

# Faith Lutheran Church

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10:00am Worship Service • Sunday, December 15, 2024 • 3rd Sunday of Advent

## PRELUDE

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord!

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord! (sung several times)

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Three candles are lit.*

P At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

C **Open us up to your coming.**

P We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes to be reshaped by God's promises.

O Emmanuel,

C **Open us up to your coming.**

P We wait for the day when God will make for us a future that is no longer predicated on our fear.

O Emmanuel,

**Open us up to your coming.**

P We find a new receptivity within us that desires God's will over our own will and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it.

O Emmanuel,

C **Open us up to your coming.**

P Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ELW 257 (vs. 5 & 6)

## PASTORAL WELCOME

*Faith's Mission is to openly share the saving grace of Jesus' love.*

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST LESSON: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20**

**A** The First Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God**

### **Isaiah 12:2-6** (*Sung responsively*)

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.

**With joy you | will draw water  
from the wells | of salvation.**

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call | on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name | is exalted.

**Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done | gloriously;  
let this be known in | all the earth.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel.

### **SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7**

**A** The Second Lesson is from the 4th chapter of Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung 3 times)

Wait for the Lord

The musical score is written for a soprano and bass voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef, with the same key signature. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!"

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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**GOSPEL**

**Luke 3:7-18**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*You may be seated*

**SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Hymn of the Day:** *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*

ELW 242

## 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

*You may be seated.*

## FAITH MISSION MOMENT & GOD SIGHTINGS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God our uniter, we pray for the unity of the church... Lord, in your mercy,	<b>receive our prayer.</b>
God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us... Lord, in your mercy,	<b>receive our prayer.</b>
God our sovereign, we pray for the nations... Lord, in your mercy,	<b>receive our prayer.</b>
God our beacon, we pray for your comfort and healing... ( <i>especially</i> ). Lord, in your mercy,	<b>receive our prayer.</b>
God our guide, we pray for our community... Lord, in your mercy,	<b>receive our prayer.</b>
God our life, we praise you for your faithfulness... Lord, in your mercy,	<b>receive our prayer.</b>

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY SONG *Joy to the World* ELW 267 (verses 1 & 4)

*please stand as you are able*

#### OFFERING PRAYER

**Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

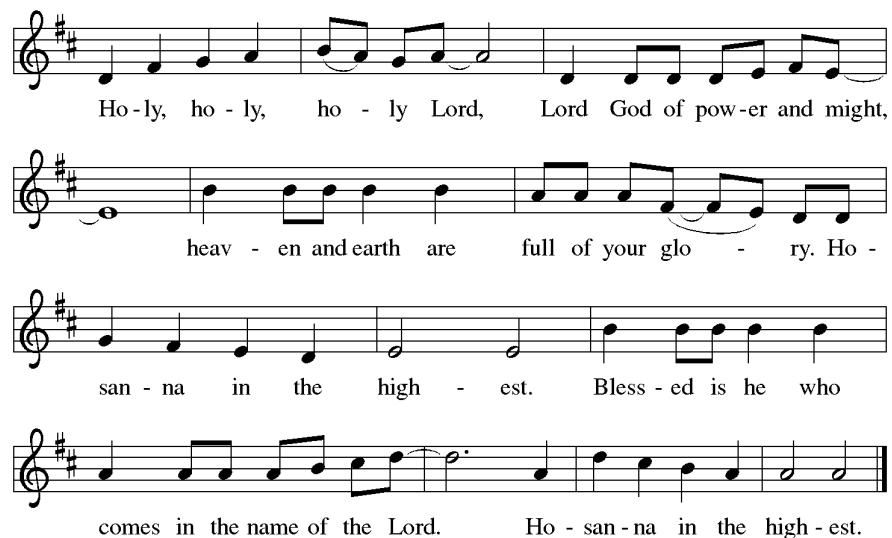
C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **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**

*You may be seated.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

### LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**C** **Amen.**

#### BLESSING

**P** God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**Sending Song:** *Hark, the Glad Sound* ELW 239

#### DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE