

Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024, 10am

Welcome to Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church! We greet one another as sisters and brothers in Christ and welcome all who may be visiting. We are delighted that you are here to worship, first time visitors, and encourage you to sign our guest book in the entry hall. Please fill out a visitor's card in the pew holders and place it in the offertory plate. HOLY COMMUNION is open to all who confess their faith in Jesus and acknowledge Him to be Lord. Those unable to partake of wine are assured the Church affirms our Lord's presence in, with and under the bread alone.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Christa Rakich

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

We stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, alive in the world,
reviving creation, arriving soon.

C **Amen**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one
another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P God of mercy,

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

P God of might,
C **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P God in our midst,
C **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.



Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glo-ry.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954, copyright © 1984 Fortress Press. Used by permission.

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune.

P Let us pray.

C **We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN: #249 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Cantor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:



All: Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy on us!

Cantor: *Lord Jesus, you came to gather all people into the peace of your kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:*



All: Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy on us!

Cantor: *Christ Jesus, you come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness, let us pray to the Lord:*



All: Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy on us!

Cantor: *Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people, let us pray to the Lord:*



All: Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy on us!

Ukrainian Orthodox Church liturgical setting made popular
by its use at the World Council of Churches' Sixth Assembly, Vancouver, British Columbia, 1983.
Advent Invocations: Church of England.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

We sit

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

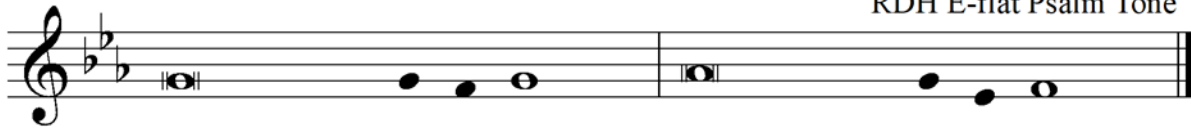
²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

L The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks Be to God!

GOSPEL CANTICLE: ISAIAH 12:2-6 [*The First Song of Isaiah*]

RDH E-flat Psalm Tone

2



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 be-
come | my salvation.

³ **With joy you | will draw water
from the wells | of salvation.**

⁴ 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; pro-
claim that this name | is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done | gloriously;
let this be known in | all the earth.**

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

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks Be to God!**



We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 3:7-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord! (*spoken boldly*)**

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

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

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

¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ! (*spoken boldly*)**

We sit

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

SERMON: *“Who is coming who is more powerful than I?”*

The Reverend Ron Philabaum

We stand

HYMN OF THE DAY: #244 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!*

RECEPTION OF NEW DISCIPLES TO MT. HOREB *pages 234-236*

Esther Philabaum

Hannah Waites

Wang Yu

Jia Yan

Wang Whytt Chien

Wang Mangia



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord in your mercy, **C** **receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We sit

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work's almost done.

Darkest midnight lies before us, for this work's almost done.

Lo, the morning soon is breaking, for this work's almost done.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work's almost done.

Children, don't grow weary, for this work's almost done.

African-American Spiritual

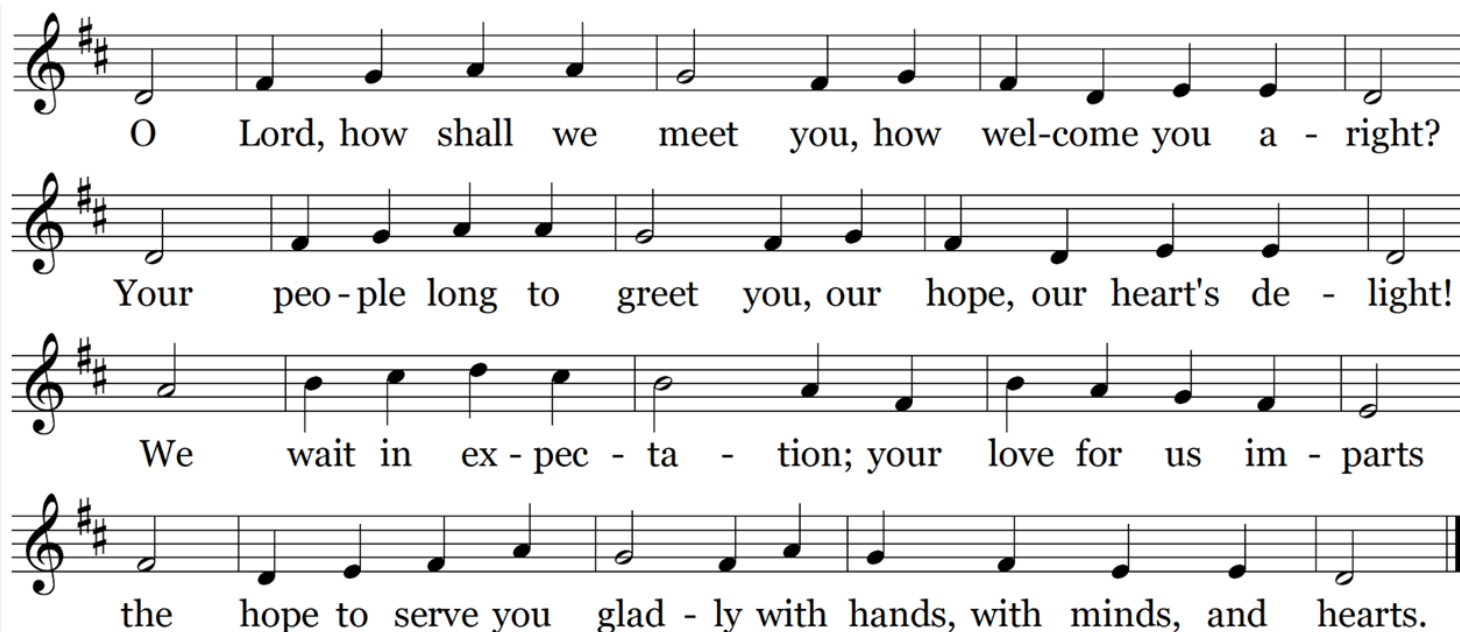
**"STAY DRESSED
FOR ACTION AND
KEEP YOUR
LAMPS BURNING."**

LUKE 12:35. ESV



We stand

OFFERTORY SONG: *O Lord, How Shall We Meet You*



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'O Lord, how shall we meet you, how wel-come you a - right? Your peo-ple long to greet you, our hope, our heart's de - light! We wait in ex - pec - ta - tion; your love for us im - parts the hope to serve you glad - ly with hands, with minds, and hearts.'

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, st. 1 alt., RDH 2023.

Tune: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662.

PRAYER

P Let us pray:

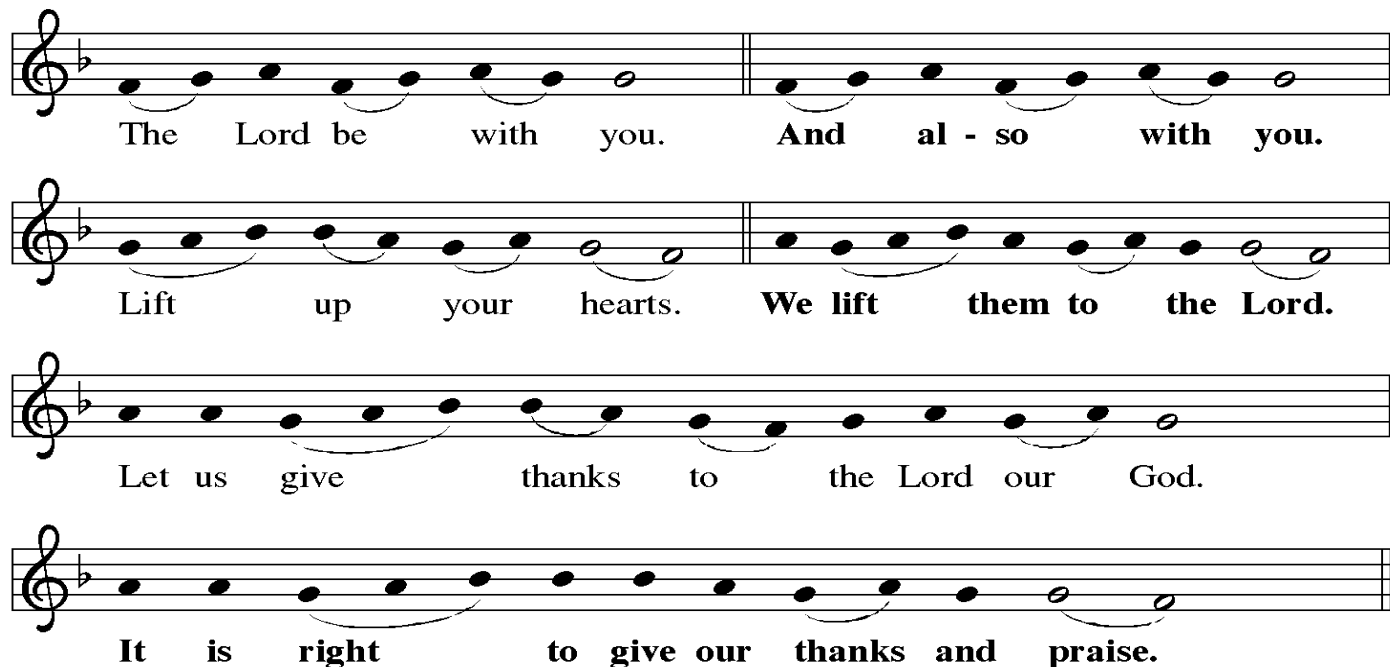
C **Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GOD IS OUR
provider

