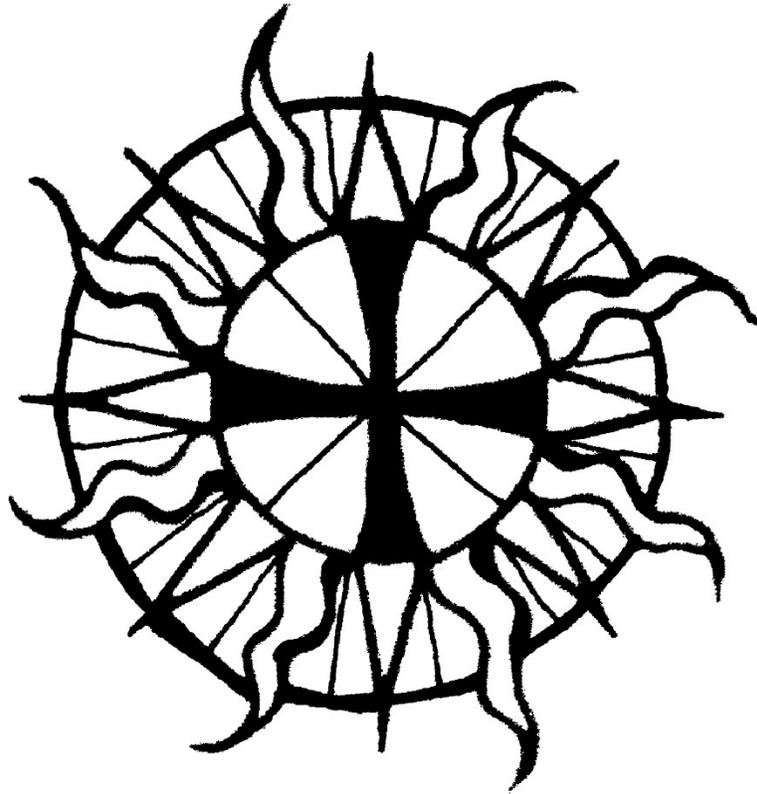


# Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

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



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**Second Sunday after Christmas**

**Saturday, January 3, 2026, 4:00 PM**

**Sunday, January 4, 2026, 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 or without church membership—are invited to the altar to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to take communion while remaining in 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, crossing your arms to indicate this choice.

## *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. Toys and books are also found in and near the "cry room", the glass-enclosed room at the front right side of the worship space.

You'll find one changing table in the bathroom near the top of the spiral staircase in the entryway, and another behind the door at the front of the sanctuary behind the choir section. Our unstaffed nursery is located at the bottom of the spiral staircase as a place for an adult to stay with their child, if needed.

*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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*(thank you for silencing your phone as you worship)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW 275

FIRST READING: **Jeremiah 31:7-14** *(read responsively)*

*A reading from Jeremiah:*

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

**proclaim, give praise, and say,**

**“Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.”**

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

**among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.**

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back;

I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,

**for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.**

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;

**say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”**

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> **They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,**

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;

**their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.**

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

**I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.**

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

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

## 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 MESSAGE (Sun.)

### PSALM: **Psalm 147:12-20** (*read responsively*)

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup>**God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

### SECOND READING: **Ephesians 1:3-14**

*A reading from Ephesians:*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 Let earth receive her king;  
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
 and heav'n and nature sing,  
 and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n,  
 and heav'n and nature sing.**

**GOSPEL: John 1:1-18**

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

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
 and makes the nations prove  
 the glories of his righteousness  
 and wonders of his love,  
 and wonders of his love,  
 and wonders, wonders of his love.**

SERMON: Pastor Nathan Pratt

NICENE CREED

**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.**

SONG FOR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*(sung before the prayers)*

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

*(...sung after the prayers)*

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

Use the QR code to reach our online giving page:



## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: God of glory,

**great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

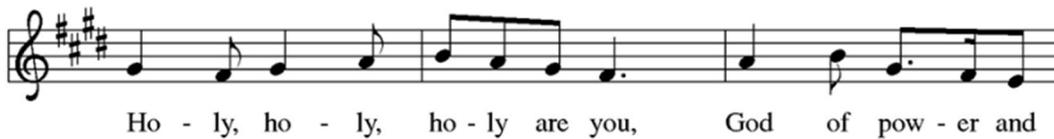
ELW 191

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 our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## 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)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

“Holy Child within the Manger”

*see next page*

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

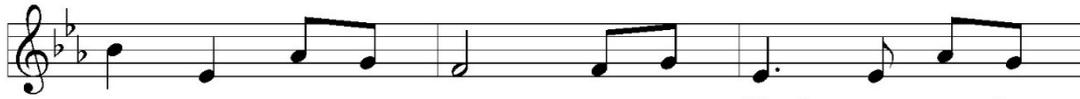
POSTLUDE

# Holy Child within the Manger

## *Carol at the Manger*



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your  
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us



go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your  
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry



stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.  
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.



As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the  
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and  
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -  
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -



spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.  
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.  
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

### **Today's Worship Leaders**

Preacher & Presider: Pastor Nathan Pratt

Musician: Michael Becker

Sun. Greeter: Rick Sill

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

Sun. Communion Assistants: Denise Keller, Elaine Klandrud

Coffee Hour Refreshments: Tricia Randelzhofer, Peggy Svoboda

Video Producer: Dennis Harmann

Prayer Writer: Kathy Heyse

### **Worship Leaders for 1/10 & 1/11:**

Sun. Greeter: Maxine Silvius

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

Sun. Communion Assistants: Stephen Gifford, Tim Graves

Coffee Hour Refreshments: Diane Kelly, Chris Pearson

Video Producer: Chris Ryshkus

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## THIS WEEK AT MPLC: Jan. 4 - 11, 2026

### Sun. Jan 4

- 9:00 AM:** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM:** Coffee Hour (Fellowship)
- 10:15 AM:** Sunday School (Education Level)
- 10:20 AM:** Adult Education (Mygatts)

### Tues. Jan 6

- 11:00 AM:** Chair Yoga (Fellowship)
- 1:00 PM:** Blood Drive (Fellowship)
- 6:30 PM:** Epiphany Worship Service (Sanctuary)

### Wed. Jan 7

- 11:00 AM:** Bible Study (Mygatts)
- 6:30 PM:** Confirmation (Mygatts)
- 7:00 PM:** Adult Choir (Choir Room)

### Thur. Jan 8

- 9:00 AM:** Quilters (Fellowship)
- 4:30 PM:** Safety Team (Office)

### Sat. Jan 10

- 10:00 AM:** Project Day (Fellowship)
- 4:00 PM:** Worship (Sanctuary)

### Sun. Jan 11

- 9:00 AM:** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM:** Coffee Hour (Fellowship)
- 10:15 AM:** Sunday School (Education Level)
- 10:20 AM:** Adult Education (Mygatts)

## MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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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.**