



*As a community following Christ,
we **LOVE** with an open heart
GROW with a curious mind
and **SHARE** with a generous spirit.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please turn off all cell phones.

*If you are visiting with us today, we extend to you a particular welcome
and invite your questions and comments.*

*Our entire worship service is printed in this worship folder for your
convenience.*

Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.

*Child care is available for children ages 5 years and under in the Child
Care Area, across from the Life Together Hall.*

In the order of service, the words
that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY 219

BEGINNING of GOOD NEWS

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 31, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross +, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

KYRIE • "KYRIE"

Behold, I Make All Things New

Cantor sings verses; congregation sings refrain.

In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain.**

REFRAIN: ALL

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer -
- cy up - on us.
Chri - ste e - lei - son. Christ, have mer -
- cy up - on us.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. **Refrain.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **To Amen.**

ALL:

A - men, A - men.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE • "JESUS, WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 297



Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.



Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and



mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.



Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,



glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Heavenly God,
when Jesus was baptized by John
in the wilderness,
you claimed him as your son.

Claim us
as your children,
inheritors
of your glorious kingdom.

Amen.

Sit.

ACCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Behold, I Make All Things New

Leader:

Al-le-lu-ia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life. ___

5 ALL:

Al-le - lu - ia! ___ Al-le - lu - ia! ___ Al-le - lu - ia ___

10

Al-le - lu - ia! ___ Al-le - lu - ia! ___ Al-le - lu - ia ___

READING

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:1-20

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON + SERMON

Pastor Briana Merkle.

Stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY • "YOU HAVE COME DOWN TO THE LAKESHORE"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 817



1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
treasure nor weapons for conquest, just these my
love for the rest of the weary— a love that's
long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



ask - ing for me to fol - low.
fish nets and will for work - ing.
will - ing to go on lov - ing.
Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain



Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

At the conclusion of each petition:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit.

OFFERING

Great God, our Redeemer, we sing your praises. Your glorious love shines in the face of Jesus, born a babe in this dark world. We marvel that he generously humbled himself to bring salvation. How precious is your gift of love! Let the light in our sanctuary and our songs of praise spill through the windows to neighbors dwelling in darkness. May our gifts and offerings reflect the light of Christ and, as beacons in the night, draw people far and near closer to you.

*You can participate in the Offering electronically
by scanning the QR code and filling out the online form.*



OFFERTORY

*“Go Tell It on the Mountain”
The Band for God’s Sake*

Stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.

Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Behold, I Make All Things New

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a 'Leader:' part, followed by an 'ALL:' part, and ends with another 'Leader:' part featuring a triplet. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. — And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts.' The second staff starts with 'ALL:' and ends with 'Leader:'. The lyrics are: 'We lift them to the Lord. — Let us give thanks to the Lord our — God. —'. The third staff is labeled 'ALL:'. The lyrics are: 'It is — right — to give our thanks — and praise. —'. The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment consisting of chords and melodic lines, with 'Mmmm' written below the notes.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, Almighty God,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ,

who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.

So, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS • "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

Behold, I Make All Things New

Sing each line once.



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might



2. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho-san - na in the high - est



3. Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord

*To conclude, we will sing all three lines at the same time;
doing such twice.*

You choose which line (1, 2, or 3) you want to sing each time.

(So you will sing line 1, line 2, line 3, line 1/2/3, line 1/2/3.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

**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.**

COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

Sit.

DISTRIBUTION

At Mountain View Lutheran Church we practice an open communion table, which means that everyone is welcome to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (You don't have to be a member of MVLC.)

If you need an alcohol-free element or a gluten-free element, then please let your server know.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, then please let an usher know and you will be served where you are seated.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who are loved by God,
whether you feel loved or not.

It is for those who desire to grow in love with God.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.

Come, you who have tried to follow
and you who live with a sense of failure in your following.

Come, not because the Church invites you;
it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed and loved here.

Please come. Receive the gifts of God for all the people of God.

LAMB OF GOD • "LAMB OF GOD"

Behold, I Make All Things New



Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer -



- cy on us. Lamb of God you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN • "LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 490



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

COMMUNION HYMN • "COME, LET US EAT"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 491



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

COMMUNION HYMN • "LOVE HAS COME"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,

**you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.**

**Send us forth as a community
following the newborn Christ,
to LOVE with an open heart,
GROW with a curious mind,
and SHARE with a generous spirit.**

Amen.

DEACON SENDING

Deacons are called to “make Christ
and his redemptive love known by word and example.” (1 Timothy)

Such love is expressed in the extension of Holy Communion
to those who are homebound or hospitalized.

Gracious God,

**as Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son,
bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with
our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. In your
love and care, nourish those to whom we bring this communion,
that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the
hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
+ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • "COLD DECEMBER FLIES AWAY"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 299



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

SENDING

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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Worship leaders include:

- J PREACHER: Pastor Briana Merkle.
- J PRESIDERS: Pastor Eric Bostrom.
- J ASSISTING MINISTER: Janet Larson.
- J DIRECTOR of MUSIC MINISTRIES: Brenna Sage.
- J VIDEOGRAPHER: David Burch.
- J ALTAR GUILD: Flora Larson, Diane Nelson, Karen Slavens.

- J USHERS: John Dahle, Ken Johnson, Terry Johnson, Bob Yost (head usher).
- J GREETERS: Karen Slavens, Betsy Tunstall.
- J LECTOR: Emily Thompson.
- J ACOLYTES: Gretchen Schaefer, Nate Schaefer.
- J COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Genie Lennon, Bob Linden.

MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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RETURN OF ROCK MINISTRY AND ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday, January 7, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.

For Sunday Adult Education in January, join Pastor Eric in Bible Study of a fascinating book, Revelation. The sad truth is that Revelation is the most misused, abused, and misunderstood book of the Bible. But if you quiet all the noise surrounding Revelation and simply let the text of Revelation speak for itself, we will discover a message of resilient hope when life is tough. Revelation points to Christ, the lamb who was slain, with hope and a powerful vision of heaven and earth coming together. Please bring your Bible and join us for this study of Revelation.

•

RETURN OF WEDNESDAYS AT THE WELL (W@W!)

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 • 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

1/10 = Holden Evening Prayer

1/17+ = Meaningful Conversations on Gun Violence

We are starting from the premise that everyone is concerned about the level of gun violence in the U.S. which has become the leading cause of death for our children and teens. Through the sharing of our personal stories we hope to practice listening to the variety of narratives we hold around guns. Through shared reflection we hope to name realities, fears and hopes that we hold in common. And through conversation that can withstand division, we hope to name meaningful courses of action to help our community begin to change the realities of gun violence we face.