

**First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**Psalms 72:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Give the King your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;  
**<sup>2</sup>That he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the little hills bring righteousness.  
**<sup>4</sup>He shall defend the needy among the people;  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup>He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
**<sup>6</sup>He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup>In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
there shall be abundance of peace 'til the moon shall  
be no more.

**Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13**

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup>And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup>And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

# Mount Tabor Lutheran Church



816 Mt. Tabor Road  
Little Mountain, SC 29075  
Office: (803) 945-2333

Email: [mttaborldutheran@gmail.com](mailto:mttaborldutheran@gmail.com)



MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Little Mountain, South Carolina

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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: #249                      *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptists Cry*  
The Greeting    Page 138

*The Lighting of the Advent Candle*

The Dialog  
P: In the rush of the season  
*C: we forgot to look up*  
P: Stars sparkle in the sky;  
*C: we do not pause to see.*

P: Weighed down by life’s troubles,  
*C: we lose the wonder of this season.*  
P: How do we reclaim wonder and awe  
*C: as we wait for Christ’s coming?*

The Prayer  
P: Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. We live in a fearful and desperate time and world, and we are aware that many of your children are suffering, homeless, displaced, mistreated, and hopeless. Open us to the light of your compassion and love and give us the courage to seek peace in our lives, in our community, and in the world around us. Help us, O Lord, to be patient, as you are patient with us, that we may remain faithful until the fulfillment of all your promises on the day of Jesus Christ. *Amen*

The Hymn: #257 (vs1-2)                      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

The Prayer of the Day:  
P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson    Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7  
The Second Lesson    Romans 15:4-13  
The Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia...)                      Page 142  
The Holy Gospel    Matthew 3:1-12  
The Children’s Time  
The Sermon  
Hymn of the Day: #715    *Christ, Be Our Light*  
The 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**

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| The Prayers of Intercession  | Page 143                             |
| <i>(Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy, We respond “<b>Hear our prayer.</b>”)</i>  |                                      |
| The Peace  | Page 143                             |
| The Anthem   | <i>Light of Hope, Light of Peace</i> |
| The Offertory: #884  | <i>The Doxology</i>                  |
| The Offertory Prayer   |                                      |
| The Great Thanksgiving   | Page 144                             |
| The Proper Preface   | Page 144                             |
| The Sanctus  | Page 144                             |
| The Eucharistic Prayer   |                                      |
| The Lord’s Prayer  | Page 145                             |
| The Agnus Dei  | Page 146                             |
| Holy Communion   |                                      |
| The Post-Communion Blessing  |                                      |
| The Post-Communion Prayer  | Page 146                             |
| The Benediction  |                                      |
| P: The Lord bless you and keep you.<br>The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.<br>The Lord look upon you with favor (✙) and give you peace.<br><i>C: Amen.</i> |                                      |
| The Hymn: #264   | <i>Prepare the Royal Highway</i>     |
| The Dismissal  |                                      |

We **welcome Pastor Gary Blobaum** 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. We **welcome to Communion** all who are baptized members of all churches who receive communion in their own churches. Please complete a communion card found in the pew racks and give to the communion usher.

**SERVING OUR LORD TODAY**

**Supply Pastor** – Pastor Gary Blobaum

**Organist** – Karen Davis

**Choir Director** – Kayleigh Eargle

**Lector** – Gloria Danielowski

**Acolyte** – Avery Long

**Ushers** – Doug Bowers, Paul Shealy, Ronnie Boland

**Communion Assistants** – Gwen Davenport, Kim Mack,  
Wayne Abbott

**Communion Usher** – Warren Davis

**Altar Care** – Meredith Achelpohl, Susan Fulmer, Wanda Rumfelt

**Offering Tabulators** – Douglas Bowers, Lindsey Stribble,  
Bradley Shealy, Daniel Wicker

**Candle Care** – Lynn Shealy, Myra Willis

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Eva Shealy Dowd by Susan Richardson. Next Sunday's flowers will be given by Lindsey and Kerry Stribble.

Our **Attendance last Sunday** was 105 (104 inside and 1 outside). Offering was \$2,418.00. Sunday School attendance was 56. The November Sunday School offering was \$486.

Today's **Loose Offering** will go to the Ronald McDonald House. The loose offering for next Sunday will go to the Love Fund.

**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 Carolyn Torrence.

**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.

**Council Members** are reminded of tonight's council meeting at 6pm. The newly elected members are invited to attend as well.

The **2026 Ministry Teams Sign Up** sheet is on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you wish to be on a particular team. Council will be making teams at tonight's meeting.

The **LCW** will meet Monday morning at 10:30am in the conference room for a brief meeting followed by a Christmas Lunch over at the Little Mountain Café.

The **CIA** will go **Christmas Caroling** on Dec. 21st. We will meet at the church at 2 PM. We invite all members of the church to join us caroling as we bring Christmas Joy to our members.

Any **Golden Ager or Shut-In** who would like the CIA to come and **Christmas Carol** to them are asked to sign the sheet in the narthex, call the church office (803-945-2333), or contact Daniel Wicker (803-924-3828) to get your name on the list. A leader of the CIA will contact you with an estimated time of arrival. We look forward to singing to you! Please sign up by December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Members are reminded to consider using their **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to support our church. Our church is now listed as "Mount Tabor Lutheran Church of Little Mountain." When you make donations through Thrivent, please let our treasurer, Meredith Achelpohl, or our church secretary, Marsha Meetze, know so that the funds can be designated to the fund or area that you wish to support. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Today is the last Sunday to take an angel or stocking off the tree in the Narthex. There are 7 stockings and one angel left. When taking one, please sign your name by the appropriate number on the list posted on the bulletin board. This helps us know when all stockings and angels have been taken and gifts received. **All gifts need to be brought to the church by Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** to give us time to sort and bag them. Please make sure you attach the stocking to your toiletry gift and the angel to your clothing gift. If you would like to make a monetary donation instead of going shopping, please put your donation in an envelope marked Palmetto Gardens Christmas and place it in the offering plate. Checks should be made payable to Mr. Tabor Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, contact Lynn Shealy. Currently Palmetto Gardens has 33 residents. Gifts will be delivered the week of Christmas.

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](mailto:mttaborlutheran@gmail.com).

There are two more practices scheduled for the **Christmas Program**:

- Monday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 a.m.

We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with this special program on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> during the service!

We offer our **Sincere Condolences** to the family of Virgil Livingston, father of Amanda (Johnny) Riddle, grandfather of Laken (Chandler) Williams, and great-grandfather of Baylor Williams. His service was Wednesday at Morris Chapel Southern Methodist Church.

All church members ages 65 and up are invited to join us for our annual **Senior Christmas Luncheon** on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. Please sign the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or call the church office (803-945-2333) by December 14<sup>th</sup> so that we will know how many to expect.

Please remember to pick up your **2026 Offering Envelopes**. They are available starting today on the table in the cry room.

The **2026 Flower Chart** is posted on the narthex bulletin board.

**B&B Florist** and **The Lake Murray Flower Shoppe** are now able to deliver to the church. If anyone knows another florist interested in delivery, please let the office know. We will contact them and discuss. We now have a lock box with a key we can give them the combination to. We plan to change the combination every couple of months.

**Choir Practice** will be Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

The **December/January Newsletter** is available again today.