THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

We Are Waiting and Giving Witness December 17, 2023



They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even . . . whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

John 1:25-27

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Sunday Service - 9:30am Sunday Bible Study – after Service Wednesday Bible Study – 10:30am (313) 565- 9445 5323 Southfield Allen Park, MI 48101

Rev. Paul Pollatz

(734)765-3468

Welcome! Members and Guests

We are blessed to have you here today. Please fill out the Guest/Member Attendance Card located in the pew rack in front of you. Guests please include your full address, zip code, and phone number. The cards will be collected by the ushers early in the service. Prayer Requests cards are available in the pew racks and should be handed to the ushers when the attendance cards are collected.

Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which Jesus' body and blood are given in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-30). When we receive the Holy Communion at a church, we are making a public statement that we agree with the teachings of that church (1 Corinthians 10:14-18). The Bible cautions us against receiving the body and blood of Christ in a manner that is spiritually harmful (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Supper those who have been instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

Large Print Bulletins

Large print worship guides are available at the ushers' stand.

Listening Devices

Listening devices are available; our ushers will be glad to assist you in signing one out for today's service.

Pew Cushions

Pew cushions are available; our ushers will be glad to get them for you.

Wheelchair Accessible Seating

Wheelchair seating is located in the fifth row from the front of the church on the left and right side of the center aisle.

Church Nursery

Our Nursery is located in the Parlor, which is the first room next to the stained glass doors. The worship service can be heard in this room. The ushers can direct you to this room.

Our Divine Service, & Bible Studies

Our Divine Service is held on Sundays at 09:30 a.m. Bible Study is held on Sundays after Service and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Our Bible studies are held Sep-May.

Our Vision Statement: Revitalize Within—Reach Out!

PRELUDE RINGING OF THE BELLS PREPARATION

Pastor: "Advent" literally means "coming." This sacred season is for the purpose of Jesus coming to us and coming for us. As we count down the days until Christmas, our hearts are getting ready to celebrate Jesus' initial arrival, His first advent, when He entered into our world as the babe of Bethlehem. At the same time, we prepare our hearts for His second advent, His final coming, when He will return to earth to judge both the living and the dead and to give eternal life to all who trust in Him. Our Readings for today remind us of the special ministry of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to Christ, the light of the world. John himself was not the light, nor was he the centerpiece of God's plan to save the world; no, John's life was dedicated to preparing the way before the Lord and to get people ready for Jesus coming to save us. In many ways, we are invited to be like John: to trust in Jesus, our Savior and King, and then let the world know He is coming to the rescue of His people.

(Please stand)

№ PREPARATION

HYMN

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" LSB 344 vs 1-4

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh Awake and hearken for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin Make straight the way for God within And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there

We hail Thee as our Savior Lord
Our refuge and our great reward
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay

Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev'ry place

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son

and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENECS Psalm 40:1–3

Pastor: I waited patiently for the LORD;

People: He inclined to me and heard my cry.

Pastor: He drew me up from the pit of destruction,

out of the miry bog,

People: and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

Pastor: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

People: Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

(Please be seated or kneel, as you are able, for the confession and absolution)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Pastor: That we may rejoice in the great things our forgiving God does for us, let us together confess our sins before Him.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of looking to Jesus and following Him in faith, we have gone astray by disobeying Your Word. Instead of giving bold witness to You, we have kept silent and withheld Your grace from others. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it." Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, removing

our sins from us and declaring us blameless in His sight through faith in Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \maltese Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(Please stand)

₩ WORD ₩

INTROIT *Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7*

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: and grant us Your salvation.

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

People: for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

Pastor: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear

Him,

People: that glory may dwell in our land.

Pastor: Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

People: and our land will yield its increase.

Pastor: Righteousness will go before Him

People: and make His footsteps a way. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: and grant us Your salvation.

