

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Today we welcome members of our Central/Southern IL Synod staff –  
Bishop Greg Busboom and Assistants to the Bishop Pastor Amy Zietlow  
and Deacon Jason Fisher

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude – "There is a Hope"*

*(piano)*

*Faith Singers and Congregation*

**There is a hope that burns within my heart,  
that gives me strength for ev'ry passing day;  
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meager part, yet drives all doubt away:  
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiv'n and Christ in me, the hope of heav'n!  
My highest calling and my deepest joy, to make His will my home.**

**There is a hope that lifts my weary head, a consolation strong against despair,  
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit, I find my Savior there!  
Through present suff'rings, future's fear, He whispers "Courage" in my ear.  
For I am safe in everlasting arms, and they will lead me home.**

**There is a hope that stands the test of time,  
that lifts my eyes beyond the beck'ning grave,  
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine when I behold His face!  
When suff'rings cease and sorrows die, and ev'ry longing satisfied.  
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul, for I am truly home.**

## 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.**

*Gathering Song – “All Who Are Thirsty” (ACS 981)*

*(piano)*

(All who are thirsty,) **come to the waters.**

(All who are hungry,) **come here and eat.**

(All who are thirsty,) **come to the waters.**

**There's enough for all.**

*\*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 restoration,

You are hope for our struggle and life for our weary souls. Save us when we find ourselves spiritually thirsty. Help us walk your road with your purpose, strengthened by your living water.

**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: "While We Are Waiting, Come," vv. 1-2* (organ)

1. **While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.**
2. **With pow'r and glory, come; With pow'r and glory, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.**

## WORD

*Reading: Isaiah 55:1-13*

*Reader: Liddy Stark*

Hear, everyone who thirsts;

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread

and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Now you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

*\*Gospel Reading: John 4:13-14*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

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

*Scripture Song – “While We Are Waiting, Come,” v. 3* (organ)

**3. Come, Savior, quickly come; Come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.**

*Sermon: “Dancing in the Rain”*

*Bishop Greg Busboom*

*Song of the Day – “You Who Seek to Quench Your Thirst”* (organ)  
(tune LBW 407)

1. **You who seek to quench your thirst, Ever failing when you try—  
All the cisterns you have dug Now lie broken, parched, and dry.  
Come, you thirsty, come to Christ! Deeply drink His grace and love;  
Plunge into the Living Stream Flowing down from God above.**
2. **You who hunger to be fed, Searching life in want and need;  
You will ne'er in this world find Lasting joys your soul to feed.  
Come, you hungry, come to Christ! You who long to be well fed,  
Taste His Word and savor truth, Feast upon the Living Bread.**
3. **You who have forsaken God, Groping now to find a place,  
Where will you find life and joy? Where is peace apart from grace?  
Come you wand'ring and be found! Do not squander life away.  
Settle not for less than God; Come seek Him without delay!**
4. **You who feel the weight of sin, Mired in its guilt and shame;  
Where will you find righteousness? Nought but sin is yours to claim.  
Come, you empty-handed, come! By the grace of God receive  
Perfect righteousness in Christ. Come to Him, in Him believe.**

5. **You who long for happiness, Why pursue what does not last?  
All the pleasures of this life Quickly fade and soon are past.  
Come and leave your vain pursuits! Turn and to the Fountain fly!  
Find in Christ your full delight; Only He can satisfy.**

*\*The Apostles' Creed*

**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*

*Prayers of Anointing*

**"Dancing on the Waves," by We the Kingdom  
by the Faith Singers**

*Stewardship Time*

**"Light of the World," by We the Kingdom  
by Marilyn Dichsen & Bishop Greg Busboom**

*—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*

“Teach Me to Dance”

*(piano)*

*Refrain: Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
teach me to move in the pow'r of your Spirit,  
teach me to walk in the light of your presence,  
teach to me to dance to the beat of your heart.  
Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,  
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,  
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,  
teach to me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

1. **You wrote the rhythm of life, created heaven and earth,  
in you is joy without measure.  
So, like a child in your sight, I dance to see your delight,  
for I was made for your pleasure, pleasure. *Refrain***
2. **Let all my movements express a heart that loves to say ‘yes’,  
a will that leaps to obey you.  
Let all my energy blaze to see the joy in your face;  
let my whole being praise you, praise you. *Refrain***

