



Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church – ELCA

262-634-6704

www.spaceshipchurch.org www.facebook.com/spaceshipchurch

Pastors: David L. Echelbarger, Christine Thomas-Echelbarger, Krista Zimmerman

Organist, Michael Becker

Prelude

Call to worship *Responsively*

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!

Based on Psalm 98 (Polite, but Loud)

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn

“Joy to the World”

Hymn No. 267

Greeting

(Minister) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(People) **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Hymn No. 275 vs. 1, 4

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.

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.

Prayer of the Day

(Together) **Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Response to the Word

“Joseph’s Lullaby”

Bart Mallard
Brian Schalk

Second Lesson

Titus 3:4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Hymn 294 vs 1

- 1) In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

(Spoken after the announcement) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In 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

(Continued on next page)

(3)

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.

(Spoken after the reading) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Acclamation

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Hymn 294 vs 2

**2) Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor David Echelbarger

Hymn of the Day

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Hymn No. 295

Prayers of Intercession *Responsively* (Pastor and **People**)

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.

You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.

Especially we pray for ...

(Continued on next page)

(4)

You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.

You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory Response

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Hymn No. 294 vs 3

**3) What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can give him— give my heart.**

Offering Prayer

(Together) **God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is indeed right and salutary ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: page 144
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, creator of all ...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again ...

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

(Together) **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

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior. All are welcome.

Distribution Hymns

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hymn No 270

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Hymn No 290

Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray. *Gluten free wafers available upon request.*

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

(6)
SENDING

Benediction

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“The First Noel”

Hymn No. 300

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God’s people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Texts, hymns and liturgical music from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26880.
Hymns reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-711523



On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John’s gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

All Saints' Christmas Memorial Tree

The Christmas tree in the narthex is an All Saints' memorial tree decorated with the ribbons from this year's All Saints' Sunday. Thank you to Cindy Lester for making the bows and decorating the tree.



Reception of New Members

The next new member class will be held Thursday, February 13, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (If you would prefer to come that day to a class held from 10 a.m.-12 noon please contact the church office at 634-6704.)

Reception of new members will be the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, February 25 & 26. (Exact service times will be discussed and selected during our class sessions.) For more information, or if you have questions or are interested in joining MPLC, please contact the church office at 634-6704 or see one of the pastors.

Communion Registration and Contributions of Record Reminder

Per our constitution, once a year, voting members of Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church are reminded that they need to fill out a communion registration card, found in the pew rack, and make a contribution of record. (After filling out the communion card, you may drop it in the offering plate.) As 2016 is drawing to a close, if you haven't done so already, now may be a good time to do this.

December Is the Month When Many Catch Up!

If you happen to be behind on your current and benevolence, or mortgage debt reduction pledges for 2016, the month of December would be a great time to catch up. Offerings **received (not just dated) at the church office by December 31** may be declared on 2016 tax returns.

MPLC Christmas Office Hours

The Church office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2016 & January 2, 2017.

There will be NO Sunday Church School, Little Lambs, or Adult Education on December 25 or January 1. Classes will resume on January 8 at their regular times.