



Dec. 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

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.203
ELW refers to the red hymnal.

*Please write **prayer requests** on the clipboard located on the table in the Narthex. There will also be an opportunity to offer up request aloud or in the silence of your hearts during the Prayers of Intercession.*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW p.94

Please stand.

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: 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.

C: Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,

things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2024 BY LISA HANCOCK

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

December 22, 2024

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.”

(Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O [*fill in name of church or community*], from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

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

Please stand.

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ELW #254

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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 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.**

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

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.

² But 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.

³ Therefore 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.

⁴ And 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, ⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

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.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

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

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

⁸ When 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), ⁹ then
he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes
the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s
will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the
body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Response after the readings.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

KIDS’ TIME

GOSPEL ACCLIMATION

ELW p.142

Please stand.

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

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

- ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
- ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts.
- ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
- ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
- ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
- ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Response after the reading.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand.

“Of the Father's Love Begotten” ELW #295 vs 1,3,4&5

1 Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,

he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

3 This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.

4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.

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.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray
for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in
our relationships with those of other traditions and
religions.

Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities (*local preserves, parks, or sanctuaries may be named*). Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill (*especially... and those we name aloud or in the silence of our heart*). Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation.

Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died (*especially*), we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please share the peace of Christ.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Please stand for the 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: Let us pray.

C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please be seated.

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**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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)

“Holy Child within the Manger”

WOV #638

- 1 Holy Child within the manger,
long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to ev’ry stranger,
come as hope for ev’ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken,
greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken,
teach us now where you are found.
- 2 Once again we tell the story--
how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory
wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom,
come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion
kindle ev’ry land and race.
- 3 Holy Child within the manger,
lead us ever in your way,
so we see in ev’ry stranger

how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living
give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving
and our spirits strong and true.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand.

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: Let us pray.

C: 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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

BLESSING

Please stand.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen

SENDING SONG

“The Bells of Christmas” ELW #298 vs 1,2,4&6

1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;

the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
with new year gifts of peace, good will.

2 This world, though wide and far outspread,
could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall,
no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall

4 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
to keep our Christmas with our king,
until our song, from loving souls,
like rushing mighty water rolls!

6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
and keep your Christmas in our breast;
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
shall swell our jubilee of song.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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