

***“From Everlasting to Everlasting”***  
***Advent I – Midweek Service***  
***December 4, 2013***  
***10:00am & 6:00pm***

**Hymn Sing**

**Invocation**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**Responsive Psalmody of God’s Eternal Nature** *(Selected Psalm Verses)*

Pastor: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

**People: Before the mountains were born and you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God!**

Pastor: You turn men back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, O sons of men.”

**Men: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by,**

**Women: or like a watch in the night.** *(Psalm 90:1-4)*

Pastor: But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children--

**People: with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.**

**Men: The LORD has established his throne in heaven,**

**Women: and His kingdom rules over all.** *(Psalm 103:17-19)*

Pastor: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

**People: The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.**

Pastor: The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. *(Psalm 145:13-14)*

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Hymn Stanzas # 733 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”** Stanzas 1,3,4,6

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

**Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: O almighty God, heavenly Father, you are from everlasting to everlasting, and you sent your Son, born from eternity, into the world to be our Savior. Grant us all to ponder the brevity of this life, to find our hope and future in the gospel of your Son, to rejoice in the Advent of the Eternal Son coming as our Savior, and daily to look toward the everlasting life you have promised us in Jesus Christ. In His name we pray.

**People: Amen.**

**Old Testament Prophetic Reading: Micah 5:2-5a**

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17**

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Reading of the Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after

he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, Christ Jesus.**

**Sermon Hymn # 331 “The Advent of our King”**

**Sermon**

**Text: The Responsive Psalm Verses and Micah 5:2-5a**

**Theme: “Time and Eternity . . . and the Coming One”**

**Advent Offerings** As your offering is collected, please **sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

**Responsive Prayer**

*Pages 285-287*

*(Beginning with the Kyrie)*

**Closing Hymn**

**10:00 # 876 “O Blessed, Holy Trinity”**

**6:00 # 883 “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”**

Worship Leader

Acolyte

Organist

Pastor Harold Bender

Emily Reinhardt

Roger Gottschalk