KYRIE (sing) p. 186 in hymnal

People: Lord, have mercy upon us Christ, have mercy upon us Lord, have mercy upon us

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Pastor: Glory be to God on high

People: (sing) and on earth peace, goodwill

toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus Christ. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You

to hear our prayers.

People: Embolden our witness to the true light that overcomes our darkness;

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 ESV

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks

himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GoD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Do you hear what I hear" Sung by Ken Kosmalski

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 ESV

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

VERSE Matthew 11:10b

Pastor: Behold, I send My messenger before Your face.

People: who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: (sing) Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:6–8, 19–28 ESV

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

PRAYER REQUESTS & ATTENDANCE CARDS

Please pass your prayer requests and yellow attendance cards to the individual sitting nearest the aisle and the usher will collect them during the singing of the hymn of the day.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Joy to the World" LSB 387 vs 1-3

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

Let earth receive its King

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room

And heav'n and nature sing

And heav'n and nature sing

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns

Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods rocks hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat repeat the sounding joy

No more let sin and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

++ **SERMON** ++

(Please stand)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father

Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped

and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life

of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated or kneel, as you are able, for the Prayers of the Church)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17; Psalm 105:1-4

Pastor: Because it is our Father's will for His children to pray, let us "rejoice always, pray without ceasing," giving thanks in all circumstances.
Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son into our world to bear our sin and be our Savior. By His suffering and death, by His resurrection and ascension, by His reign at Your right hand and promise to come again, we are given joyful hearts and confidently bring our prayers before Your throne of grace. Your kingdom is the eternal kingdom, O God, and we are blessed to witness to all peoples the saving work You have accomplished in Christ, our Lord and King. Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;

People: make known His deeds among the peoples!

Pastor: Mighty God, stretch forth Your hand and defend Your people from all effects of sin and death, giving victory over the enemy of darkness by shining into our world the light of Your truth. Work in our midst as the mighty fortress of our

lives, providing protection to those who labor for the benefit of others and to those who wear the uniform of our land. Grant wisdom to those who make, administer, and judge our laws, and reach into every troubled corner of the world to bestow upon us Your mercy and peace. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

People: tell of all His wondrous works!

Pastor: Savior of the nations, by our Baptism into Your death and resurrection, You clothe us with Your righteousness and fill us with Your Spirit. You have enabled our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name. Lord Jesus, take away from us any fear or doubt, any hesitancy or reluctance to share with others the hope that is within us. Open doors of opportunity for us to be like John the Baptist, giving faithful testimony to You and preparing the way for Your coming kingdom. Glory in His holy name;

People: let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

 the good of those who love You and have been called according to Your purpose. Seek the LORD and His strength;

People: seek His presence continually!

Pastor:Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, waiting in joyful expectation for Your coming kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

OFFERTORY

OFFERING HYMN

"God Loves Me Dearly" LSB 392 vs 1-3
God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

I was in slav'ry,
Sin death, and darkness;
God's love was working
To make me free.

Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer, He sent forth Jesus And set me free

Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

(Please stand)

▼ SACRAMENT ▼

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who

takes away the sin of the world, giving witness to the true light, who comes to shine upon us with grace and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (sing) LSB 195

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He Blessed is He
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Pastor: In Your boundless mercy You sent Your faithful witness, John the Baptist, to prepare the way for Jesus and His coming kingdom.

Pastor: With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13

People: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;1 Corinthians 11:23–25
Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ♣ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ♣ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (Sung) LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world have mercy upon us

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" LSB 390

Let us all with gladsome voice

Praise the God of heaven

Who to bid our hearts rejoice

His own Son hath given

To this vale of tears He comes
Here to serve in sadness
That with him in heav'ns' fair homes
We may reign in gladness

We are rich, for He was poor Is no this a wonder? Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear
Be Thou ever near us
Grant us now a glad new year
Amen Jesus, Hear us

(Please stand)

THE POST-DISTRIBUTION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (sung) TLH p. 29-30

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Pastor:Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, Your Word says to us: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;

People: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Pastor: We joyfully give You thanks for the blessings offered to us in the body and blood of our Savior.