**“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (WOV 771) (organ)**

1. **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.  
*Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***
2. **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***
3. **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

***\*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 – “Angels / Glory to God”*

*(piano)*

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains;  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest forever.  
For all He has done, His unfailing love,  
Glory to God in the highest forever.**

**Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest forever.  
For all He has done, His unfailing love,  
Glory to God in the highest, forever.  
Glory to God, glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest forever.  
For all He has done, His unfailing love,  
Glory to God in the highest, forever.  
Gloria, gloria, Glory to God in the highest!  
Gloria, gloria, Glory to God in the highest!**

### *\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Liddy Stark  
Greeter: Liddy Stark  
Reader: Liddy Stark  
Usher: Paul Scheerer  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Organist: Susan Roegge  
Pianist: Jean Welch  
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen  
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen  
Financial Assistants: Mindy Carlson & Patty Nelson  
Chancel Committee: Kris Roth  
Coffee Hosts: Verla Buckner & Laura Sweatman



### 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

## What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 14, 9:30am: Worship

Wednesday, December 17, 10:00am Discipleship Group

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch in Great Room

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert –

Tyler Carpenter & Emma Jensen on percussion

Sunday, December 21, 9:30am: Worship

Wednesday, December 24, 4:00pm: Family Christmas Eve Service in Great room

6:30pm: Christmas Concert

7:00pm Christmas Even Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25, 9:30am: Christmas Day Service set to the tunes  
of Christmas Carols

### Song Credits

“There is a Hope,” by Stuart Townend, © 2007 Thankyou Music. Used by permission.  
“All Who Are Thirsty,” from **All Creation Sings**, © 2020 Augsburg-Fortress Publishing House. Used by permission.  
“While We Are Waiting, Come,” by Carson & Cloninger, © 1986 Word Music. CCLI#973583  
**Lutheran Book of Worship**, © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.  
**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**, © 2006 Augsburg Publishing House.  
“Teach Me to Dance,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583  
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” from **With One Voice**, © 1995 Augsburg-Fortress. Used by permission.  
“Angels (Glory to God),” by Phil Wickham and Jonathan Smith, © 2024 Phil Wickham Music. CCLI#973583

## News Updates

### Faith’s Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children’s Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion. Throughout the rest of December, our crafts and activities will reflect the Christmas season, focusing on the message of hope we have in Jesus.

We are always grateful for our wonderful adult and “big kid” helpers. If you feel called to help with Faith’s Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street, Liddy Stark, or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

### Post-Service Discussions after Worship resume in January

In January, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

### Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concert

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

December 17: Tyler Carpenter & Emma Jensen on percussion

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](mailto:faithlutheran62650@frontier.com)) or **sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coffee sales.** Thank You!

**Blessing Blitz: Faith in Action** — *A joyful, all-ages adventure in giving — where carts become blessings and faith takes action.*

Immediately following worship today, we invite children, families, and all who want to share in the spirit of giving to gather in the narthex for **Blessing Blitz: Faith in Action**. Participants will be divided into teams and caravan together to our local Walmart. Each

team will receive a list of items to find in a fast-paced "shopping scavenger hunt." Once the lists are complete, teams will regroup at the designated checkout area.

We are collecting special cash offerings to fund this mission. The items purchased will directly support three local charities:

**Jacksonville Food Center**

**The Hobby Horse House Hygiene Closet**

**The Foster Care Closet**

After the shopping trip, all team shoppers are invited to the **Faith Great Room** for a simple luncheon with hot cocoa — a warm way to celebrate fellowship and the joy of giving together. This event is designed to be fun for kids, engaging for adults, and meaningful for everyone. Together, we'll be faith in action, mercy in motion, and a blessing blitz to our neighbors in this season of Advent.

### **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.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Birthday Card Shower for Martha Sturgeon**

One of our long-time members, Martha Sturgeon, will be turning 100 on Christmas Day.

Please consider sending her a card. Her new address is:

Martha Sturgeon, c/o Suzanne Mettetal, 2010 Briarturn Dr., Houston TX 77077

### **Read the Bible in a Year**

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, starting after January 1, 2026. We will gather weekly at Faith to discuss our insights and reflections. We'll be utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin. Dates and time are to be determined. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area.