

# 12-14-25 Full Bulletin-Christmas Program



**Faith Lutheran Church is a family of God** built on love: worshiping, welcoming, learning, and serving in Christ's name. All are welcome! Thank you for worshiping with us.

*Sunday Worship 9:30 am, Setting 3 Liturgy, ELW p.138  
ELW refers to the red hymnal, WOV refers to the blue hymnal.*

---

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## GATHERING

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Long-expected God,

**C: we confess that we look to ourselves**

**for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our  
neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have  
promised. Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.  
C: Amen.

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent: verse 1*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent: verses 1-2*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent: verses 1-3*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent: verses 1-4*

**“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”** ELW #240

**1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.**

**2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.**

**3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.**

**4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.  
Let your lights be shining!**

**GATHERING SONG**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW #257 vs 1-4

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

**GREETING**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

ELW p.138

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: 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.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: The lord be with you.            C: And also with you.

A: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly

and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,

the majesty of our God.]]

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## PSALM

Psalm 146:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**  
<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food  
to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.  
<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those  
who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan  
and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to  
cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Response after the readings.*

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **~~KIDS' TIME~~**

### **GOSPEL ACCLIMATION**

ELW p.142

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **GOSPEL**

Matthew 11:2-11

**P:** The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him,

“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

*Response after the reading.*

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Away in a Manger”

ELW #277

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## **CREED**

### *Nicene Creed*

ELW p.104

A: Let us profess our faith together in the words of  
the Nicene creed.

**C: 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. (*We pray especially for . . .*) In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant (*especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith (*especially Mary, mother of Jesus, John of the Cross and . . .*). May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

**MEAL**

## **OFFERING & OFFERING SONG**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent: verse 1 (sing 2 times)*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent: verse 2 (sing 2 times)*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent: verse 3 (sing 2 times)*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent: verse 4 (sing 2 times)*

**“He Came Down”**

**ELW #253**

- 1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.**
- 2 He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.**
- 3 He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.**
- 4 He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Nourishing God,

**C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**

**Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
that we may rejoice and be for the world  
signs of your kingdom come.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

... we praise your name and join their unending  
hymn: ELW p.144

**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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us  
to pray.**

**C: 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 COMMUNION**

P: Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

## **COMMUNION**

ELW p.146

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

## **COMMUNION SONG(S)** “In the Bleak Midwinter” ELW #294

- 1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.
- 2 Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;

in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

- 3 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.

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
nourish your soul and fill you with his grace now  
and forever!

**C: Amen**

## **COMMUNION CANTICLE**

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” ELW #207

**Thankful hearts and voices raise;  
tell ev'ryone what God has done.  
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice**

and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your promises  
and lead your people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: God our host,

C: at this table you have fed us with joy and  
gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.

## **SENDING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

P: May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the  
darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.

## **C: Amen**

### **SENDING SONG**    “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

ELW #281

- 1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

### **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# POSTLUDE

*Our liturgy is from Sundays and Seasons, copyright ©Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*

*Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #44168.*

*Permission to reprint, podcast and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE  
LICENSE with license #A-718436. All rights reserved.*

*Church Copyright License® 616644 Size A, CCLI Streaming License™ 20288016 Size A, CCS  
PERFORMmusic License PML17204 Size 1.*