

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

We welcome Bishop Greg Busboom this morning
of our Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers – “Sing We the Song of Emmanuel,” arr. Townend

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* – “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.**

**Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Spirit of the Lord God,

C: **You bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, and shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning; a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord, our whole being shall exult in God, for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ, our salvation. 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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath with the children

ELW 257

(piano)

- 3 **O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Refrain**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

WORD

Reading: Isaiah 61:1-11

Reader: Kelly Hartz

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;

⁶but you shall be called priests of the Lord,
you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,
and in their riches you shall glory.

⁷Because their shame was double,
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore they shall possess a double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

⁸For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

Song – “He Came Down” ELW 253

(piano)

1. **He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forever.**
2. **He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
Hallelujah forever.**
3. **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 forever.**
4. **He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forever**

Sermon

Song of the Day – “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” ELW 843 (*organ*)

- 1 **Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**
- 2 **Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
- 3 **Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

**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

Sandi Watts, organ

–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

“What Feast of Love” ELW 487 (organ)

- 1 **What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**
- 2 **What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**

- 3 **What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

“Jesus, You Have Called Us” (piano)
to the tune of “In the Bleak Midwinter” ELW 294

**Jesus, you have called us to your table here.
By your invitation all are blest and dear.
Bringing our gifts, we meet each other here.
Christ we come rejoicing! Come, O Christ, appear!**

**In this feast of mercy, Christ, we thirst for you.
Open wide our hearts to what your love will do.
Make us your Cup, the Manger where you lay.
Love made flesh among us, Christ be born anew.**

**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 – “He Has Clothed Us with His Righteousness” (piano)

**1. He has clothed us with his righteousness, covered us with his great love.
He has showered us with mercy, and we delight to know the ... glorious favor,
wondrous favor of God.**

*Refrain: We rejoice in the grace of God poured upon our lives,
loving kindness has come to us because of Jesus Christ.*

We rejoice in the grace of God, our hearts overflow.

What a joy to know the grace of God.

**2. He’s brought us into his family, made us heirs with his own Son.
All good things he freely gives us, and we cannot conceive what ... God’s preparing,
God’s preparing for us. Refrain**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Glen VanderKloot

Greeter: Lillian Korous

Reader: Kelly Hartz

Usher: Barb Davenport

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Mindy Carlson & Patty Nelson

Chancel Committee: Kris Roth

Coffee Host: Barb Davenport



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street
Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street	Carol VanderKloot

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Gaylon Martin	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 15, 9:30am: Worship

10:30am: Youth Sunday School

10:45pm: Book Group

4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp Christmas Party

6:00pm: Faith Inkubators Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 18, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch in Great Room

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert – Devon Carpenter, harp

Sunday, December 22, 9:30am: Worship

10:30am: Youth Sunday School

10:45pm: Book Group

Tuesday, December 24, 4:00pm: Family-Friendly Christmas Service

6:30pm: Concert

7:00pm: Christmas Eve Communion Service

Wednesday, December 25, 9:30am: Christmas Day Communion Service

News Updates

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts

Please join us for the remaining concert: December 18: Devon Carpenter on harp

The brief concert will last approximately 30 minutes and begin at 12:15pm. Lunch of soup, chips, fruit, and cookies will be served beginning at 11:30am and after the concert for \$5.

We could use some help with serving the meal, and we need cookies. 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.**

Men's Prayer Group

Help us grow our group! You can meet in person at Faith on **Wednesday mornings at 7:00**, or on zoom. Contact one of the guys to let them know you are coming: Kevin Krohe or Larry Kuster.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Christmas Eve 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. Jean Welch, Music Director

Contact Jean for more information.

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

Book Group -- *Holy Disruption*

Our Advent book read is *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark*. The Gospel of Mark doesn't have an advent story, but begins with Jesus' Baptism. Author Tracy Daub suggests that Mark's Advent story is in every aspect of Jesus' life, to his death and beyond. "*Holy Disruption* presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel which invites its readers to experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world." Join us after worship on Sundays in Advent (December 8, 15, and 22) to discuss where we see God in the life of Jesus and in our own holy disruption. Books are available in the gathering area under the working cross for **\$10.00**.

