



Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2022

Faith Lutheran Church

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WELCOME VISITORS!

The people of God at Faith Lutheran Church welcome you on this most holy night. If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, we joyfully invite you to join with us; please speak to me, Pastor Peter Kuritz.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His Supper. Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.

Christmas Eve Altar Representatives

Leader:..... Rev. Peter Kuritz
Greeters/Ushers: Phil Anderson
Lector: Phil Newlander
Music:..... Molly Finkbiner

Offering Plate is in the back of the church.

Offerings are gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Christmas Eve Poinsettias

The following people provided the poinsettias on the Altar for Christmas Eve:

“To all our beloved deceased.” - John and Marie Casabianca

“In honor of our loved ones.” - Kathy and Steve Marga

“In memory of our family and friends in the Lord’s hands.” - Lois and Don Childers

“In memory of Al Wheeler, George & Dorothy Sholly, and Harold & Bertha Nutt.” - Phyllis & Jim Nutt

“In honor of our parents and friends.” - Karen and Ed Weaver

“In honor of the Shiner and Seiler Families.” - Ron and Shirley Shiner

“In honor of my family and members & friends of Faith.” - Peggy Rapp

“In memory of Ellen Tim Shields.” - Judie and Fred Tim

“In memory of the Soltis and Hoffman Families.” - Roy and Glenda Hoffman

“In memory of Carlton R. Klein.” - Joyce Klein

“In memory of Mr. & Mrs. George Weale, Mr. & Mrs. Marlan Frantz, and in honor of Forrest, CC, Sawyer, Charlie, Ronnie & Megan & Ron Bogart.” - Paul and Jan Frantz



In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

WELCOMING MUSIC: "Joy to the World" Martha Lynn Thompson

Played by Faith Lutheran Tone Chime Choir

(Please rise as you are able)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God. Let us give thanks for these holy days of Christmas.

We have come to worship the God of new beginnings and new opportunities.

Come, people of God. Let us celebrate and rejoice for the wondrous gifts given to us.

Here in our worship, we look to the future as we are filled with the gifts of Christmas: love, hope, joy, peace!

Now we sing the joyous carols of Christmas again and witness to our Savior's birth.

Glory to God in the highest!

CHRISTMAS CAROL: "O Come All Ye Faithful" LBW 45

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



(Please be seated)

WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING: The Light of Christ

Tonight, we extinguish the Advent candles. The **first candle** reminded us to recapture the wonder of the season. In the midst of repeated refrains and familiar stories, Advent was a time to be awed by the God who came to restore our world. The **second candle** called us to remember the promises of old, that from the dawn of creation all things have unfolded according to God's redemptive plan. The **third candle** called us to listen to the God who still speaks to us today. Advent was time to hear afresh the joy of God's reconciling love that beckons us homeward. The **fourth candle** called us to reawaken our sense of expectation and behold the miraculous in our day and time.

Tonight, we light the **Christ candle**, rejoicing in the Good News of the holy birth, the hope of humanity, and the Light of the World.



For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

Lord Jesus, tonight we join the angelic choir proclaiming glory to God in the highest.

In a world where people seek the perfect gift to give, we rejoice because you have already given it. As you lit up the sky that first Christmas, continue to illuminate our world with your presence. We pray on this Christmas Eve that you would guide our every step, hear our every prayer, and delight in every praise as we come and worship Christ our newborn King.

CHRISTMAS CAROL: “Angels We have Heard on High” LBW 71

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS CAROL: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” LBW 41

SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He, it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Rise as you are able)

CHRISTMAS CAROL: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” LBW 54

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and



saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]



The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” LBW 60

(Please stand as you are able)

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your loving kindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

PRAYER LIST

Megan; Jim; Jeanine; Tom and Valerie M.; Daniel; Marge M.; Jenn; Lorraine; Rachel; Jeffery H.; Mya; Matthew B.; Carol K.; Joe M.; Roberta and Tony R.; Eric L.; Cleo; Deb H.; Joseph F.; John K.; Rev. Rick Chavez, Larissa, Drew D., Peter S., Jeannette M.

You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

*(Please share the peace of Christ with others)
(Please be seated)*



SPECIAL MUSIC: “**The Majestic Manger**” Michael Barrett and Ed Steele
Sung by Faith Lutheran Choir

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERTORY SONG: “**Oh What Shall I Render**”
(Sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)

Verse 1

Oh, what shall I render in thanks to my
Lord
for all the good gifts by which I am
restored?
No treasure I tender could ever repay
God’s mercy and faithfulness, new
ev’ry day.

Verse 2

My hands take the cup of salvation
you give;
I’ll praise you, O God, for as long as I
live.
My thanks will rise up as I call on your
name,
with all of your people your goodness
proclaim.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Oh may the Lord be with you.

And may the Lord be with you too.

Lift your hearts to him in praise.

To the Lord our hearts we raise.

Let us offer praises true.

It is fitting so to do. Gratefully we sing to the Lord our King.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

THE 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

(Please be seated)



“The body of Christ.... Given for you.” “The blood of Christ....
Shed for you.”

(After all have communed—please stand as you are able)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

(Usher will come down the center aisle. The first person in each row will dip their unlit candle and light from the ushers' candle. Each succeeding person down the row will dip their unlit candle to the lit candle next to them. At the conclusion of Silent Night, blow out the candle carefully that it does not affect the person in front of you. As you leave, place the candle back in the box.)



The light of God has come into the world and the darkness cannot overcome it. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” Jesus also said, “You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

CHRISTMAS CAROL: **“Silent Night”** **LBW 65**

(During the 3rd verse hold your candles high.)

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Candles are extinguished)

CHRISTMAS CAROL: **“Joy to the World”** **LBW 39**

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.



Preludes:

I Wonder as I Wander, Solo Piano courtesy of David Nevue. www.DavidNevue.com

Maria Walks Amid the Thorns/Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, arranged by Josie Merlino. Permission to live-stream granted by composer.

In the Bleak Midwinter/Still Still Still, composed by Josie Merlino. Permission to live-stream granted by composer.

Silent Night, composed by Josie Merlino. Permission to live-stream granted by composer.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing, composed by Josie Merlino. Permission to live-stream granted by composer.

Angels We Have Heard on High, composed by Josie Merlino. Permission to live-stream granted by composer.

O Come All Ye Faithful, composed by Josie Merlino. Permission to live-stream granted by composer.

Song of Welcome:

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Gathering Song:

O Come, All Ye Faithful, John Francis Wade. © Public Domain.

Hymns:

Angels We Have Heard on High, traditional French carol. © Public Domain.

O Little Town of Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks, Lewis H. Redner. © Public Domain.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt., Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900. © Public Domain.

Hymn of the Day:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt., Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809- 1847. © Public Domain.

Special Music:

The Majestic Manger, Michael Barrett, Ed Steele. #340688. © 2022 Hal Leonard – Milwin Music Corp. and Hal Leonard LLC. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

Communion Music:

O Holy Night, Adolphe Adam. #211091. © Lorenz Publishing Co. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

Candle Lighting:

Silent Night, Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885, Tune: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. © Public Domain.

Sending Hymn:

Joy to the World, Isaac Watts, George F. Handel. © Public Domain.

Postlude:

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