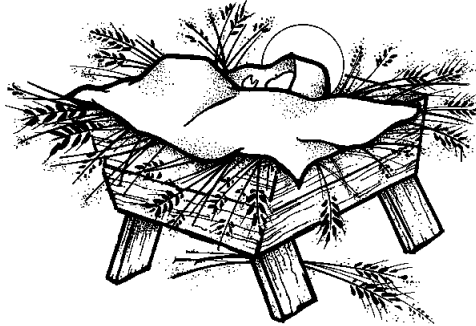


# Christmas Day Service

THE **LORD JESUS**  
LITTLE  
ASLEEP ON THE HAY



**December 25, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1385 W. Walnut Street  
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

# FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1385 W. Walnut Street Jacksonville, IL 62650

## CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2023

Adam Dichsen, *Pastor*

Jean Welch, *Music Director*

Sam Roth, *Digital Ministry Coordinator*

Sharon Zuiderveld, *Congregational Care Coord.*

Allie Snodgrass, *Parish Nurse*

Kris Roth, *Parish Secretary*

245-8919 / [www.faithlutheranjacksonville.com](http://www.faithlutheranjacksonville.com) / email: [faithlutheran62650@frontier.com](mailto:faithlutheran62650@frontier.com)

Thank you for joining us for worship today as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Word who took on flesh to be with us. This Word is Jesus, the savior of the world who gave his life on the cross and rose from the grave for forgiveness and salvation... God's good news of great joy for all.

We celebrate this today in the sacrament of Holy Communion. As Lutherans of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) we believe that Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, is present in and with the bread and wine. Here a person receives forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith, and the certain hope of resurrected life with God. We welcome all who share this belief to receive the sacrament and these gifts of God's grace. At the appropriate time, come forward to receive the bread and select a prefilled cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty cup in the separate tray for empty cups. If you prefer not to commune, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

We welcome Bishop Emeritus John Roth this morning

## Prelude

## Welcome

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

ELW 289

- 1 **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

*Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.*

- 2 **Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?** *Refrain*
- 3 **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.** *Refrain*

## **\*Confession and Absolution**

P: When we come to God with honest repentance, God forgives us.  
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: 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.**

## **\*Creed**

P: Forgiven by God and living together in trust and hope, we declare our faith.  
(Martin Luther's explanation to the second article of the creed)

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.  
At great cost he has saved and redeemed me,  
a lost and condemned person.  
He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil,  
not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious  
blood and his innocent suffering and death.  
All this he has done that I may be his own,  
live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting  
righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,  
just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.  
This is most certainly true.**

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

P: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

## \*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.*

**Hymn:** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW 288

- 1 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**
- 2 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**
- 3 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

**Lesson:** Psalm 108:1-4

Reader: John Williams

<sup>1</sup>My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;

I will sing and make melody.

Awake, my soul!

<sup>2</sup>Awake, O harp and lyre!

I will awake the dawn.

<sup>3</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples,  
and I will sing praises to you among the nations.

<sup>4</sup>For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

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

- 1 **Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**
- 2 **Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

**\*Gospel:** Luke 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**Sermon:** “Riches to Rags”

- 1 **Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**
- 2 **He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**\*Prayers**

**\*Preface** (melody: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with you, his servant.**

P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**C: With hearts uplifted**

**Thanks to him we render.**

**With joy we come before him,**

**In gratefulness implore him,**

**With thankful hearts adore him,**

**Evermore.**

P: Thanks and praise to you, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C:** (melody: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord!**

**God of hosts, by all adored!**

**Heav'n and earth cannot contain**

**All the glory of your name.**

**Hail, hosanna, God most high!**

**Blest is he who now draws nigh**

**In the name of God the king,**

**Hallelujahs glad we sing.**

**Hail, hosanna! Praises due  
Be forever, Lord, to you!**

**\*Words of Institution** (melody: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”)

P: Lord Jesus Christ did on that night, The night he was betrayed,  
Take bread and wine into his hands And say to all the same:  
“Take, eat, this is my body giv’n; take drink, my blood sets you free.  
I give them to you from this day forth, A feast in remembrance of me.”

**\*Lord’s Prayer** (melody: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”)

**C: Our Father, Lord on heav’n’s high throne,**

**Most holy be your name.**

**Your kingdom come. Your will be done.**

**On earth, in heav’n, the same.**

**Give us this day the food we need;**

**Forgiven may we be;**

**Into temptation do not lead;**

**From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto you In grateful love we bow;**

**And yours the pow’r; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.**

**The glory yours; your praise be sung**

**By all: by women, by men,**

**In ev’ry land, by ev’ry tongue Forevermore. Amen.**

**Hymns during distribution:**

*—Please take a moment to sign into the welcome folder in your pew—*

“Away in a Manger” ELW 277

- 1 **Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay;  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2 **The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

- 3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

“The First Noel” ELW 300

- 1 **The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

- 2 **They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

- 3 **And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

- 4 **This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

- 5 **Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain***

**\*After distribution** (melody: “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”)

**C: Oh thank the Lord and sing his praise.  
What he has done proclaim!  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice,  
And proudly bear his name,**



**Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Lord, let your servant go in peace.  
Your word has been fulfilled.  
Our eyes have seen the saving work  
Which for the world you willed,  
The glory of your people now, As light for all revealed.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**\*Benediction** (melody: “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”)

P: The Lord bless and keep you,  
Look with love upon you,  
Be gracious, and cause his face to shine with peace.

**C: Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!  
The Savior close beside us,  
God’s love from harm to hide us,  
The Spirit’s pow’r to guide us  
Evermore!**

**\*Sending Hymn:** “Joy to the World”

ELW 267

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room And heav’n and nature sing, ...**
- 2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, ...**
- 3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, ...**
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love, ...**

**Postlude**

## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner  
Greeters: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson  
Reader: John Williams  
Usher: Pat Glyshaw  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Musician: Sandi Watts  
Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert



### Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Mike Oldenettel	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

The poinsettias in the sanctuary were provided  
by members and friends of Faith

### *Song Credits*

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## HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

### News Updates

#### What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 31, 9:30am: Service of Lessons and Carols  
Wednesday, January 3, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group  
Saturday, January 6: 9am: Men's Breakfast

#### **Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 a.m.**

This service will be packed with good news and great joy as we hear the story of the Word made flesh from Old Testament and New and sing the story with some of our Christmas favorites

## Doorbell Dinners

Our next time to deliver is January 8-12. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales.

## Reverse Advent Project

If you would still like to participate in our Reverse Advent Project, collecting food for individuals and families in need, you may make a financial contribution to add fresh food items to the bags. Please designate your offering for "Reverse Advent" and put it in the offering boxes today as we will be delivering the bags this week.

## Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2023, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 7**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 21, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 14.

## 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; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate; **\$6.50** 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.