

The Third Sunday of Advent | December 14, 2025

What do you fear?
Even in our fear, we are called forward.



Mount Tabor Lutheran Church



Welcome to Our Service

Our mission at Mount Tabor is to be “an inclusive, compassionate faith community living God’s love in the world.” Mount Tabor is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation of the ELCA. This means that all are welcome and affirmed, especially our LGBTQ+ siblings, and that we are connected to the world. We all have a place here at God’s round table just as we are!

If this is your first time here, a special welcome to you! We are mask optional and mask friendly. Please sign the guest register in the narthex (along with your e-mail and cell) so we can be in touch, put on a name tag, and join us for refreshments after the service.

Holy Communion is open to all. Children of all ages are invited to receive communion with their parents’ or guardians’ permission. Come when you are ready. Gluten-free bread is available. If you would like a blessing, come to the altar with your arms folded.

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary. We are blessed to be part of their faith formation through worship!

Prayer slips are available from the ushers. Write your prayers and then leave them in the offering plates to be added to the prayer chain around the altar.

Please turn off cell phones in the sanctuary before worship begins.

You may add names to the prayer list by sending a request to Kristin Jensen (office@mttaborslc.org), or Pastor Christine (pastor@mttaborslc.org). Names added to the prayer list will remain there for one month. You may request that they stay on longer or come off sooner by contacting the same people.

Visit our web site at www.mttaborslc.org

Third Sunday of Advent

Various hymns have been selected for this season's liturgy.

Greeting & Preparation for Worship

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as the People of God.

Prelude

Bob Brown

*Call to Worship

Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

Mary said, "How can this be?"

We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God's invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God.

Amen!

Advent Hymn

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240

Vs. 3

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Su Phay & Radek Omelianczyk

Those who are lighting the candle come forward.

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards.

We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents.

We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

The Joy (the pink one), Hope and Peace candles are lit.

Thanks be to God for this good news! Amen.

*** Call to Confession**

Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on. But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray.

Silence for reflection.

Prayer of Confession

Courageous God,
you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray.
Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you
in the past, today is a new day.
So, join me in declaring this good news:

We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.
May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call.
Amen.

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

Kyrie, Eleison

Singing Our Prayer 21



The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with the Bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son. Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, along with rests and repeat signs.

Text: Traditional
Music: Marty Haugen, from *Gift of God*

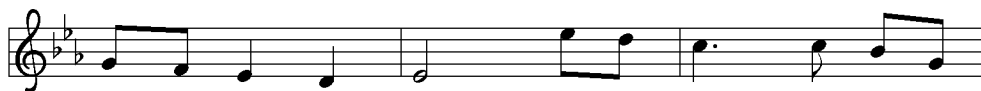
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1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
 2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
 3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
 dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
 night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
 hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
 each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
 won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
 a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
 chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
 of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen

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Prayer of the Day

Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So, spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray.
Amen.

THE WORD

God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching and Song

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷ But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." ⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Rio Rio Chio Anon. Spanish Carol, arr. Linda Spevacek
Mount Tabor Singers

Psalm 30:6-12

The Psalm is to be read responsively.

⁶ As for me, I said in my prosperity,
"I shall never be moved."

- ⁷ **By your favor, O LORD,**
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.
- ⁸ To you, O LORD, I cried,
 and to the LORD I made supplication:
- ⁹ **“What profit is there in my death,**
if I go down to the Pit?
 Will the dust praise you?
 Will it tell of your faithfulness?
- ¹⁰ **Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!**
O LORD, be my helper!”
- ¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing;
 you have taken off my sackcloth
 and clothed me with joy,
- ¹² **so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.**
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

***Gospel Acclamation**

ELW 175

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and two parts (Tenor and Bass). It consists of two systems of staves. Each system has a treble clef staff for the Soprano/Alto part and a bass clef staff for the Tenor/Bass part. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia' repeated three times. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and lyrics, also ending with a double bar line.

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

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

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

The Gospel

Luke 1:26-39

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. ³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country.

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

Message

Pastor Brigette Weier

A time of silence follows the sermon for reflection on the message.

***Hymn of the Day**

O Come, Take Heart

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Plainsong adapted by Thomas Helmore, 1854



O come, O come though tim - id and un - sure And
O come, O come though you feel un - pre - pared When
O come and join God's kin _____ dom work And



trust that God de - clares your worth Re - mem -
cour - age fails you, do it scared Don't let
be God's hands and feet on earth You're called



ber when you're feel - ing small That ev - ery child of
the fear of ma - king mis - takes Im - pede you from the
ex - act - ly as _____ you are To love the world with



God _____ is called
path you're called to take Take heart, take heart! The One
ev - ery bro - ken part



who calls to you Will give you strength and see you through

Affirmation of Faith

Together we proclaim our Christian faith.

