

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers – "Goodness of God,"

by Fielding, Johnson, Cash, Ingram, and Johnson

GATHERING

Call to Worship

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

C: Amen.

Confession

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

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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.

- 1 **Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**
- 2 **The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**
- 3 **The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**
- 4 **Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

**Greeting*

P: 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.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: God of hope,
we often find ourselves in exile, lost and struggling. In this place, wherever we are,
comfort us, strengthen us, restore us, and give us hope.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

Lighting of the Advent Wreath with the children

Hymn of Praise: "There Is a Redeemer"

(piano)

**1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

*Refrain: Thank You, oh my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

**2. Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. *Refrain***

**3. When I stand in Glory, I will see His face.
There I'll serve my King forever In that holy place. *Refrain***

WORD

Reading: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Reader: Terri Kimler

¹These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to your dreams that you dream, ⁹for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

¹⁰For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I

will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* John 14:27

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

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

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Scripture Song – “Lord of All Hopefulness” ELW 765

(organ)

- 1 **Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**
- 2 **Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**
- 3 **Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**
- 4 **Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Sermon: “Hope ... in the Midst of Exile”

Song of the Day – “Firm Foundation”

(piano)

***Chorus: Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I know I can stand secure.
Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I put my hope in your holy Word,
I put my hope in your holy Word.***

- 1. (I have a living hope) I have a living hope
(I have a future) I have a future
(God has a plan for me) God has a plan for me
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure. *Chorus***
- 2. (Your Word is faithful) Your Word is faithful
(Mighty in power) Mighty in power
(God will deliver me) God will deliver me
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure. *Chorus***

****The Apostles’ Creed***

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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***

Stewardship Time

**“Living Hope,” by Phil Wickham
*Faith Singers***

***—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are communing,
share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—***

**Offertory*

“Doxology” ELW 884

(piano)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**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.

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord’s Prayer*

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.

Communion Songs

“Now Is the Time” *(piano)*

Refrain: Come to us, you who say, “I will not forget you.”

Be with us, you who say, “Do not be afraid.”

Take hold of us, our hearts, our minds, our whole being.

Make us you own, now is the time.

1. Spirit of love, crush the pain of hatred. Spirit of hope, stand before our eyes.
Spirit of light, dance within our darkness.
Make us you own, now is the time. *Refrain*
2. Spirit of peace, silence tongues of anger. Spirit of life, break the chains of death.
Spirit of joy, overcome our sadness.
Make us you own, now is the time. *Refrain*
3. Spirit of faith, rise above our doubting. Spirit of truth, save us from our lies.
Spirit of God, walk among your people.
Make us you own, now is the time. *Refrain*

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” ELW 597 *(organ)*

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.
- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*
- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*
- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

“O Christ, Our Hope” LBW 300, vv. 1, 5, & 6 *(organ)*

- 1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire, creation's mighty Lord,
redeemer of the fallen world, by holy love outpoured,
by holy love outpoured:

- 5 **Christ Jesus, be our present joy, our future great reward;
our only glory, may it be to glory in the Lord,
to glory in the Lord!**
- 6 **All praise to you, ascended Lord; all glory ever be
to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost through all eternity,
through all eternity!**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “People of Hope”*

(piano)

*Refrain: We are people of hope alive in the myst’ry, growing in faith, learning to love.
We are people of hope throughout all of hist’ry, held by the one who will never let go.*

1. **We are dead in our striving for wealth and for might,
But God rich in mercy has loved us to life. Refrain**
2. **We are what God has made us, created in Christ,
For justice and mercy to be our way of life. Refrain**

In the journey ev’ry day we’re led by the Word, saved by grace. Refrain

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker
Greeter: Carol Freesen
Reader: Terri Kimler
Ushers: Angie & Mike Fenner
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Pianist: Jean Welch
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen
Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Kay Schnitker
Chancel Committee: Kim Heise
Coffee Host: Kim Heise



Singers:

Maddie Crossin	Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street
Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker
			Kelly Street

The altar plants are donated today by Theresa Savoie
in memory of Louise Savoie on her birthday, December 1

Song Credits

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What's Coming Up at Faith?

- Sunday, November 30, 9:00am: Christmas Program Rehearsal **Friends from Faith**
9:30am: Worship
4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp
5:30pm: Confirmation
- Wednesday, December 3, 11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch in Great Room
12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert – JHS Madrigals
- Saturday, December 6, 8:00am: Cooking for
9:00am: Men's Breakfast
- Sunday, December 7, 9:30am: Worship with Children's Christmas Program
11:00am: Traditional Worship
- Wednesday, December 10, 11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch in Great Room
12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert – Matthew Nall, piano
- Thursday, December 11, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Children's Christmas Program

We will present the Nativity on December 7 during the 9:30am service. Parents: if you have any questions, please contact Melissa Street, Liddy Stark, or Pam Devlin.

Faith's Little Flock – (Ages 2–7)

gathers during worship right after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

In November, Faith's Little Flock will explore stories about Elijah, and messages of justice, light, and hope from the prophets Amos, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Through engaging activities, the children will experience the themes by learning, living, and singing them. We will also be practicing songs for Christmas! *(continued)*

Faith's Little Flock warmly welcomes—and deeply appreciates—our adult and older youth volunteers. If you're interested in spending time with the children during part of the Sunday worship service or joining the teacher rotation for Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street, Liddy Stark, or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

Friends from Faith Card Ministry – A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn

On the last Sunday of each month, everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **Today**, visit the tall table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

Post-Service Discussions Resume Today

Grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Bible Boot Camp

We will meet **today from 4:30-6:00pm**. We are looking for helpers to lead an activity/craft or provide a meal for approximately 20. Contact Pastor Adam for more information and signup to help.

Upcoming Youth Events

Our youth will meet tonight for a Confirmation/Youth night. We'll join the Boot Camp crew for a meal at 5:30 and have our event from 6:00-7:30pm.

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concert

We have a great lineup for this year's Advent Allegro concert series.

December 3: JHS Madrigal Singers

December 10: Matthew Nall on piano

December 17: IC Percussion Ensemble

The brief concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and begin at 12:15pm. Lunch of soup, chips, fruit, and dessert will be served beginning at 11:30am and after the concert for \$5. **We could use some help with serving the meal and providing cookies and soup.** If you would like to pitch in, contact the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coffee sales.** Thank You!

Men's Breakfast

Come and connect with the men as we share our faith and enjoy good food on **Saturday, December 6!** At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

Poinsettias

To purchase a poinsettia to help decorate the church for Christmas, please sign up at the counter by the Coffee Sales and drop your check (or cash) into the decorated box; the cost is **\$10.00**. Please make your check out to Faith Lutheran Church, with a notation for *Poinsettia*, or call or email the church (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) **by December 15** and send your check to the church (1385 W. Walnut St., Jacksonville, IL 62650). Please indicate if the poinsettia is in honor or memory of someone special.

Discipleship Group

Join us for the Discipleship Group meeting at **10:00am on Wednesday, December 17**, in the Faith Library as we meet for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. We have a lot of fun with lively discussions. Let's grow together in compassion, connection, and purpose.

Jacksonville Area Community Food Center

There is always a need for food donations at the Food Center. Some ideas: canned pasta and meat (Chef Boyardee), canned chicken or tuna, cereal, canned soups, peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, Ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, juice, canned fruit, Gatorade, and Jello or pudding cups. Please consider donating to the Food Center – you can put your donations in the cloth bins in the Mission and Ministry Center (coat closet). Donations of money are also greatly appreciated – those can be placed in the offering plates, if they are clearly marked for the Food Center.