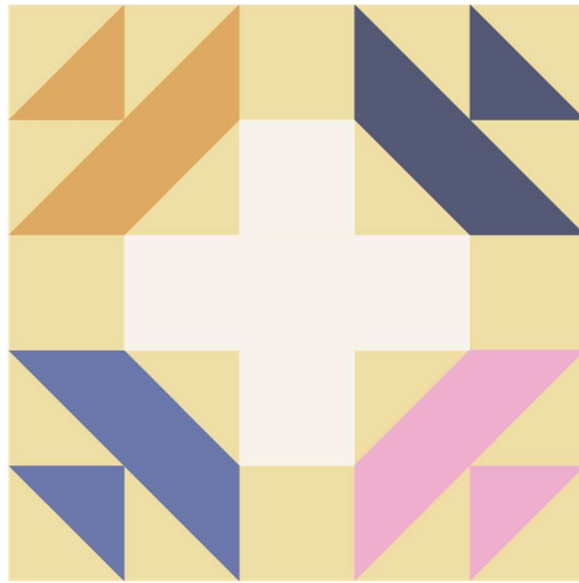


# Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

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



**DO THE GOOD THAT  
IS YOURS TO DO**

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**Third Sunday in Advent**

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 15, 2024, 9:00 AM

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# *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).

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*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.*

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Teacher,” the crowd asked, “What should we do?”

**If you have two shirts, give one away.**

**Hold onto hope.**

**Live like we belong to one another.**

**Speak the truth.**

**Look for God.**

**Do the good that is yours to do.**

It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard.

**Let us worship our present and active God.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES – “JOY”

ELW 253

“He Came Down”

*(sing together)*

**He came down that we may have joy;**

**he came down that we may have joy;**

**he came down that we may have joy;**

**hallelujah forevermore.**

*(words of joy are read)*

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

*All*

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,

Lord, have mer - cy, mer-cy on us all.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, mercy on us all.**

For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, mercy on us all.**

Help, save, and defend us, O God:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON (Sun.)

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 58:9b-12**

*A reading from Isaiah:*

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.  
<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

PSALM: **Isaiah 12:2-6** (*read responsively*)

- <sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.
- <sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**
- <sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name is exalted.
- <sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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 3:7-16**

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

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and 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. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers 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.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John 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 strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

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

SERMON: Pastor Sheila Rawn

HYMN OF THE DAY (Sat.)

ELW 576

“We All Are One in Mission”

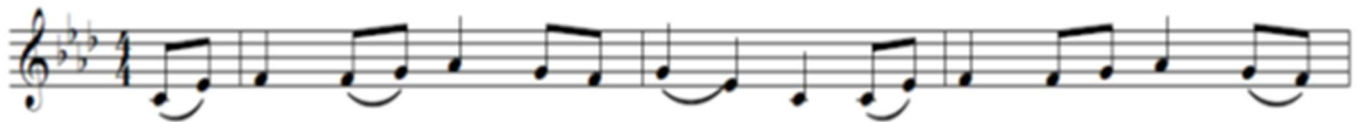
HYMN OF THE DAY (Sun.)

Music: Greg Schroeder

“Proclaim the News of Good Tidings”

(see next page)

Refrain



Pro - claim the news of good ti - dings. As - cend to the heights and

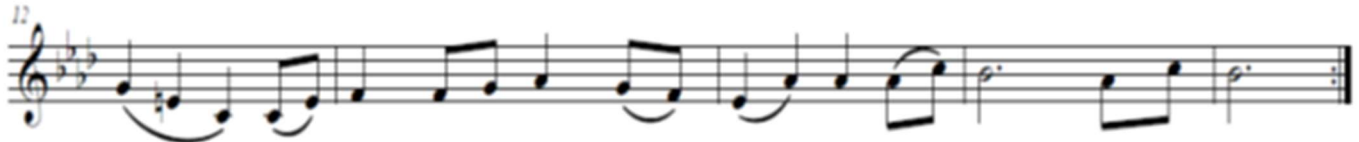


sing. Pre - pare the de - sert a high - way for the com - ing of our

Verses



King. The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the loft - y hills brought  
The word of our Sa - vior is faith - ful the arm of our God is  
Lord feed your flock like a shep - herd the lambs so gen - tly



low; make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces where God may go!  
strong who stands in the midst of the na - tions and soon right the wrong.  
hold in pas - tures of peace now lead them and bring to your fold.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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*)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 7)

