

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Jean Welch, organ – “Comfort, Comfort Now My People,” arr. Manz

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 – “Prepare a Royal Highway” ELW 264, vv. 1, 2, & 4 (organ)

- 1 **Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!**
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: **Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

- 2 **God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!**
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

- 4 **His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.**
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

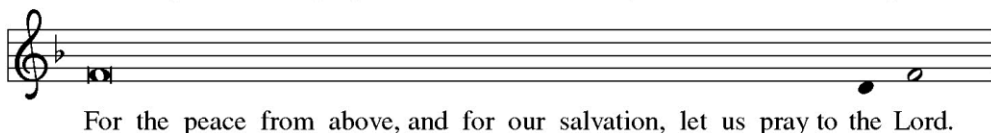
*Kyrie

ELW Setting 3, page 138

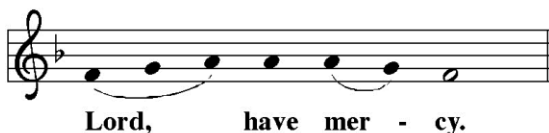
(organ)



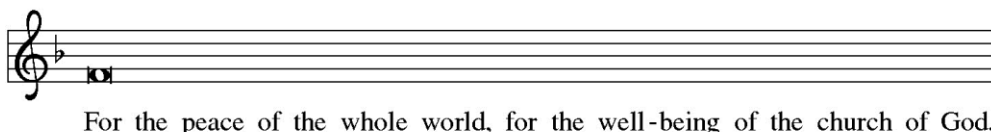
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



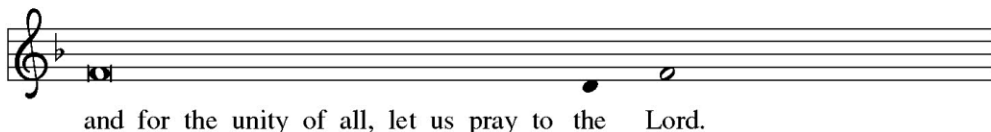
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



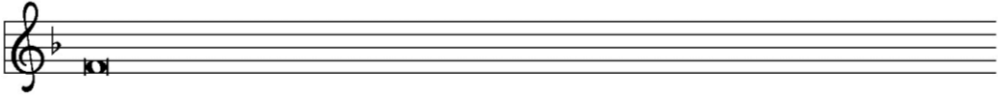
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



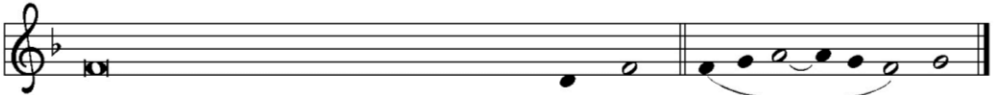
Lord, have mer - cy.



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*

ELW Setting 3, page 139

(organ)

Assisting minister



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

All



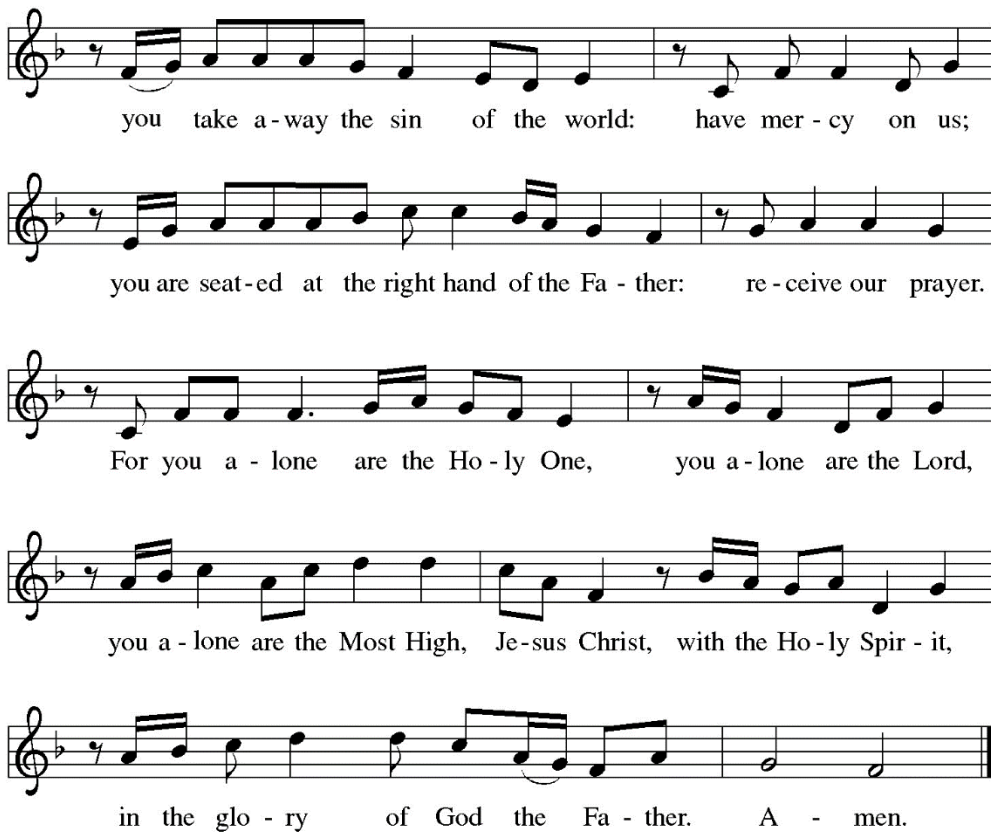
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



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

**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.**

WORD

Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: John Williams

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD’s hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:
‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’

⁶A voice says, ‘Cry out!’
And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

**Gospel Reading:* Mark 1:1-4

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight",

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.

