

First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2019



GOLD HILL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A CONGREGATION OF THE MONTANA SYNOD OF
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)*

Welcome to Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church, and a special welcome to our guests and those returning after a time away. We're gathered as a Christian community to worship the Lord!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!

Please let us know if there are other ways we can be of service.

Guests are invited to fill out the small green contact card in the rack in front of you and hand it to the Pastor or other worship leaders or place it in the offering plate.

We promise not to 'stalk' anyone – we're just trying to let you know we care.

Our Congregation's Mission Statement:

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE

The Guiding Principles of God's People at Gold Hill Lutheran

Principle 1: Jesus Christ is our Lord & Savior

Principle 2: The Holy Spirit & worship strengthen us

Principle 3: We are a welcoming & inviting community in Christ

Principle 4: We share the Word with confidence and courage

Principle 5: Our faith leads us to serve joyfully

Principle 6: We are generous with our gifts

www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT

Check out our GROWING website at www.GoldHillLutheran.org

934 Placer Street – Butte, MT 59701 – 406-723-4242

Mary Johnston – ChurchOffice@GoldHillLutheran.org

Pastor Trina Johnsten, interim - PastorGoldHill@gmail.com

944 Placer Street – Butte, MT 59701 – 402-984-4306

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leaders:	Pastor Trina Johnsten, interim
Assisting Minister:	Jerry Aaker
Music Ministers:	Dave Coleman
Ushers:	Danette & Dick Fitzpatrick
Roving Greeter:	Heatherlynn Meeks
Additional Servant Ministers:	Tavia Broudy & Ruschelle Tyvand

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*Indicates that congregation stands.
Bolded texts are said in unison.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

We gather in the name of the Father,
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

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.**

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.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming #272*

***Greeting** page 203

***Kyrie** page 203

***Glory to God** page 204

***Prayer of the Day**

**O Lord God,
you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers.
As you protected the infant Jesus,
so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.
Lessons may be found at the back of the bulletin.*

Old Testament Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm Psalm 148

Reading from the Early Church Hebrews 2:10-18

***Gospel Acclamation** page 205

***Gospel** Matthew 2:13-23

As the gospel is announced:

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As the gospel is concluded:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Trina Johnsten

Hymn Sing

***Apostles' Creed** back inside cover of hymnal

***Prayers of Intercession**

Each portion of the prayer concludes:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Gathering of Offering *Blessed Assurance, #638*

Offering Prayer

***The Lord's Prayer** page 208

***Blessing and Prayer**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Benediction**

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** *Go Tell It on the Mountain, #290*

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps.

Fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely”;
and he became their savior

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”