



**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 10 Liturgy, ELW p.203  
ELW refers to the red hymnal, WOV refers to the blue hymnal.*

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## **PRELUDE**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

## **GATHERING**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.

**C: 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.**

## **GATHERING SONG** "In Wonder As I Wander" WOV #642

*Lyrics unavailable. Please use the BLUE hymnal.*

## **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.203



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p.204



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

A: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do,**

**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**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,

for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

## **PSALM:** Psalm 147:12-20

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders

and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

## **SECOND READING**

Ephesians 1:3-14

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been  
made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ.  
Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children  
and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual  
blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in  
Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy  
and blameless before him in love.

<sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.



## *Response after the readings.*

L: Word of God, word of life.    **C: Thanks be to God.**

## KIDS' TIME

### GOSPEL ACCLIMATION

ELW p.205



### GOSPEL

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.  
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Response after the reading.*

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

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

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

WOV #646

- 1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

### *Refrain*

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

- 2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again;  
king forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

- 3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worshiping God Most High. *Refrain*

- 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

5 Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heav'n sings alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

## **CREED**

### *Apostle's Creed*

ELW p.105

A: Let us profess our faith together in the words of  
the Apostle's Creed.

**C: 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 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 INTERCESSION**

A: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

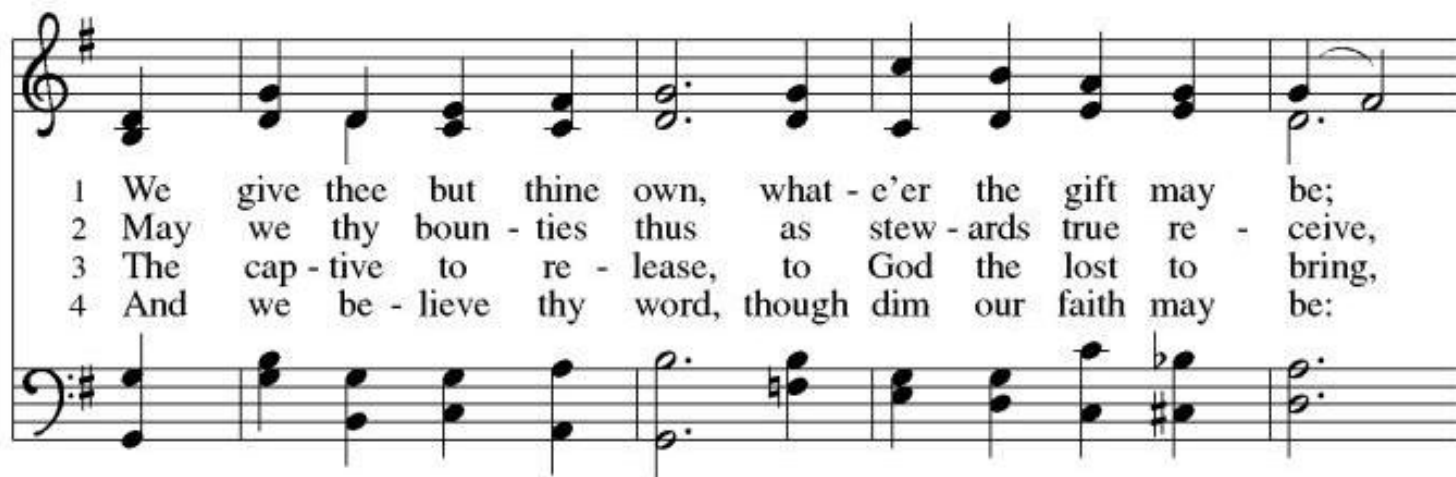
C: And also with you.

## **MEAL**

## **OFFERING & OFFERING SONG**

## “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

ELW #686



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

### OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of majesty,

C: no eye has seen, no ear has heard

what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your  
mercy.

Use what we have gathered

to feed us with the reign of God come near,

**Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
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, ...

... and join their unending hymn:

ELW p.207

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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

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

**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 the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

## COMMUNION

ELW p.208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## COMMUNION SONG(S)

"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

ELW #284

- 1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime  
when all the birds had fled,  
that \*God the Lord of all the earth  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:

### *Refrain*

Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria!

- 2 Within a lodge of broken bark  
the tender babe was found;  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped his beauty round;

but as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high: *Refrain*

3 The earliest moon of wintertime  
is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on  
the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. *Refrain*

4 O children of the forest free,  
the angel-song is true;  
the holy child of earth and heav'n  
is born today for you.  
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. *Refrain*

## **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

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Radiant God,

C: we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**SENDING**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise

✝ bless you now and forever.      **C: Amen**

## SENDING SONG    “Bright and Glorious Is the Sky”    ELW #301

- 1 Bright and glorious is the sky,  
radiant are the heavens high  
where the golden stars are shining.  
All their rays to earth inclining  
beckon us to heav'n above,  
beckon us to heav'n above.
- 2 On that holy Christmas night  
through the darkness beamed a light;  
all the stars above were paling.  
all their luster slowly failing  
as the wondrous star drew nigh,  
as the wondrous star drew nigh..
- 3 Sages from the East afar,  
when they saw this wondrous star,  
went to find the king of nations  
and to offer their oblations  
to the child, the newborn king,

to the child, the newborn king.

- 4 Him they found in Bethlehem,  
yet he wore no diadem;  
there they saw a maiden lowly  
with an infant pure and holy  
resting in her loving arms,  
resting in her loving arms.
- 5 Guided by the star, they found  
him whose praise the ages sound.  
We too have a star to guide us,  
which forever will provide us  
with the light to find our Lord,  
with the light to find our Lord.
- 6 And this star, as bright as day,  
that will never lead astray  
with its message so appealing,  
is the word of God, revealing  
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,  
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

## **DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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