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

Song: "Weary World" (to the tune of "Silent Night") (piano)

1. **Weary world, God's own vine, tears our only bread and wine.
Crying out to be restored, desperate for a break from war.
Weary world rejoice, come and raise your voice.**
2. **Weary world broken and bruised, name of God so misused.
Can we see the light of Christ glowing in each person we spite?
Weary world rejoice, come and raise your voice.**
3. **Weary world, out of hope disbelief is how we cope.
We've left faith to rot and rust, dreams are covered in layers of dust.
Weary world rejoice, come and raise your voice.**
4. **Weary world, waiting still, holding our breath until
Christ returns in truth and grace. Will we recognize his face?
Weary world rejoice, come and raise your voice.**

Sermon: "Peace"

Song of the Day – "Comfort, Comfort All My People" (piano)

*Refrain: Comfort, comfort all my people with the comfort of my Word.
Speak it tender to my people: All your sins are taken away.*

1. **Though your tears be rivers running; though your tears be an ocean full;
though you cry with the hurt of living: comfort, comfort.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain shall be low,
ev'ry rough place will be smoother, comfort, comfort! Refrain**
2. **Though your eyes see only darkness, though your eyes can see no light,
Though your eyes see pain and sorrow: comfort, comfort.
Ev'ry night will have its morning, ev'ry pain will have an end,
Ev'ry burden will be lightened: comfort, comfort. Refrain**
3. **Though we build strong walls for prisons, though we feast while others starve,
Though we fill this world with weapons: comfort, comfort.
Ev'ry pris'ner will be rescued, ev'ry hungry mouth be filled,
Ev'ry gun will rust, forgotten: comfort, comfort. Refrain**

4. **Though we fracture God’s creation, though we stand so far apart,
Though we fail to love each other: comfort, comfort.
Ev’ry wall will crack and crumble, ev’ry stranger will be friend,
Ev’ry one embrace another: comfort, comfort. 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

“This I Know,” by Lydia Laird
Allie, Ada, and Isla Snodgrass

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

“We Come to the Hungry Feast” ELW 479 *(piano)*

- 1 **We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**
- 2 **We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**
- 3 **We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us; still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.**

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace!” ELW 247 (*piano*)

- 1 **Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.**
- 2 **Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.**
- 3 **Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**
- 4 **Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

“We Are Waiting for Jesus” (ACS 905) (*piano*)

- 1 **We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Sun of justice, shine upon us;
we are trusting in your promise.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**
- 2 **We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;
stir our hearts, and gently guide us.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**

**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 – “Carry the Light”

(piano)

1. **In this world of darkness we are given light,
Hope for all the dying. How will they know?**

How will they know ... that Jesus loves them, And He died to save them?

Refrain: Carry the Light, carry the Light.

Go and tell the children they are precious in His sight.

Carry the Light, carry the Light. Go and preach the gospel ‘til there is no more night.

In the name of Jesus Christ, carry the Light;

(2nd time) the Light. Carry the Light.

2. **Count them by the millions, blinded slaves to sin.**

Inside they are dying. How will they know?

How will they know ... that Jesus loves them, And His heart is breaking? Refrain

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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“Carry the Light,” from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Barb Davenport

Greeter: Lillian Korous

Reader: John Williams

Usher: Pat Glyshaw

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Musician: Jean Welch

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Mindy Carlson & Ken Devlin

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Host: Barb Davenport



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 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

Sunday, December 17, 9:30am: Worship
10:45am: Sunday School
2:00pm: Christmas Caroling

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, December 20, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
10:00am: Discipleship Group
11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch
12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert

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. Remaining concerts:

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*

Christmas Caroling

Join us as we head into the community to visit friends of Faith for caroling and Christmas joy. Meet at Faith at 2:00pm **Today** to fill up your mugs of hot chocolate. We will carpool around town and return to Faith by 3:30.

Discipleship Group

Our next gathering will be Wednesday, December 20 at 10:00am. If you have any questions about our group or are curious about how we spend our time together, please call Kelly Hartz at 217-502-1979 or email khartz@sompo-intl.com.

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*, and place it in the decorated box by the sign up, or call or email the church (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) **by December 21**. 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.



Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf & flavored; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **\$5.50** coffee pods; **\$6.25** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

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!*

Sabbatical Update

If you weren't in worship on November 26, you may have missed the official announcement of Pastor Adam's upcoming sabbatical. At our 2023 Annual Meeting, our congregation extended our support to apply for a Lilly Clergy Renewal grant to fund a sabbatical in 2024. While we did not receive the grant, we feel the time is right for Pastor Adam, his family, and our congregation to take time for renewal. He will be taking the months of February-April to unplug from the demands of pastoral ministry and plug into his identity as a husband, father, and Child of God. More details on goals for him and our congregation will be available in January. In the meantime, a “Sabbatical FAQ” sheet has been prepared. You can pick up a copy at Faith and talk to Pastor Adam or any of our Council members for more information (Mindy Carlson, Ken Devlin, Kelly Hartz, Kelly Street, Greg Kimler, Patty Nelson, Mike Oldenettel, and Monica Proefrock). Together, with Pastor Adam, we are grateful to God for the ministry we share and this opportunity for growth and renewal.