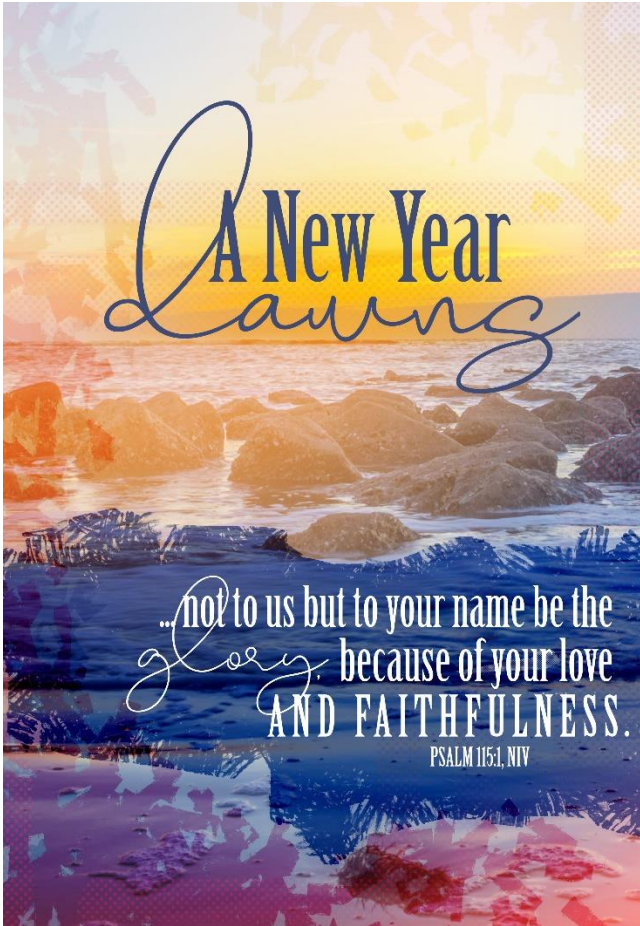


First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023
10:30 AM



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778
www.martinlutherchapel.org

With Simeon and Anna, the church proclaims that salvation has come to the people of God in Christ Jesus. "The splendor of the Lord is over heaven and earth"--Christ is present in the world for all people in all conditions of life. In, with, and through Jesus, the Christian community welcomes all people to the scriptures, the baptismal bath, and the holy supper.

WELCOME

HYMN SING

Today, instead of a printed order of worship, we will have a 'Hymn Sing.' Through the course of the service, we will sing selected verses of as many hymns as we can, while also taking time for prayer, scripture lessons, a sermon and communion. Anyone in the congregation may choose any song or hymn from any of the hymnals available at each chair. Please indicate your selection on one of the scraps of paper included in this bulletin; include the number and the hymnal and the title of the hymn. Place your selection in the basket near the baptismal font, and we will draw at random from these suggestions throughout the service.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:10--62:3

The people who returned to Jerusalem and Judah after the exile were greatly disappointed. The prophet's promises about the glories of the renewed Jerusalem and the wonderful life the people would experience were not fulfilled. Nevertheless, the prophet declares with certainty that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass.

[R] I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

SECOND LESSON Galatians 4:4-7

Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.

- [R]** When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

HOLY GOSPEL The Gospel comes from Luke, chapter 2, beginning at verse 22.

MESSAGE "My Eyes Have Seen"

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

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.

THE DISTRIBUTION: *Please approach the altar as space is available. You may receive pre-packaged communion elements, or from the common loaf, along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Pre-packaged Gluten free options are available.*

Our Confession about Communion

Our Confession

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible, and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.
