

*December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent*

*“Jesus Christ
is Coming to Town!”*

*We welcome you with open
arms and open hearts!*



Faith Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered, Bible-reading, welcoming spiritual home for seekers, believers, and everybody between. We're a family of God "because God first loved us." (1 John 4:19) Because you're here, you're part of the family—welcome.

Young children are welcome in the service.

If you are new to Faith we would like to be in touch with you. Please share your contact information with the church office, 406-363-2964, or office@faithlutheranhamilton.org.

Welcome to Faith and thank you for coming!

God Gathers the Body of Christ

Prelude

Susan Peterson, Accompanist

Call to Worship

Celeste Pogachar

Welcome

AM: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you!

(AM: *Prayer Requests and Service Announcements.*)

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 3

L: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
That marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

All: Amen.

Service of Light (*as three candles are lit*)

L: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All: the light no darkness can overcome;

L: Let your light scatter the darkness,

All: and shine within your people here.

L: The Light shines in the darkness;

All: and the darkness does not overcome it.

Candle Hymn

“Light Three Candles”

ELW #240, v.3

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
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(AM: Please stand as you are able for our gathering hymn)

Gathering Hymn

“Holy Child Within the Manger”

WOV #638

Holy Child within the Manger *Carol at the Manger*

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
 2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
 3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
 love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
 ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
 glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
 stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
 Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
 In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
 fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
 strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
 pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
 giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Confession and Forgiveness

PM: Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

All: Amen.

PM: Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.
(Silence is kept for reflection)

PM: Loving and forgiving God,

**All: We confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

PM: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free, free from all that
holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's
peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Advent Hymn *(Please rise)*

“Annunciation/Magnificat”

Holden Evening Prayer

AM:

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth
to a woman whose name was Mary.

The angel said to her “Rejoice, O highly favored for God is with you.
You shall bear a child and his name shall be
Jesus the Chosen One of God Most High”
And Mary said, :I am the servant of my God,
I live to do your will.”

ALL:

**V 1: My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here,**

**and blessed me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart.**

**Refrain: My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here.
And blessed me all my life through,
and blessed me all my life through.**

**V 2: You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart,
You have filled the hungry with wonderous things,
and left the wealthy no part.
As you promised to Sarah and
Abraham, kindness for evermore.**

**Refrain: My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here.
And blessed me all my life through,
and blessed me all my life through.**

Prayer of the Day

AM: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

AM: Let us pray.

All: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God Speaks to Us in the Word

(AM: Please be seated for the readings)

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Lector: A reading from the 61st chapter of Isaiah:

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge

that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.

Lector: Give directions for psalm responses.)

Psalm: Psalm 126

The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for
them.”**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Lector: A reading from the 5th chapter of 1st Thessalonians:

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Lector: Word of God, Word of life. **All:** Thanks be to God.

Kids' Talk

(AM: Please rise as you are able for the gospel acclamation)

Gospel Acclamation

“Emmanuel”

W&P #36

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; his name is called Emmanuel.**

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

PM: The Holy Gospel according John, chapter 1:

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

John's gospel describes Jesus as the “light of the world.” John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let

us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”²³ He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Paul Anderson

(AM: Please rise as you are able for the sermon song)

Sermon Song

“On Jordan’s Bank”

ELW #249, v. 1,3,5.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

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 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.

Prayers of the Church

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

ELW # 247 Vv. 1-2

See Page 14

A brief silence.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship (*the congregation's worship leaders may be named*). Embed your word in their hearts. Wait with us. Watch with us.

Hear our prayer.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Wait with us. Watch with us.

Hear our prayer.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Wait with us. Watch with us.

Hear our prayer.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm (*survivors of recent natural disasters may be named*). Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Wait with us. Watch with us.

Hear our prayer.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Wait with us. Watch with us.

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love (*especially Lucy, martyr of the church*). Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Wait with us. Watch with us.

Hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

ELW # 247 Vv. 3-4

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Ososǒ, ososǒ

O - so - sǒ o - so - sǒ, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gǔm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sǒ.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope

Music: OSOSÓ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947

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Pass the Peace

PM: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Take a moment to pass the peace with those around you, and send a message of peace to those listening and watching with you.

We will now receive the offering.

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

Offering Prayer

AM: Generous God,

All: You have created all that is,

and you provide for us in every season.

Bless all that we offer,

that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.

In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

Amen.

Jesus Comes to Us in His Supper

Dear members and friends of Faith: as you trust the God who comes in Jesus, please be welcome to share his meal. Christ offers here and now his body and blood, his death and resurrection, as a demonstration that God “loves you to death” and is present to, in, and through you now and forever.

Communion will be served in individual portions.

Give directions for communion.

The Great Thanksgiving

PM: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

PM: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

PM: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PM: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts in heaven, we praise your name as we await your coming, O Emmanuel.

Words of Institution

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by this Holy Communion we may know
the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 & Luke 11:2-4

PM: Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

All: 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.

Distribution

PM: And now may the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

PM: Gracious and abundant God,

All: You have done great things for us, and we rejoice.

In this bread and cup you give us life forever.

In your boundless mercy, strengthen us

and open our hearts to the world's needs,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Benediction

PM: Be people of **joy**. Let **joy** live in your heart and share the **joy** of Christ with all you meet. Share **joy** by seeing the good in each other. Share **joy** by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come. Share **joy** by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share **joy**.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share **joy**, **peace**, and **hope** with those you meet.

All: Amen.

God Sends Us into the World

Announcements for Congregation

Sending Song

“Hark The Glad Sound”

ELW #239

Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Dismissal

AM: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Thanks to our Worship Assistants!

Today Dec 13

Accompanist Susan Peterson
Assisting Minister Celeste Pogachar
Video Rick Brown
Projection Rod Pogachar

Dec 20

Accompanist Amber Richardson
Assisting Minister Carl Russ
Video Cole Kimzey
Projection Will Heitmann

Pray for our Members and Friends...

Please call or email us with your prayer requests

Prayers for safety and healing: Robin Ireland, Pastor Dale Meador, Pastor Aprille Jordan, Eunice Romo, Quovia Anderson, Bill Jameson, Ken Price, Pastor Shannon Mayfield, Scott Southwick, Amber Wood, Richard Castor, Julie, Pat, Amber Lynch, Ken Cathey, Linda Bentz.

Prayers for Covid-19 Recovery: Patrick Gyles, Lori Gutierrez, Scott Southwick.

Prayers for comfort: for Amanda and Nathan Brady and the Stephens/ Martin families on the loss of Jodi Stephen, family and friends of Gary Rouse.

The Beehive: Morry Mitteness, Yvonne Olson

Valley View: Ruth Dillon

Remington: Betty Swift, Chuck Olson

Home Nursing Care: Virginia Rotering, Smitty

Incarcerated: Jacob Bachman, George Davis

***This prayer list will be refreshed monthly.
Please feel free to resubmit.***