

12-7-25 Full Bulletin



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

1st Sunday in Advent: verse 1

2nd Sunday in Advent: verses 1-2

3rd Sunday in Advent: verses 1-3

4th 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

“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.

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way
of your only Son. By his coming nurture our
growth as people of repentance and peace;
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 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be
glorious.

PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an
abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says,
"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,
“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 3:1-12

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd
chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of
Judea, proclaiming,

² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume 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. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Response after the reading.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Hark, the Glad Sound!” ELW #239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

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.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (*especially*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith (*especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate*

today). Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. 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

1st Sunday in Advent: verse 1 (sing 2 times)

2nd Sunday in Advent: verse 2 (sing 2 times)

3rd Sunday in Advent: verse 3 (sing 2 times)

4th 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)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW #279

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still

the dear Christ enters in.

- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

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 “Prepare the Royal Highway” ELW #264

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding

for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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