**O come, O King of Nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
Refresh the hearts that long for you;  
Restore the broken, make us new.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM (Sun)

“We Three Kings”

Matthew Prins

OFFERTORY

Use the QR code to reach our online giving page:



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(silence for reflection)*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors.  
We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us.  
Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through **+** Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**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 power 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

#### 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)*



SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Wildwood Carol"

John Rutter

*Trio: Susan Bakken, Amy Obernberger, Letty Jocius*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

ELW 244

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgy and prayer adapted from "Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org." Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. *Penitential Rite* (Kyrie), *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. "He Came Down" text and music: Cameroon traditional. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 7 text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-711523.

**Today's Worship Leaders**

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

Sun. Greeter: Chris Corcoran

Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: *One needed*

Sun. Communion assistant: *Three needed*

Acolyte: *One needed*

Video Producer: Becky Litwin

*(please see worship leader board for assistants needed)*

*Scan QR code with your phone camera or  
call the church office (262-634-6704)  
to sign up to be a worship leader next week*



**Worship Leaders for 12/21 & 12/22:**

Musician: Michael Becker; Minister of Music: Dimitri Shapovalov

Sun. Greeter: Rick Sill

Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: *One needed*

Sun. Communion assistant: *Two needed*

Acolyte: *One needed*

Video Producer: Chris Ryshkus

*(please see worship leader board for assistants needed)*

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**THIS WEEK AT MPLC: Dec. 15 – Dec 22**

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**Sun. Dec. 15**

- 9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM: Sunday School (Education)
- 10:15 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)
- 10:30 AM: Adult Ed (Mygatts)
- 4:00 PM: Open Table (Fellowship)
- 5:30 PM: Youth Christmas Party (St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Kenosha)

**Mon. Dec. 16**

- 6:30 PM: Congregational Council (Mygatts)

**Tues. Dec. 17**

- 11:00 AM: Chair Yoga (Fellowship)
- 6:30 PM: Bell Choir (Sanctuary)

**Wed. Dec. 18**

- 6:30 PM: Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room)

**Thurs. Dec. 19**

- 6:30 PM: GriefShare (Mygatts)

**Sat. Dec. 21**

- 9:00 AM: SCS Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM: Christmas Caroling (meet at MPLC; go to Home Instead Respite)
- 4:00 PM: Worship (Sanctuary)

**Sun. Dec. 22**

- 9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM: Christmas Breakfast & Party (Fellowship)

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.**

## MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Senior Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone   | <a href="mailto:bastone@mplc.us">bastone@mplc.us</a>                   |
| Transition Pastor Sheila Rawn   | <a href="mailto:srawn@mplc.us">srawn@mplc.us</a>                       |
| Coordinator for Children & Family Ministry and<br>Parish Coordinator Becky Litwin | <a href="mailto:blitwin@mplc.us">blitwin@mplc.us</a>                   |
| Minister of Music Dimitri Shapovalov  | <a href="mailto:dshapovalov@carthage.edu">dshapovalov@carthage.edu</a> |
| Organist/Accompanist Michael Becker   | <a href="mailto:michael@mplc.us">michael@mplc.us</a>                   |
| Bell Choir Director Greg Schroeder  | <a href="mailto:gschroeder89@gmail.com">gschroeder89@gmail.com</a>     |
| Business Manager Jessica Sexton   | <a href="mailto:jsexton@mplc.us">jsexton@mplc.us</a>                   |
| General Information   | <a href="mailto:info@mplc.us">info@mplc.us</a>                         |
| Communications Director (vacant)  |  |
| Council President Kim Haigh   | <a href="mailto:khaigh@acosta.com">khaigh@acosta.com</a>               |

## *Special Christmas Services Schedule*

*Jesus comes to us! Praise God for this gift, at Christmas and beyond.*

Sat. Dec. 21, 4 PM, "Longest Night" Worship Service

Sun. Dec. 22, 9 AM, Children's Christmas Program in Worship

Tue. Dec. 24, 4:30 PM - Christmas Eve Worship  
with Choir, Bells, Communion, and Candlelight Hymn

Tue. Dec. 24, 10:00 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion