

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts, organist

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

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.

Silence for Reflection and Confession

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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Emmanuel”

(piano)

*Refrain: Come, come, Emmanuel! Son of God, appear. Heaven and earth, rejoice!
Salvation is drawing near. Salvation is drawing near.*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, Who ordered all things mightily,
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

3. O come, O Rod of Jesse’s stem; from ev’ry foe deliver them,
That trust your mighty pow’r to save, and give them vict’ry o’er the grave. *Refrain*

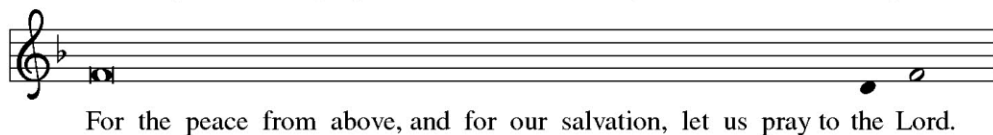
*Kyrie

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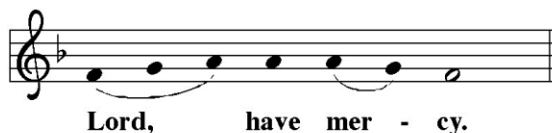
(organ)



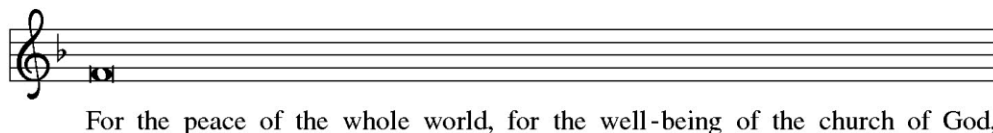
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



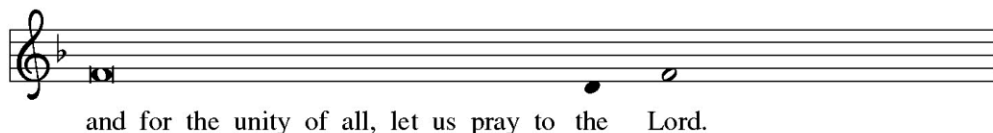
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



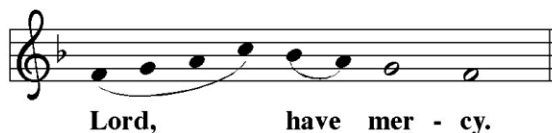
Lord, have mer - cy.



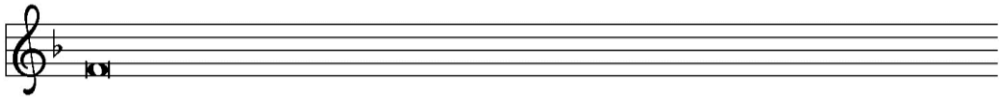
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



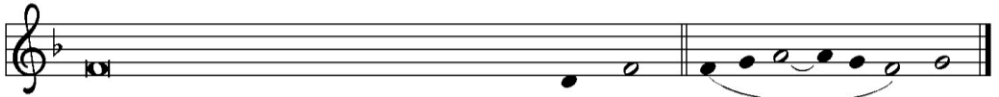
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

**Gloria*

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(organ)



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.




Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,




you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**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 – "He Came Down"

(piano)

**He came down that we may have Hope;
he came down that we may have Hope;
he came down that we may have Hope;
Hallelujah forevermore.**

WORD

Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-18

Reader: Patty Nelson

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

¹⁷For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸and the levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt-offerings, to make grain-offerings, and to make sacrifices for all time.

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

**Gospel Reading:* Mark 8:27-29

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' ²⁸And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' ²⁹He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.'

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

Song: "Isn't It Amazing" (to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High") (*organ*)

- 1 Seeds within the soil grow deep under the ground below.
Planted when the earth was bare, no life showing anywhere.
Gloria, isn't it amazing? Gloria, isn't it amazing?**
- 2 Deeper, deeper grow the roots reaching upward grow the shoots.
Through the earth they weave and snake until soil starts to break.
Gloria, isn't it amazing? Gloria, isn't it amazing?**
- 3 Cell by cell a plant is built toward the sun the leaves will tilt.
Nourished by the sun and rain to bring forth its seed and grain.
Gloria, isn't it amazing? Gloria, isn't it amazing?**

- 4 Even when the earth seems bare plant the seeds of hope with care.
If you water in the drought you will reap with joyous shout.
Gloria, isn't it amazing? Gloria, isn't it amazing?**

Sermon: "Hope"

Song of the Day – “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

**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*

Stewardship Time: Total Stewardship 2024

“Sing We the Song of Bethlehem,” arr. Galbraith
The Faith Singers

Stewardship is about our grateful response to God's grace for us. How do you respond? If you would like to financially support our ministry together, you can place a donation in an offering box or through our website. If you would like to support our ministry together through service, you can find a list of ministry teams online or on our ministry team menu. Consider joining a ministry team, or starting a new one, today!

—Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew—

**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

“Hark, the Glad Sound!” ELW 239 (organ)

- 1 **Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**
- 2 **He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.**
- 3 **He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.**
- 4 **Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.**

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

- 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**

**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: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song – “These Are the Days of Elijah”* *(piano)*

**1. These are the days of Elijah, declaring the word of the Lord;
and these are the days of your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial, of famine and darkness and sword,
still we are the voice in the desert crying, ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord.’”**

*Refrain: Behold, he comes riding on the clouds,
shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee, out of Zion’s hill salvation comes.*

**2. These are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
and these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world,
and we are the lab’ers in your vineyard, declaring the work of the Lord. *Refrain***

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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“People of Hope,” by Larry Olson & Hans Peterson, © 1998 Dakota Road Music. CCLI#973583

“These Are the Days of Elijah,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

The altar plants are donated today
by Carol Rauen in honor of Kris Roth
and
in memory of Louise Savoie on her birthday

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeter: Barb Fishback

Reader: Patty Nelson

Usher: Larry Kuster

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz, Monica Proefrock, and Marilyn Dichsen

Chancel Committee: Kim Heise

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Rigby Dichsen

Adam Krohe

Carol VanderKloot

Louis Dichsen

Kelly Hartz

Kris Roth

Marilyn Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Greg Kimler

Mike Oldenettel

Kelly Street

Marilyn Dichsen

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 3, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, December 6, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert

Friday, December 8, 10:00am: Worship Core Team

Sunday, December 10, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, December 13, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert

Thursday, December 14, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Friday, December 15, 5:30-6:30pm: Hot & Cold Caroling at “Now and Then,”
Coffee Shop on the square in Virginia, IL

News Updates

Sunday School

Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105. The Youth meet in the basement with Drew Snodgrass.

Doorbell Dinners

Our next times to deliver are Christmas Day (December 25) and January 8-12. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales.

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts

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

December 6: “The Extension Chords” (*with Jean Welch*)

December 13: Jacksonville High School Madrigals

December 20: Matthew Nall on piano

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 by the coffee sales.**

Music Rehearsals

Exaltation Ringers rehearse on some Sundays after the service at 10:45am in the Choir Room. We ring one Sunday each month. If you are interested in ringing, please let me know. Jean Welch, *Music Director*

Children’s Choir

Our Children’s Choir was a hit at our 75th Anniversary! We look forward to having them lead us in worship as they sing “Away in a Manger” on Sunday morning, December 24. Maria Snodgrass will be leading them and rehearsing with them on Saturday, December 23 at 1:00pm. If your child would like to participate or you would like to help lead, please contact her.

Christmas Concert

Once again, we will have a short Christmas concert before our 7:00pm candlelight service on December 24th. Please let me know if you might be interested in being a part of that concert. Contact Jean Welch for more information.

jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

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 21** 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.

Reaching Out to the Community and Beyond

Please check out these displays in the gathering area for a way to make a difference in the lives of those in need: *The Pillars Giving Tree (H.U.G.S)*, *The Salvation Army Giving Tree*, and the *Reverse Advent Project*. More information is available in the December Newsletter.

Book Group - "Jotham's Journey"

Our book this month is a bit different from those of the past. This month, you are invited to read "Jotham's Journey," by Arnold Ytreeide. It tells of the adventure of 10-year-old Jotham, separated from his family, on a mission to find them again. His journey brings him face to face with thieves, robbers, and kidnappers, but also wise men, shepherds, and innkeepers until at last he finds his way to the savior born in Bethlehem. Pastor Adam's family has read this numerous times. Read a chapter each day of Advent, along with the thought-provoking reflection, and prepare your hearts for Christmas.

Faith Directory

Thank you for your updated photos and information for our new digital directory! You can access it online by using this QR code. It is password protected, and the password is "faith". If you notice any changes or would like to add your photo, please contact the church office.



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!*