

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah — the king of Assyria!”

Psalm 24

¹The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it,
the world and all who dwell therein.

²**For it is he who founded it upon the seas***
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

³“Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?
and who can stand in his holy place?”

⁴**Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.**

⁵They shall receive a blessing from the Lord
and a just reward from the God of their salvation.”

⁶**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

⁸**Who is this King of glory?” “The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle.”**

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

¹⁰**Who is he, this King of glory?”
“The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.”**

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Mount Tabor Lutheran Church



**The Lord himself
will give you
a sign.**

Isaiah 7:14

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MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Little Mountain, South Carolina

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son (✚), and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the (✚) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Hymn: #239

Hark, the Glad Sound!

The Greeting

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The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Dialog

P: O Wisdom, O Lord of Might,

C: Come, and teach us your truth.

P: O Branch of Jesse, O Key of David,

C: Come, and fill the world with your royal power.

P: O Dayspring, O King of Nations,
C: Come, and lead us into your peace.

P: O Emmanuel,
C: Come, and may your loving presence fill our troubled world.

The Prayer

P: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, help us to spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Hymn: #257 (vs 1-4) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

The Prayer of the Day:

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-17

Psalm 24 (read responsively by whole verse)

The Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

The Gospel Acclamation (*Alleluia...*)

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The Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

The Children's Time

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: #254 **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

The Anthem

Hear the Angels Sing

The Offertory: #884

The Doxology

The Offertory Prayer

The Prayers of the Church

*(Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy,
We respond "Hear our prayer. ")*

The Lord's Prayer
The Benediction
The Hymn: #289
The Dismissal

Angels We Have Heard on High



SERVING OUR LORD TODAY

Supply Pastor – The Rev. Dave Keener

Organist – Gloria Danielowski

Choir Director – Kayleigh Eargle

Lector – Tori Livingston

Acolyte – Avery Long

Ushers – Doug Bowers, Robert Long, Wayne Abbott

The **Altar Flowers** today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Brendan on his birthday (December 15th) and in memory of Brenda Frick on her birthday (December 20th) by Daniel and Amy Wicker and Family. Next Sunday's flowers will be given by Murray and Janice Shealy.

We **welcome** Pastor Dave Keener today as our guest preacher and worship leader.

We **welcome** visitors who are worshiping with us today. We invite you to sign one of the Visitor cards in the pew rack and place it in the plate in the narthex as you leave or give it to an usher.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion will be Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Gary Blobaum will lead the service. All are welcome.

Remember in your prayers:

Mt. Tabor Members: Scott Frick, Melvin Bowers, Ann Bowers, Troy Shealy, Jane Speight, Dick Shealy, Shane Stroud, Micheal Torrence, Linda Dowd, Todd Frick, Carter Dominick, Debbie Rister, Derek Bowers, Henry Childs, and Roger Long.

Family and Friends: Celeste Bowers, Will Nobles, Dean Stribble, Beckham Waters, Alston Slater, Larry Danford, Andy Wessinger, Susan Wicker, Cindy Mace, Charles Shealy, and Catherine Elaine Hamm.

Hospital List Known: Roger Long, Prisma Health Richland

Home from the Hospital: Scott Frick, and Linda Dowd (Wellmore of Lexington)

Our **Attendance last Sunday** was 130 (130 inside and 0 outside). Offering was \$4,084.00. Sunday School attendance was 63.

Today's **Loose Offering** will go to the Backpack Ministry. The loose offering for next Sunday will go to World Hunger. The loose offering for the month of January will go to Nick and Amanda Childs to help with medical bills for Henry.

If you have **announcements for the December 28th bulletin**, please submit them by tomorrow at 12 noon by email at mttaborlutheran@gmail.com or by calling 803-945-2333.

If you have any additions or changes to make to your contact information in the **Church Yearbook**, please contact the church secretary at 803-945-2333 or mttaborlutheran@gmail.com.

Devotionals for January - March are available today.

If you have not already done so, please pick up your **2026 Offering Envelopes**. They are available on the table in the cry room.

REMINDER: There are still five vacancies on the **2026 Flower Chart**. One is January 4th.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for members who wish to serve as **lectors and/or communion assistants** in 2026. Please consider signing up.

The **CIA** will go **Christmas Caroling** this afternoon. We will meet at the church at 2:00 p.m. We invite all members of the church to join us caroling as we bring Christmas Joy to our members.

Christmas gift bags and other gifts will be delivered to the residents at **Palmetto gardens** on Tuesday afternoon, December 23rd. We invite anyone from the congregation who would like to go to please join us. We plan to leave the church at 3:00. If anyone has any questions, contact Lynn Shealy.

The family of John Wheeler would like to thank everyone for your outpouring of love and support during John's illness and death. Your kindnesses are true reflections of God's love and care for us!

*In Christ,
Sylvia Wheeler, Johnny Wheeler,
Allen & Melody Williams*