



Dec. 8, 2024
2nd 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

December 8, 2024

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,

and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness” (Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God’s peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God’s grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God’s love throughout the earth.

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God’s kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Light the second 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.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW #257 vs 1,4,5&6

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.

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*

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, ⁷¹ from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷² **to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
**free to worship you without fear, ⁷⁵ holy and righteous
before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of
peace.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 3:1-6

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' ”

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.

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

ELW #272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

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.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering (*especially...and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*). Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future.

Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. 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)

“Love Has Come”

ELW #292

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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

- 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.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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