

Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

"Growing Relationships with God, Each Other, and Our Neighbors in the Way of Jesus"



Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023, 9:00 AM & 4:30 PM

Welcome... There's a place for you here!

Welcome to the Lord's Table

All Christians—including visitors of all denominations— are invited to the altar to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to remain at your seat, select a prefilled cup from a basket at the top of the ramps before the service begins.

Worshippers may come forward via the center aisle to receive communion at the altar, then return by the side aisles. Bread, wheat wafers or gluten-free wafers are offered, as is a choice of wine (lighter color, outer rings of tray) or grape juice (darker color, inner rings). Paper-towel lined baskets are provided for empty cups at the end of the first pew and at the top of the ramps. Those who are not yet communing may come forward to receive a blessing.

Children have a place here, too!

During our Sunday services, children are invited to come forward for the children's time. They may also receive communion at whatever age their adult(s) agree(s) they may. "Busy bags" are hung along the wall in the sanctuary for use during services. Books and small toys can be found on a shelf under the window behind the choir/bells tables.

Our nursery is located at the bottom of the spiral staircase in the entryway and is staffed during the Sunday AM service. A changing table is found in the bathroom near the top of the stairs, and another is located around the corner through the sanctuary door past the bell tables.

Restrooms are found in the entryway (narthex) on either side (mirrored cubes).

*Note: our Sunday service is livestreamed, and some worshippers may be seen in the broadcast.
Those seated behind the ramps will not be seen on camera.*

(Thank you for silencing your phone as you worship)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

GATHERING HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ELW 283

- 1 **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

- 2 **The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

- 3 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***

- 4 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 98)

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

God has not forgotten to love us all!

Even the ends of the earth have heard!

Make a joyful noise!

Break forth in song!

With strings and horns,

sing praise to the Holy One!

With the roaring sea and everything in it!

With all the land and everything in it!

The floods clap their hands.

The hills sing for joy.

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

Justice for everyone, everything fair.

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

HYMN OF PRAISE “Angels We Have Heard on High” ELW 289, vs. 1&3

1 **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

3 **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING: **Isaiah 9:2-7**

A reading from Isaiah:

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled
in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

God's story, our story. **Thanks be to God.**

BELL CHOIR "O Little Town of Bethlehem" arr. Sandra Erthun

GOSPEL READING: **Luke 2:1-20**

The Holy Gospel, according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

- 1 **Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

- 2 **Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

- 4 **All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each prayer petition ends, “Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**”*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CHOIR ANTHEM “Ding Dong! Merrily on High” arr. Larry Shackly

GIVING OF OFFERINGS

OFFERING PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

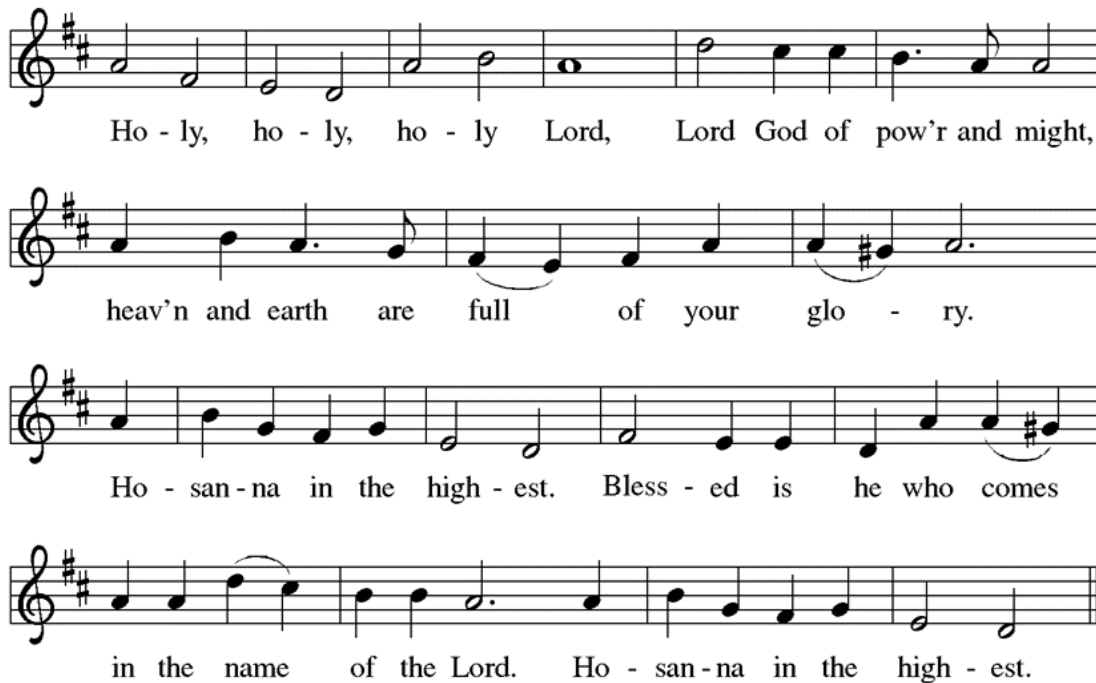
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Scan here to give online:



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST *(from John 1:1-5, 15)*

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,

and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life,

and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

and we have seen his glory,

the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CANDLELIGHT SONG

"Silent Night"

ELW 281

- 1 **Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2 **Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**
- 3 **Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

(Candles are extinguished and held upright until wax has cooled.)

POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT MPLC: December 24 – December 31

Sunday, Dec. 24

9:00 AM Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)
4:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, Dec. 25: Merry Christmas!

(No worship service scheduled)
Church office is closed.

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Church office is closed.

Thursday, Dec. 28

9:30 AM Quilters (Fellowship)

Saturday, Dec. 30

4:00 PM Worship (Sanctuary)

Sunday, Dec. 31

9:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)
2023 Offerings must be postmarked or given online by midnight.

Today's Worship Leaders

Preacher: Pastor Beth Ann Stone; Leader: Pastor Sheila Rawn
Musician: Michael Becker; Minister of Music: Dimitri Shapovalov

Bell Choir Director: Greg Schroeder

Instrumentalists: Ric Weiss, Greg Schroeder - Trumpet

Kevin Jocius - Percussion

9:00 AM Greeter: Carol Wiechers

9:00 AM Usher: Stew Nagao

9:00 AM Reader: Kirsten Graves

9:00 AM Acolyte: Natalie Thorn

9:00 AM Communion assistant: Stew Nagao, Denise Keller

Bread Baker: Carol Wiechers; Altar Care: Becky Litwin

Video Producer: 9:00 AM Becky Litwin

4:30 PM Usher: Cindy Green

4:30 PM Reader: Karen Krey

4:30 PM Acolyte: *One Needed*

4:30 PM Communion assistant: Diane Blackmon, Brenda Booker

4:30 PM Video Producer: John Simpson

MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Text: attr. John Francis Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2. "Angels We Have Heard on High" Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864. "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Text: James Montgomery, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4. "Silent Night" Text: Joseph Mohr; tr. John F. Young. Music: Franz Gruber. Streamed with permission under One License #A-711523. All rights reserved.