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

HOLY COMMUNION



P 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 and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And 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

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

P Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

- P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- P Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

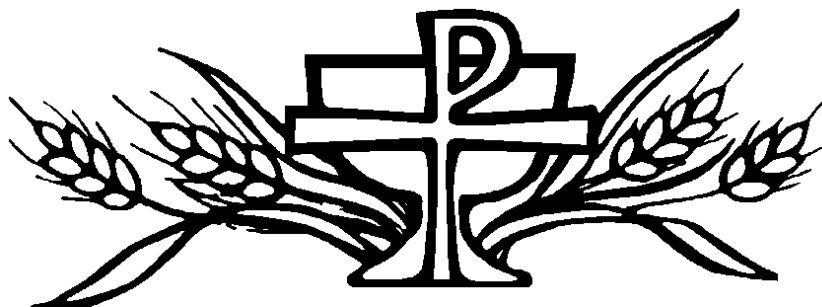
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

We sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P God feeds us with tender mercy. Come, take your place at the table.



I am the bread of life

COMMUNION MUSIC: *O Christ, Thou Lamb of God*

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy up - on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -
est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us!
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
grant us thy peace! A - men

Text: German, 1528, based on the Agnus Dei; tr. unknown

Music: CHRISTE, DU LAMM GOTTES, *Kirchenordnung*, Braunschweig, 1528

COMMUNION MUSIC: #477: *I Received the Living God*
#239: *Hark, the Glad Sound*

We stand

BLESSING

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

C **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. In the name of the Father
✙ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

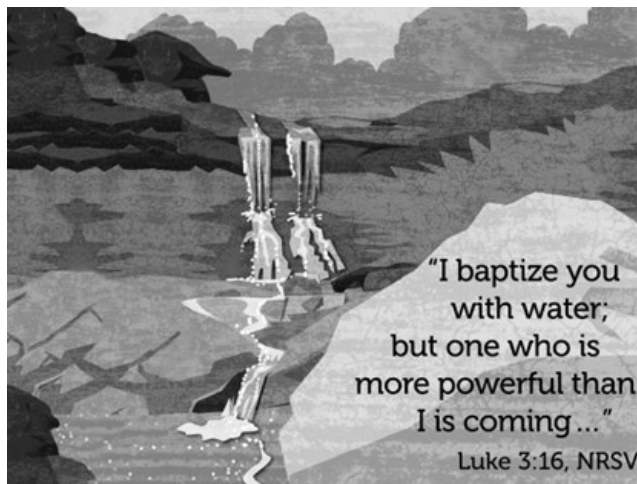
CLOSING HYMN: #264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