We have seen the valley.

We have seen a sky without stars.

We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God.

We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear.

We believe this good news is for all people.

**So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other.**

We will look for God in our midst.

We will sing songs of joy.

We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born.

**We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.**

So still, we believe.

Amen.

Please be seated.

The Prayers of the People

At this time, you may fill out prayer slips so that they may be added to our prayer chain and leave them in the offering plates during the passing of the peace or when you leave.

Calling God, if you tapped on my shoulder today, would my knees shake? Would my mind race? Would my voice waver?

Or, knowing the stories of all the faithful folks you've called before, would I be ready? Would I be brave enough to follow? Would I hear your call for what it is? Would I reply, "Let it be with me according to your will"?

It's hard to know. But what I do trust is that you are a God who calls.

You called Mary and Moses, Jeremiah and Peter. You have called ordinary people throughout all of time. You have called artists and activists, poets and prophets, teachers and healers—young and old alike.

So, as we move through this world, open our ears to hear your voice. As we move through this world, open our hearts to the invitations, the inspiration, and the nudges you place in our lives. As we move through this world, God, allow us to hear whatever call you have in store for us in this season.

We pray for all those suffering the effects of traumatic events, such as violence in their communities, natural disasters and the effects of climate change. We pray for the recovery efforts, the first responders and volunteers who serve in these areas. May your presence be a beacon of hope in their lives, that their sorrow turns to joy.

We pray now for our friends and family who we name before you aloud or within our hearts:

We remember in prayer.

Stephanie Wilson	Travis and Nathan Jelsma-Beery
Charlie Clapp	Scott Wilson
Janis Knight	Linda Poe
Dannie Gavros	William Simpson
Sheri Clark	John Cochran
Coni Hampton	

For no matter how big or how small, we trust that you are a calling, inviting, nudging, inspiring God who sees us in the best light. With hope we lean forward, we listen for your word.

**Remind us that we are not alone and that our prayers have been heard.
Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

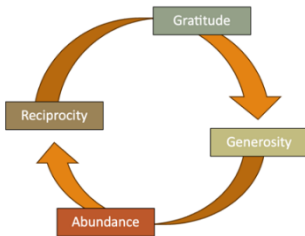
The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God Feeds Us with the Presence of Jesus Christ.

Sharing our Gifts and Gratitude – Sharing the Abundance: Su Phay



The Giving Cycle of Gratitude > Generosity > Abundance > Reciprocity

Living with reciprocity means creating a consistent flow of giving and receiving, not only in relationships but also with nature and community. A reciprocity plan formalizes this practice, making it intentional and actionable.

~ Robin Wall Kimmerer

Mount Tabor is grateful and thankful for your support and generosity. We provide several ways of sharing your financial blessings with our congregation.

- Offering plates located at the doors of the sanctuary.
- eGiving online using a credit card or ACH. Visit: <https://mttaborslc.org/give> or contact office@mttaborslc.org for more information.



Prayer of Gratitude

Let us pray,
Nourishing God,

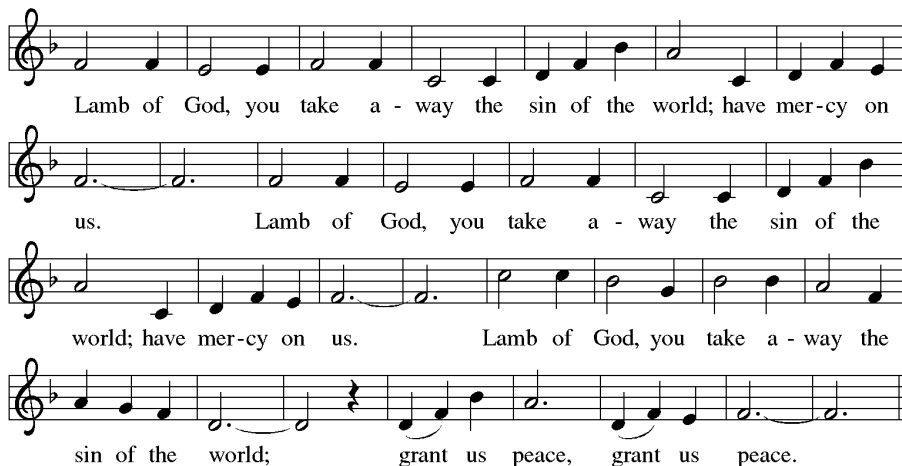
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The table is prepared as the assembly sings:

Lamb of God

ELW 195



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.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

*Dialogue

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.

