



MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

www.mttaborlutheran.org

**9:35 AM — December 12, 2021 — Third Sunday of Advent
Contemporary Worship Service**

Setting Eight—Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRELUDE

Advent Hymn

Nockels

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of heaven and earth, you sent your angels as messengers to your servants, bringing news of comfort and joy your plan to heal a world gone astray...

Bringing news of Emmanuel, of, God-With-Us.

To Mary, you sent a message of your favor. You chose her to carry and give birth to Jesus, the Son of the Most High...

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. From now on all generations will call me blessed.

To Joseph the angel gave assurance that Mary's son was from God, and should be named Jesus...

Because he would save us from our sins.

To shepherds among their flocks, angels brought good news of great joy that will be for all people...

A Savior has been born to us; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

To Kings from the east, a star rose signifying the birth of Jesus. When they saw the star they were overjoyed, and they bowed down and worshiped the Christ Child, offering costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh...

We worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and lay all our treasures at His feet.

You have brought us joy through Your Son, the Messiah...

A Savior who is Christ the King.

GATHERING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW 267

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

Heaven Is Singing for Joy

ELW 664

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *Peace, Peace, Peace* (verse 4 JOY) (See Hymn Insert)

READING

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians.

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And 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.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

Lord, My Strength

(See Hymn Insert)

We stand

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷John 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?" ⁸Bear 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. ⁹Even 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." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers 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." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

SERMON

We stand
HYMN OF THE DAY

He Came Down

ELW 253

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.

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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW 266

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

Tomlin, Maher & Wood

He Shall Reign Forevermore with Angels We Have Heard on High

The congregation is invited to join in singing verses 1 & 3 of

Angels We Have Heard on High near the end of the anthem. **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 Sharon Mattern in memory of David Mattern's birthday on December 20th.

Bulletin Covers. Today's Bulletin Covers are given to the glory of God by the late Penny Timmerman in honor of Pastor Rus Stilwell's birthday on December 13th.

Advent Wreath. Today's Advent Wreath is given to the glory of God by Sharon & Sarah Mattern in honor and memory of all of their loved ones.

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: Emily Addy, Jackson Burton, Trad Burton, Tyler England, Rylee Jacobs, Sybil Kennedy, Koy McCullough, Cheryl Prim, Sharon Rogers, Gerald Shealy, Curren Taylor, Kylie Wilson.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Murray Hoskins, Robert Cromer, Boyd Steele.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Nancy Allen, Elmer Sundlie, Herman Bouknight, 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:

Pam Player, Lori Gladiness, Wickey Shumpert, Robert, Tracie & Harper Hendrix, 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:

Juliette Amick Greer, Ann Cook, Elise Harmon.

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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

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

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
Lyndsey Ebener
Erin Hall
Vaughn Hall
Mary Katherine King*

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