

December 19th, 2021



*ELW Setting 3
4th 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!

God Gathers the Body of Christ

Children's Program + Presbyterian Bell Choir.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Accompanist

Amber Richardson

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 4

Litany

Lighting 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th candle

Advent Litany Prayer

**All: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.**

**As we light the candles on this wreath,
open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.**

**Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word made flesh.**

**Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.**

Light all four candles.

**Candle Hymn Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.
ELW# 240 V. 1, 2, 3, 4.**

GATHERING/ Confession & Absolution:

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.

All: 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.)

ALL: 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.

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

“O come, All Ye Faithful. ”

ELW #283

Bells Accompany.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,**

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God

in the highest: Refrain

- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: Refrain

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

Presbyterian Bells

Prayer of the Day

AM: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father 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:

Micah 5:2-5a

Lector: A reading from Malachi:

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

**⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation. R**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

**⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Lector: A reading from Hebrews.

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The word of the Lord....

C: Thanks be to God.

Kids' Talk

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 1:39-45 [46-55]

PM: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Pastor Paul

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Infant Holy!”

ELW #276

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

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.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness (especially). Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. 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

ELW# 182:

Special music December 19th

Not this offering

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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.
Amen.**

Announcements

Benediction

PM: Be people of love.

Let love live in your heart and share the love of Christ with all you meet.

Share love by loving those you see regularly. Start by loving your community.

Share love by loving those you do not know. How do your actions affect the rest of

God's creation?

Share love by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share love.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share love, joy, peace, and hope

with those you meet.

ALL:Amen..

Sending Song "What Child is This"

ELW #296

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;**

**hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

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 Greg Russ.

Discovery:

Beehive: Yvonne Olson, Chuck Olson

Valley View: Ruth Dillon

Remington: Kathleen Gazzara

Sapphire: Bertie Senn

Incarcerated: George Davis

Thanks to our Worship Assistants!

	Dec 19th	Dec 24th @4	Dec 24th@7	Dec 26th
Accompanist	Amber Richardson	Colleen Southwick	Amber Richardson	Amber Richardson
Call To Worship	Helen Fessler	Helen Fessler	Amber & Celcile Richardson	**
Ushers	Judy Wilson	Hanson Family	Murrillo	John Trangmoe
Lector	Gina Optiz	Troy Hanson	Murrillo	John Trangmoe
Assisting Minister	Clyde Riggle	John Martin	Clyde Riggle	Not Needed
Power Point	***	Scott Southwick	Chad Farrenburg	Not Needed
Video	Rick Brown	Rick Brown	Rick Brown	***