Invitation to the Table

Friends, did you ... All are welcome.

The Words of Institution

In the night ...and this Table with your love.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

The Distribution *Come when you are ready, children are always welcome!*

Communion Songs By Your Hand You Feed Your People. **ELW 469**

 We Walk by Faith **ELW 635**

***Post Communion Blessing**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray,

Loving God,

In a world racked with fear, you gather us together.

You set the table. You meet us here.

You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits.

You remind us that this is a joyful feast,

and that fear cannot win every time.

**So, with renewed courage, with renewed hope,
with renewed conviction, send us out into the world.**

Help us to feed others as you have fed us.

With gratitude we pray,

Amen.

SENDING

God Blesses Us and Sends Us in Mission to the World.

Our Life Together (pg. 17)

***Blessing & Benediction**

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit.

May you reach for each other's hands.

May you choose courage whenever you can.

And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with—go in peace and be not afraid.

Amen.

Sending Song

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW 256

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. Do not fear!

Thanks be to God

Postlude

Bob Brown

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3rd Sunday of Advent: December 14, 2025

Assisting Minister:	Jenny Jensen
Lector:	Chris Jensen
Usher:	Dave Warren
Counters:	Kathy Pearson / Steven Baker
Greeter:	Casey White
Altar Ministry:	Lee Kreutzer
AV Technicians:	Duane Lee, Lee Kreutzer
Presiding Minister:	Rev. Brigitte Weier
Music Minister:	Bob Brown
Administrative Assistant:	Kristin Jensen

Life Together Announcements

A Rwanda congregation are meeting at Mount Tabor on Sunday afternoons and one Saturday a month in the basement for their services. Let's be sure to give them a warm welcome.

Advent Services will be this Wednesday, December 17th at 7PM.

Senior Food Box Distribution Our distribution of USDA food boxes to seniors in our neighborhood continues with our next distribution set

for **Wednesday, December 17th**. These boxes are available for those who meet eligibility guidelines and have signed up through the Utah Food Bank.

Poinsettia Donations are due by **Thursday December 18**. If donating with cash/check, please fill out your donation slip and **give it to the counters today**. If you **donate online** via the Mt. Tabor website, please fill out a donation slip, indicate on the slip that you've made an online donation, and **give the slip to the counters today**.

OAKS has been cancelled for December. We still need a volunteer to host January. Let Pastor Christine know.

Wise Women Also Came – A Women's Christmas Retreat - Saturday, January 10, 2026, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at **Our Savior's Lutheran Church**, Holladay, UT. **Women's Christmas** offers an opportunity to pause and step back from whatever has kept you busy and hurried in the past weeks or months. We will begin by sharing brunch, and then dive more deeply into our theme, together, through art, poetry, music, prayer, and connective conversation. **Registration is \$30**. Scholarships available. **Register and reserve** your spot by sending your name, number, and congregation to Pastor DanaLee Simon at sagehillwisdom@gmail.com.

The twelve parking slots on the north side of the parking lot have been leased to students living in Unite Student Living for their use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **The slots are numbered 1 to 12. Do not park in these slots as your vehicle may be towed. All other spots** – aside from handicap spaces – **are also rented between 9pm-9am**. Please plan accordingly.

Your in-kind donations can be recorded as well as monetary giving! Please find the Expense Request forms in the narthex. Select "Credit as donation to (your name)" and leave in the church office. Thank you

Crossroads Urban Center's Thrift Store at 1385 West Indiana Avenue, Salt Lake City needs your donations! Fall is a great time to clear out closets, drawers and other places to help them out. Stop by during their operating hours, no appointment is necessary, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

at 1385 West Indiana Avenue, Salt Lake City. Let them know you are from Mt. Tabor! **Donation Needs:** Children's Clothing • Women's Clothing, especially large sizes • Men's Clothing • Shoes, work boots, and socks • Jackets and Coats • Underwear (new) • Jeans and Work Pants • Blankets, Towels, and Sheets • Dishes and Silverware • Pots, Pans, and Crock Pots • Tents • Sleeping Bags • Small Appliances • Household Goods

The Nominating Committee will be asking Tabor members to step up as leaders by accepting nominations for the council. Please consider saying yes to this important part of being the church as leaders for the future as we wait and prepare for a new pastor.

Pastor Christine is available by text. Her contact information is 801-215-9208 or 619-459-8879. Emails can be sent to pastor@mttaborslc.org.