pray together. Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

# THE SENDING

#### BLESSING

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. *Amen.*  As the cross passes your pew, please turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary.



#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World* Arr. Hildebrand

# **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** that beautify our sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Richard Earl Sease's birthday by Mom and Dad with love.

The flowers placed on the organ console are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our 50th Wedding Anniversary by Mary and Wynne Price

**Advent Service** held every Wednesdays through Advent. Service at 6:35pm followed by a meal in the fellowship hall.

**Thank you** for helping to make a difference in the life of a child by participating in the Free Garage Sale & Angel Tree!





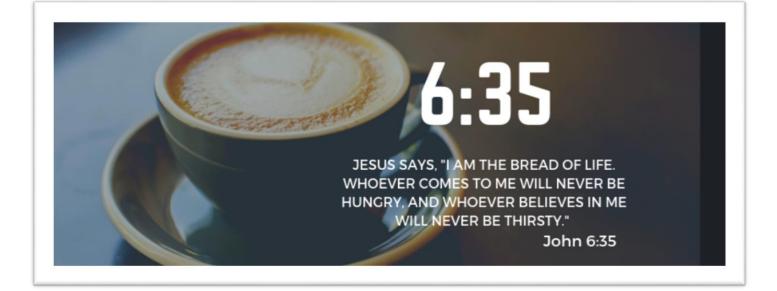
**Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for information for the January Newsletter.

# LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Christmas can be painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member; it may be a time that has always been difficult.

For these reasons, Our Saviour, Mt. Hermon, Mt. Tabor, and Faith are offering a special "Longest Night" service on December 21 at 4:00 pm at Our Saviour Lutheran Church.

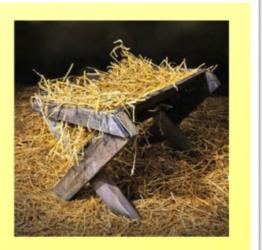
Come and join us for a service of Scripture, music, communion and prayers for healing that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle—and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.



# **Christmas** Eve

COME AND WORSHIP DECEMBER 24

6:30 MUSIC 7:00 CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP



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	Serving Today* S	erving December 23th*	
Greeter:	Fran Bouknight	Cindy Price	
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Skyler Miller	Jackson Price	
Acolytes:	Karly Addy	Mitch Stevens	
	Joshua Koon	Tanner Addy	
Lector:	Scottie Marsh	Jamie Addison	
Communion Asst.			
	Joel Price Sr.	Bryce Addy	
	Trudy Bouknight	Wynne Price	
	Perry Bouknight	Angie Hydrick	
Children's Sermon:			
	Diane Boulware	Pastor Gina	
Nursery:	Grace Roof, Jamie Allen &	& Grace Roof, Larry Amick &	
	Alyson Price	Kay Bryant	
Food Pant	<b>ry:</b> <u>Dec. 19</u>	<u>Dec. 26</u>	
	Angie Hydrick	Diane Boulware	

#### Serving in December\*

#### Council Representative: Alyson Price

Altar Guild: Angie Hydrick, Jennifer Price, Linda Waters-Hamilton

**Tabulators:** Larry Amick, Kay Bryant, Doris Carver, Jane Sexton, Mary Frances Sease

#### Ushers: Ronnie Fulmer, Fran Bouknight, Ricky Bouknight, Cindy Price

\* If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to cover for you and notify the church office of the change. If you have a responsibility in worship, please arrive no later than 8:45am

## **OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER**

#### Homebound and Care Facilities

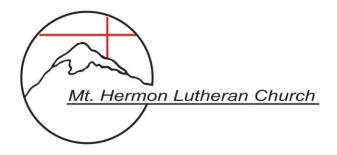
Nell Buff, *Lexington Place* Pearl Dennis, *HarborChase* Gloria Mathias, *Home* Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*  Margie Hook, *Home* Lib Swygert, *Lowman Home* Lois Watson, *Lexington Place* Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens* 

#### Members in Special Need of Prayer

Alberta Berry Clifton Addy Mary Frances Sease Lila Catt Hazel Bockus Mary Frances Hamilton Perry Bouknight Lynwood Crout Connie Bucknam Georgianna Gray

#### Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Kathryn & Don Bergeron, (Bucknam) Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease* Scott Coleman (Thurman) Jim & Vickie Burcham (Thurman) W.A. "Buddy" Keller (Marion & Cyndi) Nellie Gantt (Mary Price) Ben Nicholson (Karen Nicholson) Jimmy Mills (Tommy Mills) Tressa Oswalt (Angie Hydrick) Sue Reeves (Thurman) Linda Rea (Marion & Cyndi) Jason Thurman (Thurman) Richie Tallent (Danny Scott) Todd Hewitt (Missy Addy) Evelyn Newman, *friend of Ricky and Fran Bouknight* Charlotte Martindle family (Kelli Mills) Kaiden Robinson (Kelli Mills) Rose Little, *daughter of Marie Kleckley* Mandy McLemore *friend of Amanda Boyd* Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances* 



3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169 office@mthlc.org 803.794.6430 Monday – Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* 803.951.3784 Ruthie Brannen, *Cantor* Brittany Mailleue, *Parish Administrator*  PastorGinaMetze@gmail.com ruthiebrannen@gmail.com office@mthlc.org

#### Vice President, Terry Swygert Treasurer, Emily Morris Sextons, Ricky Bouknight, Allison & Terry Swygert

#### Sunday, December 16 Third Sunday of Advent

Financial Secretary, Annette Price

**CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS** 

President, Danny Scott

Secretary, Alyson Price

9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School 6:35 pm Pray

# Monday, December 17

10:00am Membership

### Tuesday, December 18

1:00pm Arthritis Chair Class 2:00pm MAT/ Pilates Class

- 2:00pm MAI/ Pllates Clas
- 6:00pm Handbells
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir
- 6:35pm Pray
- Wednesday, December 19 6:35pm Advent Service
  - 7:00pm Advent Meal

#### Thursday, December 20

1:00pm Arthritis Chair Class

2:00pm MAT/ Pilates Class

#### Friday, December 21

4:00pm Longest Night Service at Our Savior Lutheran Church

