



MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

1000 B Avenue • West Columbia • South Carolina • 29169 • 803.796.5948

www.mttaborlutheran.org

**9:35 AM — December 5, 2021 — Second Sunday of Advent
Contemporary Worship Service**

Setting Eight—Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

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 prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ 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 Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

PRELUDE

Freedom Is Coming

Traditional

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

We enter into this first Sunday of the Advent season, turning our attention to You, God. We acknowledge the darkness that is within us, and that permeates the world.

Father, forgive us.

We acknowledge the suffering, tragedy, and pain by which humanity is afflicted, which seems at times to overwhelm us.

Draw near to us, Oh God.

We consider the mystery of your ways, that you might choose to send our Savior as an innocent baby and not as a warrior or a king; as one who humbly accepted suffering and humiliation and called it glory.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

We choose in this moment to focus our attention on HOPE; the hope of Jesus Christ and all his coming represents for suffering people, the hope for restoration of all that is broken in the world, the hope of new life and resurrection.

Hope is the light we wish to see by.

Grant, Oh God, that when he comes, Christ may find us waiting in expectation, our souls quieted, our hearts soft and open.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

In Christ all things are made new, and we look forward to the day our hope is fulfilled, each heart reconciled, the work of Christ completed in all the earth.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Christ Be Our Light (verses 1, 2 & 5)

ELW 715

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.

KYRIE

p. 184

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**HYMN OF PRAISE** *Angels We Have Heard On High* (verse 1)**ELW 289****PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

*We sit***CHILDREN'S SERMON****ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** *Peace, Peace, Peace* (verse 1 PEACE) (See Hymn Insert)**READING****Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from Malachi.

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

¹See, 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 188

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

¹In 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. ⁵Every 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; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit

SERMON

We stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Earth Is Hopeful (verses 1—3)

ELW 266

CREED

I believe in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that God has created me and all that exists.

I believe that Christ died on a cross for my sin, conquered Death and was raised to new life on the third day. New life is mine because of Jesus’ words and work.

I believe in the Holy Spirit in response to God’s overwhelming love. I believe that the Holy Spirit is here among us and lives within each of us. The Spirit continues to call people by the Gospel and creates and builds the Church of Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, I have the power to stand in strength against all adversity.

I believe that Jesus Christ has gone to prepare a place for me and will come again to take each of us to be with Him. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit

ANTHEM

Prepare the Way

Croushorn

OFFERING

We stand

OFFERING HYMN

We Are Waiting for Jesus

See Hymn Insert

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN*There Is a Longing in Our Hearts***See Hymn Insert***We stand***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burned***See Hymn Insert****DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Welcome to Mt. Tabor. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!

Altar Flowers. Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Virginia Hamson & Family in honor of Mary Hamson for her 98th birthday on December 7th.

Bulletin Covers. Today's Bulletin Covers are given to the glory of God by Nancy Allen in memory of Lois Shealy's birthday on December 11th.

Advent Wreath. Today's Advent Wreath is given to the glory of God by Gary & Ann Spainhour; Wendy Spainhour; Travis, Linda, Alexis & Tristan Spainhour; Melvin & Sandra Manus; Woody & Brenda Manus; and Lee & Joy Smith in memory of Harry Manus Sr., and Maurice & Eleanor Dunlap and in honor of Elizabeth Manus.

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Kevin Bozard, Kenlee Cassella, McKenna Cassella, Sandy Dennis, Andrew Hamson, Carroll Hutchinson, Jake Jacobs, Lucky Jones, Mary Katherine King, Norma McKinley, Becky Newman, Burns Roof, Drew Shealy, Vicki Smallwood, Brittany Smoak, Luke Witherell.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Robert Cromer, Boyd Steele, Katlynn Steele, Cheryl Hall, Nancy Allen.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Foster McLeod, Brenda Smith, Elmer Sundlie, Herman Bouknight, Rick Moorer, Gale McLeod, Barbara Stilwell, Jeanie Jacobs, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston, Boyd Steele, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazell, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Adele Rodgers, Lisa Long.

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Lori Gladiness, Wickey Shumpert, Robert, Tracie & Harper Hendrix, Murray Hoskins, Linda Goodson, Cole Jacobs, Rick & Jennifer Richardson, Joann Roof, Bill Hunnicutt.

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, John Post.

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Eli McCracken, Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews.

The Family Of:

Ann Cook, Elise Harmon, Henry Robinson, Linda Wessinger, Caroline Swicegood.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.

FOR HOME SELF-STUDY & REFLECTION

READING

Philippians 1:3-11

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.

³I 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.

Worship Assistants

*Lector
Greeter
Nursery
Ushers
Communion Assistant
Worship Assistant Coordinator*

*Ray Conrad
Marion Lusk

Lucky Jones, Ricky Lusk
Dusty & Miley Rhodes
Bruce Busbee*

Worship Leaders

*Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor
Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music*

*Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation
Vicar Christine Taylor*

Praise Band

*Gale McLeod, Co-Director
Irelou Moye, Co-Director
Beth Branham
Leah Conrad
Brett Ebener*

*Clark Ebener
Lindsey Ebener
Erin Hall
Vaughn Hall
Jack Latham*

*Ricky Lusk
David Moye
Ed Redmond
Roxanne Rich
Taylor Wilson*