



## WELCOME TO FAITH

### Christmas Worship at Faith

December 24	Candlelight worship	7:00 pm
December 24	Candlelight worship with Communion	11:00 pm
December 25	Worship with Communion	10:00 am
December 30	Worship	5:00 pm
December 31	Worship	10:00 am

### Our Mission

Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel to all people so they may know and trust in Jesus as their savior for eternal life, grow in knowledge and faith, and show this faith in their daily lives.

*Upon entering the sanctuary, please use this time to prepare for worship; suggested prayers can be found on the inside cover of this folder (as found in the front page of Lutheran Service Book) and on the back pages of this folder (as found on page 308 of the LSB). ("Be still and know that I am God." – Psalm 46:10a)*

*Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!*

**Fourth Saturday in Advent**  
December 23, 2023 — 5:00PM  
It's All about God's Plan!

## As We Gather

Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel. According to God's own amazing plan, Mary would carry our salvation in her womb and then, some nine months later, deliver Him into the world He would die and rise again to save. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said, accepting the Lord's plan for her life (Luke 1:38). May we say the same today as we gather in the presence of our God.

**PRELUDE:**      *"Joy To The World"*

*Lanz*

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

**SONG OF PRAISE: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (2 Samuel)

LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain)

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. (Refrain)

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. (Refrain)

Text: Public domain

## † PREPARATION †

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 37:7a, 34a; Isaiah 30:18*

Pastor: Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him.  
People: **Wait for the LORD and keep His way.**

Pastor: The LORD waits to be gracious to you.  
People: **He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.**

Pastor: For the LORD is a God of justice;  
People: **blessed are all those who wait for Him.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: So that we may experience the peace of sins forgiven, let us come before our Lord with humble hearts as we confess together:

**People:** Gracious Father, we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and have not accomplished Your plans for our lives.

**Pastor:** Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You alone give us the redemption and the restoration, the absolution and the ability to follow Your Word. Through the work of Jesus, the Word made flesh, do for us what is impossible apart from You.

**People:** Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may follow Your plan for our lives and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**Pastor:** In the mercy of our gracious Father, Jesus came into this world, journeying from the crib to the cross, from the tomb and to His throne of glory in order to secure our forgiveness according to God's plan of salvation. Receive His assurance of pardon this day as we celebrate Jesus' coming to save us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## **SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**People:** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that we may know Your plan of salvation and trust that nothing is impossible with You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## † SERVICE OF THE WORD †

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE:

Romans 16:25–27

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept

secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26–38

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter one.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise be to You, O Christ.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH – Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Mr. Michael Yurk, D.C.E.

**HYMN: What Child Is This (Romans)**

LSB 370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!
  
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,

The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: Public domain

**SERMON:** *“Let the Secret Loose”*

**OFFERING** (*When we worship God with our offerings, we recall the words of Jesus: “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:21*)

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Assistant: In the peace of Christ, our coming King, let us bring our prayers before our gracious God.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.**

Assistant: For God’s amazing plan of salvation to reach into our hearts, that all those for whom Christ Jesus came into this world may know the hope, love, joy, and peace of sins forgiven; for perfect peace to reign in the hearts and minds of all who believe, that we may be the Lord’s instruments of peace in a world filled with troubles; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: For the outpouring of the Spirit of peace upon the Church of Christ



Jesus, that all who wait for His appearing would be strengthened in their faith and renewed in their boldness to confess His saving name before all the world; for all those who doubt God's plan for their lives, that like the virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit would make His Word come alive in them, transforming them from the inside out; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: For the comfort and peace of Jesus to touch the lives of all who experience suffering; for Christ's peace to dwell among us as we celebrate His coming to save us, looking forward to the ultimate Day in which He will come again in all power and glory; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant: Into Your hands, O gracious God, we entrust our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our King and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN: Joy to the World (Romans)**

LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
  
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
  
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, 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,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Public domain

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL**

**† THE WORSHIP IS ENDED.  
LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.†**

**† We Go in Peace to Serve the Lord †**

**† Trust † Grow † Show †**

**THOSE ASSISTING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE**

Preacher	Rev. Marc A. Kappel, M.Div.
Assistant	Mr. Timm Leikip
Children's Message	Mr. Michael Yurk, D.C.E.
Music Director	Mr. Michael Neas, M.M.
Acolyte	Ethan Lowell
Lector	Beth Lowell

*The altar flowers today have been placed by the Lowell family in honor of the celebration of our Savior's birth.*

**WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Celebration (Contemporary) Worship – Saturdays, 5 p.m.

Traditional Worship – Sundays, 10 a.m.

**Helpful Links**

**On-line Giving:** [bit.ly/FaithEustisGiving](https://bit.ly/FaithEustisGiving)

**Church Facebook** [www.facebook.com/FaithEustis](https://www.facebook.com/FaithEustis)

**Pastor Kappel's Sermons** <https://anchor.fm/marc86>

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Have you checked in for worship today?  
Scan this code with your cellphone camera,  
tap the link and fill in the form. It's that easy!  
Thank you for joining us today!



**FAITH LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH & SCHOOL  
2727 S. Grove Street • Eustis, FL 32726  
(352)589-5433 church  
[www.faitheustis.org](http://www.faitheustis.org)  
(352)589-5683 school  
[www.faitheustis.com](http://www.faitheustis.com)