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 **\$12.00**. 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 20** 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.

“Faith’s Little Flock”

Faith's Little Flock meets in the classroom next to the nursery after the children's sermon until communion time. Activities this month will follow Pastor's theme of God's promises. The children can look forward to making fun crafts while listening to Bible stories. We are also adding some fun music for the little ones called "Sing the Bible". A special thanks to everyone who has volunteered your time this Fall. We will be working on a schedule for volunteers and getting things organized for the remainder of the year. *Melissa Street*

Bible Boot Camp

We introduced Bible Boot Camp, a new program for elementary-school-aged children, in September. Pastor Adam warmed them up with singing, dancing, and some retelling of Bible stories from recent worship services. Patty Nelson and Shelley McDaniel led them in some creative play and crafts, and then we all joined with parents and older youth for a meal. **Our next event will be on Sunday, December 15, from 4:30-6:00,** Spread the word and bring a friend!

Faith Inkubators

Our Confirmation Class has resumed under a different name. Our Faith Inkubators youth nights incorporate all the learning of confirmation, but also some games and activities so that it is open for some upper-elementary-aged kids that are up for the challenge and our high school youth to still be involved. **Our next event will be on Sunday, December 15, from 4:30-6:00.** Spread the word and bring a friend!

Holiday Food Basket Needs – Jacksonville Area Community Food Center

The Food Center will be assembling over 300 holiday baskets, so your donations truly make a difference – Thank You! **We will be collecting donations up till Christmas.**

Sweet Potatoes	Chicken Broth	Macaroni & Cheese
Instant Potatoes	Canned Corn	Pumpkin Pie Mix
Gravy Mix	Canned Green Beans	Evaporated Milk
(pkg or can)	Mushroom Soup	Cereal
Egg Noodles	Stuffing Mix	Flour & Sugar

Please put your donations in the cloth baskets in the Ministry Center/Coat Room.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Please see Sharon Zuiderveld if you'd be willing to ring bells this season. We'll decide on a date and time.

Pillars Giving Tree

Bring Christmas Joy to the Children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry

This Christmas season, we again have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry. Starting **December 1**, the Giving Tree will be up in the church gathering area. The Giving Tree is adorned with ornaments, each representing a child and their needs this Christmas. Choose an ornament, make your donation payable to HUGS, and place it in the offering box.

Your generosity will bring joy and hope to these precious children, reminding them that they are loved and valued. Thank you for helping make this Christmas a special one for those in need. For questions or more details, please contact Melissa Street, Kevin Krohe, or Patty Nelson. Thank you for being a blessing this holiday season!

Count Up to Advent in our Reverse Advent Project

It is that joyful time again for our Reverse Advent project. Reverse Advent adds up rather than counting down to Christmas, by adding a different food item each day of Advent. Take home a festive bag located next to the Working Cross in the Gathering Area and collect food. You will find the suggested list of food items and suggestions in each bag. This year there are two lists: one for families in need and one for homeless in our community.

Consider reaching out to friends to participate with us. Take them a bag and let them experience the joy of sharing the spirit of the holiday. Then volunteer to bring their bag back to church. Better yet, invite them to an Advent Allegro concert or a worship service, and they can place their bag with the others.

If you find your bag too small for all your items, just take another one. Tie the handles together when you return your bags to the church.

We hope to fill the area under the Working Cross with bags for our neighbors. Please bring your bags to the church by Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. If you would like to help deliver them, contact Hallie Mayner.

LSSI Foster Care

Last month we heard about the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. With so many in our Faith Family engaged in foster care, we would like to support LSSI's efforts in this ministry. If you would like to make a donation, make your check to Faith Lutheran Church, designate it to "*LSSI Foster Care*," and drop it in the offering box.

Doorbell Dinners

THANK YOU to everyone who helped deliver Doorbell Dinners in October!
Our next time will be **January 13-17**.