

Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

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



Saturday, February 22, 2025, 4:00 PM

Sunday, February 23, 2025, 9:00 AM

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 also 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 staffed nursery is located at the bottom of the spiral staircase in the entryway. 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 located in the entryway 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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

(silence is kept for reflection)

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 732

"Borning Cry"

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 (Sun.)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: ETHAN ALEXANDER SCHROEDER (Sun.)

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth . . .

(presentation, promises of parents and sponsors)

People of God, do you promise to support Ethan and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

(Baptismal party) I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things . . . who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(baptism, blessing, prayer)

Let us welcome the newly baptized:

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:

join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis:

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' " ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 *(read responsively)*

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.

⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in you they seek refuge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from First Corinthians:

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: **Luke 6:27-38**

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

SERMON: Pastor Nathan Pratt

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 605

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

APOSTLES’ CREED (Sat.)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

**On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SONG FOR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*sing once before and after prayers*)

“Christ, Be Our Light” (ELW 715, refrain)

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM (Sun) "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" Jeffery Hanore

OFFERTORY

Use the QR code to reach our online giving page:



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: God of grace,
your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying: Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures, granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness. Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise . . .

With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love. With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 *(see inside of bulletin cover for communion directions)*

BELL CHOIR (Sun.)

"Where Waters Flow"

Ron Mallory

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

ELW 608

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today's Worship Leaders

Preacher: Pastor Nathan Pratt; Leader: Pastor Beth Ann Stone
Musician: Michael Becker; Minister of Music: Dimitri Shapovalov
Bell Choir Director: Gregory Schroeder
Sun. Greeters: Bruce & Kate Lingsweiler
Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: Carol Wiechers
Sun. Communion assistant: Jerry Smith, Candy Zicarelli
Acolyte: *One needed*
Video Producer: John Simpson
(please see worship leader board for assistants needed)

Worship Leaders for 3/1 & 3/2:

Musician: Michael Becker; Minister of Music: Dimitri Shapovalov
Sun. Greeters: Rick Sill
Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: Susan Bakken
Sun. Communion assistant: Kirsten Graves, *One Needed*
Acolyte: *One needed*
Video Producer: Chris Ryshkus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. *Alleluia*, and *Holy, holy, holy* from *Beneath the Tree of Life*, music by Marty Haugen © 2000, 2001 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-711523. "Christ, Be Our Light" words and music by Bernadette Farrell © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications. "God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian" Words: Carl P Daw, Music: Rowland H Prichard, Hope Publishing. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-711523

THIS WEEK AT MPLC: Feb 23 – Mar 2

Sun. Feb 23

9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)

10:15 AM: Sunday School (Education)

10:20 AM: Adult Ed (Mygatts)

11:15 AM: Youth Ministry Committee (Mygatts)

Tues. Feb 25

11:00 AM: Chair Yoga (Fellowship)

6:30 PM: Bell Choir (Sanctuary)

Wed. Feb 26

11:00 AM: Bible Study (Mygatts)

5:30 PM: Safety Team (Office)

6:30 PM: Confirmation (Sanctuary)

7:00 PM: Adult Choir (Choir room)

Thurs. Feb 27

9:30 AM: Quilters (Fellowship)

Sat. Mar 1

8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast (Fellowship)

4:00 PM: Worship (Sanctuary)

Sun. Mar 2

9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)

10:15 AM: Lent Event (Education)

10:20 AM: Adult Ed (Mygatts)

1:30 PM: Community Meal Prep (MPLC Kitchen)

4:30 PM: Community Meal (Living Faith)

MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

Senior Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone	pastorbethann@mplc.us
Associate Pastor Nathan Pratt	pastornathan@mplc.us
Coordinator for Children & Family Ministry and Parish Coordinator Becky Litwin	becky@mplc.us
Minister of Music Dimitri Shapovalov	dshapovalov@carthage.edu
Organist/Accompanist Michael Becker	michael@mplc.us
Bell Choir Director Greg Schroeder	gschroeder89@gmail.com
Business Manager Jessica Sexton	jessica@mplc.us
General Information	info@mplc.us
Communications Director (vacant)	
Council President Kim Haigh	khaigh@acosta.com

We are called by Jesus to **love God and one another**, to practice generous hospitality, and to serve all unconditionally. We fully welcome you to join us, embracing your race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, background, and wherever you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God and are welcome here. You are accepted and openly affirmed just as you are. We commit ourselves to undertaking the work of racial equality and social and economic justice. We invite you to join us as we joyfully and inclusively love and serve God and our community, as **we are all one in Christ Jesus.**