

# *December 12th, 2021*



*ELW Setting 3  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent*

*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,

**Welcome to Faith and thank you for coming!**

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## **God Gathers the Body of Christ**

**Prelude**

Collen Southwick  
**Accompanist**

**Call to Worship**

**Welcome**

Am: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

*(AM: Any prayer requests? Please notify the church office to submit names of those you wish to be included in the prayers. No formal offering will be taken today. Please leave in the offering plate on the table in the narthex.)*

## **Advent Wreath Litany and Lighting: Advent 3**

### **Litany**

**Lighting 1st, 2nd, & 3rd candle**

### **Advent Litany Prayer**

**All: 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.  
Amen.**

**Candle Hymn                      Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.  
ELW# 240 V. 1, 2, 3.**

**GATHERING/ Confession & Absolution:**

**P 94.**

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

In the name of the Father,

and of the † Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**PM:** 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.

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

*(The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.)*

**PM :** Most merciful God,

**ALL:** **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.**

**PM:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

**“Joy To The World ”**

**ELW #267**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness**

**and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## **Greeting**

**ELW p.138**

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the unity  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you!**

## **Kyrie**

AM: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

AM: For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

AM: For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

AM: For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

AM: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Trumpet Special Music.

### Prayer of the Day

AM: Let us pray.

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*(A brief silence is kept before the prayer.  
The assembly is seated.)*

AM: Please be seated for the readings

## God Speaks to Us in The Word

### First Reading:

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Lector: A reading from Zephaniah:

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

14Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

15The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

16On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

17The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
18as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

19I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

20At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

### **Psalm : Isaiah 12:2-6**

2Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my  
salvation.

**3With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. R**

4And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

**5Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

6Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## **Second Reading**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

Lector: A reading from Philippians.

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.*

4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord....

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Kids' Talk**

Pastor Paul

**Gospel Acclamation**

**"Alleluia"**

**ELW p.142**

*(The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.)*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**



## Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

**PM: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:  
All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**L: The Gospel of the Lord.**

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon**

Pastor Paul

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn!”**

**ELW# 242**

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.**
  
- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**
  
- 3 In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.**
  
- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,**

**be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.**

**Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950**

## **The Nicene Creed**

**AM: Let us Confess our faith with the words of the Nicene creed**

**All: 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 the Church

*Assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer with these or similar words.*

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (especially).

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians (especially). With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace (especially). By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect.

Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **Pass the Peace**

PM: The peace of Christ be with you always.

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.*

## **Jesus Comes to Us in His Supper**

*Dear members and friends of Faith: as you trust the God you see 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*

### **MEAL**

**Offering Prayer**

AM: Let us pray,

**All: God of our waiting and watching,  
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.**

**Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.  
Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**ELW p.144**

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

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.**

**PREFACE**

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 of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Pm: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**PM:** With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

**PM:** Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

**PM:**All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

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



PM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **Invitation to the Meal**

PM: Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good.

## **Distribution**

PM: The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## **Blessing/Prayers**

### **AM: Let us Pray**

PM: And now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, keep you in His grace.

### **AM: Let us Pray**

ALL: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **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.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song      "People Look East"**

**ELW #248**

**1      People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**2      Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,**

one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flow'r may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

**3** Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

**4** Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## God Sends Us into The World

### Dismissal

AM: Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

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*Pray for our Members and Friends...*



*Please call or email us with your prayer requests.*

**Prayers for safety and healing:** Carl Russ, Jane Mason, Micha, Karla West, Kenny Senn,

**Prayers for comfort:** Family and Friends of Lynda Brady and Jim Shipman

**Discovery:**

**Beehive:** Yvonne Olson, Chuck Olson

**Valley View:** Ruth Dillon

**Remington:** Kathleen Gazzara

**Sapphire:** Bertie Senn

**Incarcerated:** George Davis

**Thanks to our Worship Assistants!**

<b>Today</b>	<b>Dec 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>December 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Accompanist</b>		<b>Susan Peterson</b>
<b>Call To Worship</b>		
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Susan W</b>	
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Jack Lowery</b>	<b>Jane Mason</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Scott Southwick</b>	
<b>Projection</b>	<b>Susan Peterson</b>	
<b>Video</b>		