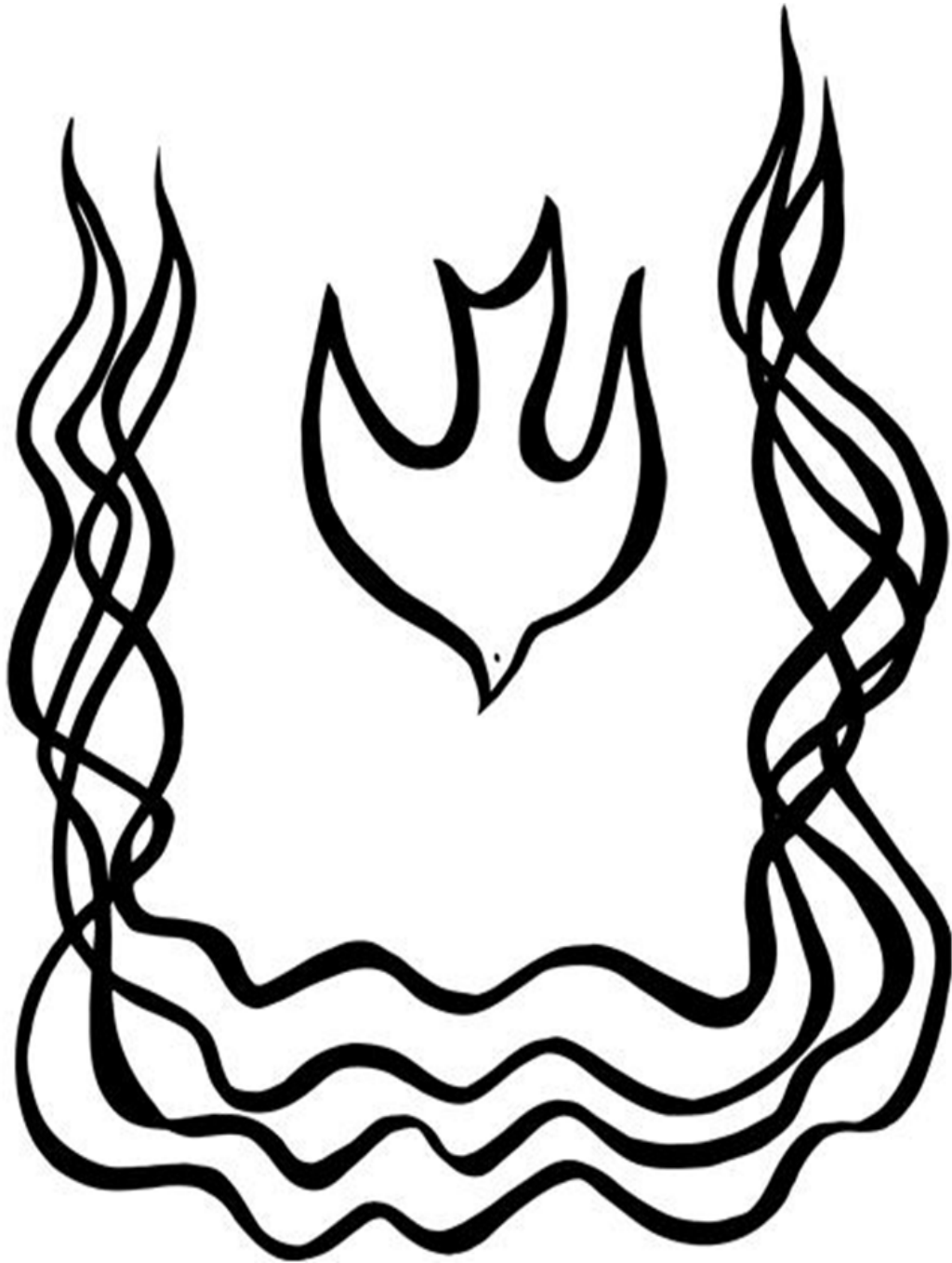
DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* Christa Rakich





Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church
101 East Boundary Street, Chapin, SC 29036
803-345-2000 - www.mthoreb.net

To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall

WORSHIP: *Joyfully proclaim the Word of God*
LEARN: *Dutifully study, teach and live the Word of God*
WITNESS: *Boldly share the Word of God*
SERVE: *Humbly and enthusiastically respond to the Word of God*
SUPPORT: *Gladly give our time, talent and treasures motivated by the Word of God*

DISCIPLES:
All Members of Mt. Horeb

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**CONGREGATION
COUNCIL**

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Vice Chair: Katie Morgan
Secretary: Trina Free
Treasurer: Lisa Smith

MEMBERS

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Laurie Schmidt
Travis Goodman
Cameron Prince
Katie Morgan
Rae Davis
Heather Adams
Diane Senn
Tom Griffin
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