People: May we go forth to witness to others of the wonders He has done!

Pastor: We pray in the name of our coming King, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ♥ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"Go Tell It on The Mountain" LSB 388 vs 1-3
Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'ry where
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'ry where
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor

Marie Brown, Organist

Dave Hamilton, Elder & Reader

Gary Mason, Glenn Cairns & Kim Armstrong, Ushers

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS Check your Church Mailbox

January Portal of Prayers & 2024 Envelopes.
Please note: your envelope number might have changed. You do not need to do anything.
It only effects the office

Office hours for the Holiday

Office closed Monday December 25th thru 27th
AND January 1st
Office will be open December 28th & 29th
& January 2nd thru 5th

Thank you from Ken Kosmalski

Thank you to Jim & Karen Bumgarner, Scott & Keri Driscoll, Marie Brown, Linda Hurst, Chris Thompson, & Frank Pignanelli. who came and helped decorate the church on Saturday.

Thank you from Mt. Hope Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who baked or donated for the bake sale last Sunday. We raised \$153.

Ladies Christmas Goodies

The lades group is again accepting gently used or new items for the gift table in the narthex. There are many new items this year. Please browse & find that extra Christmas gift. One table has a suggested \$3-\$5 and the rest of the items are free will offering.

Large Quilts - \$45, Small Quilts - \$25.

The proceeds are used to replenish battings for the quilts. Some of the proceeds go to LWML Mite Box and also to Mt. Hope Lutheran.

Any questions, please speak to Bev or Ruth, or Sally. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the ladies of Mt. Hope and all goes for the Glory of God.

BINGO!

December 20th & January 3rd

Quilting

NO QUILTING December 20th
Attendance

Sunday December 10th

9:30 am 36

Prayer List

If sudden illness or the need for immediate prayers occurs, please feel free to contact Nancy Dajos at 313-254-2437. Prayer requests will remain on the list for two weeks.

Anniversary Birthdays

Alexandra Aubrey – December 10th

For the Shut-Ins

Judy Ohannasian, at home
Dorothy MacTavish, at home
Camell Faulk, at home
Phyllis Witte, at rehab
Melvin Kimbrough, at home
Lynn Mayfield, at home

For Those Who Are Sick or Healing

Bill Fults, Preschool Jackie, hospitalized Saturday for mini stroke, & other unknown illnesses

Family of JoBeth Buckley, Glenn Carins Coworker, called to glory

The Family of Jaine Freel, Sandy Carins, called to Glory

Diane Torok, friend of Nancy Nolan, Rehab after surgery & pray for strength

Pat Gebbink, loss of her son, William

Edward Utcai, Paul Utcai's family, COVID

Patrica Bates, Health Concerns

Trevor Ashley, Paul Utcai's Grandson, Cancer

Marlene Jacobs, Paul Utcai's Cousin, Sickness

Bill Switter, Home recovery

Joan Hafkesbrink, moving to assisted living

Melvin Kimbrough, in Rehab at Vibra, improving

Delores Kucharczyk, friend of Pam Benford, healing from hip replacement

Important Dates

December 24th- Sunday Service 9:30am

- Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm

December 25th – No Service on Christmas Day

January 7th – (Epiphany Sunday) Church

Un-decorating after church or possibly after Sunday morning bible study.

Bible Studies:

Wednesday Morning

No Classes -Dec. 20, Dec. 27

Sunday Morning

No Class - December 24th

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT MOUNT HOPE

Sunday December 17	9:30am – Worship w/HC Bible Study after service
Wednesday December 20	NO Bible Study
Thursday December 21	NO Quilting
Friday December 22	Office Closed
Saturday December 23	5:00pm Church Service
Sunday December 24	9:30am – Worship w/HC 7pm Christmas Eve Service

