



WELCOME TO FAITH

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence, that as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink of our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with a Pastor. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34. Also, page 329 in the hymnal can be helpful.

If you have a physical condition that would prohibit you from taking wine in the Lord's Supper, please note that a few individual cups of white grape juice, instead of wine, are placed there in the center of each tray for you.

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 in the front page of Lutheran Service Book and 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!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
December 24, 2023 – 11:00 PM
No Room?

As We Gather

One of the charming traditions of days gone by, still observed by some families, is the designation of a Christmas room in the house. In older homes, that room often was a parlor or dining room. The Christmas room was closed off to the family by the parents for days or even weeks before Christmas Eve and was beautified by a parent, grandparent, or other designated adult with decorations and greens and, most centrally, a Christmas tree, which frequently had heirloom ornaments on it. The room was set aside to remind all in the house to make room in their lives for the coming of Jesus, the Christ Child. In his well-loved paraphrase of Psalm 98, Isaac Watts writes: “Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room” (*LSB* 387:1). Tonight, the room in our hearts is filled with the joyful assurance that Christ has come to fill the world and our lives with His love.

PRELUDE *“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”*

Cherwien

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SONG OF PRAISE: O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: (Refrain)

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! (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

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
People: **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Pastor: Declare His glory among the nations,
People: **His marvelous works among all the peoples!**

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
People: **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Joined in worship on this sacred night, let us make confession to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Pastor: Almighty Father,

People: we confess that we are sinners by nature and by thought, word, and deed. We have not always given You the best of what we have and are, and have not fully made room for You in our lives. With repentant hearts, we turn to You for mercy, seeking Your grace. In Your loving kindness forgive, restore, and lead us so that we may be renewed and live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: With joy I announce God's Good News to You. Our gracious God in His mercy has given His Son to be born, to live, and then to die for you and to rise again in glory. For His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be at peace and rejoice in the Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Gracious heavenly Father, with joy we celebrate our Lord's birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. Grant that as Your Holy Spirit works in our lives, there always be room for Jesus as Lord of our hearts, who now lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

SONG: It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:

“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

Text: Public domain

† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be

deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE:

1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CONFESSION OF FAITH - Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;**

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven**

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,**

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undeiled,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

Text: Public domain

SERMON: *“The Babe of Bethlehem”*

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: Let us pray for God’s great mercy, asking that He would hear our petitions and grant them according to His gracious will.

Almighty and everlasting God, as we recall the first Christmas, we thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ, who came to earth in deep humility. We bless You that there was room in Your heart for the people of earth and for the sacrifice of Jesus as He left the glory of Your eternal kingdom in coming to earth to be our Savior, our Brother and our Friend. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assistant: As we think of Your chosen servants Mary and Joseph, we thank You for the gift of family. Grant that we always treasure the gifts we receive through them and seek to be those who cherish our family, our church family, our friends, and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assistant: As we fill this sacred space with song, we thank You for the gifts of

poetry and music and for writers and composers who have enriched our celebration with their devotion and creativity. Grant that we ever seek to bring You all that is the best and most beautiful in our worship. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assistant: As we hear again of the shepherds to whom the angel brought the greatest of news, we thank You for those who serve in the various vocations of life, including those whose daily work goes unnoticed or underappreciated. We commend to Your special care, Lord, those in the military, our first responders and medical personnel, and all whose service keeps them distanced from their family homes in these days. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assistant: We pray for all situations and conditions of people, especially those on our hearts at this time. Be with all who need our petitions and our concern. Bless them according to their needs, Lord, and give us opportunities to be of comfort and assistance in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assistant: As we pray, gracious God, we remember our dear ones who have completed their earthly lives and now are in Your eternal keeping. Grant that we follow their footsteps in ways of peace and love throughout our lives as we live to Your glory as those on whom Your favor rests. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assistant: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

SONG: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming

As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

Text: Public domain

† SACRAMENT †

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: **We lift them to the Lord!**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

DISMISSAL

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✝ in peace.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY (*Assistants will light candles from the Christ Candle and come down the aisle lighting the candle of the person nearest the aisle. Each worshiper lights their candle from their neighbor's, taking care to tip only the unlighted candle so as to avoid dripping the hot wax. When all are lit and sanctuary lights are dimmed, the service continues.*)

HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Public domain

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.

Candles are extinguished.

CLOSING HYMN: Joy to the World

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

**✠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
Assistant
Music Director
Acolyte
Lector
Communion Assistant

Rev. Marc A. Kappel, M.Div.
Mr. Timm Leikip
Mr. Michael Neas, M.M.
Daniel Barnes
Theresa Barnes
Elder Patrick Barnes

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.

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The poinsettias for Christmas have been placed by the following members & friends of Faith Lutheran Church. Thank you!

- ❖ *Ruth and Joe Armstrong in memory of Evelyn Chapman, Evelyn Armstrong, Kelly Huber, and Cindy Huber.*
- ❖ *Susan Ashcraft in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ❖ *Steve and Kelly Bahr in memory of Victor and Charlotte Bahr, Andy Diaz, Julia Williams.*
- ❖ *Kim Bierlein in memory of her father, Art Bierlein.*
- ❖ *Sandy Conti in memory of Donnie Devine.*
- ❖ *Ellen Garvin in memory of Mom, Dad, brother John, and Chi Chi.*
- ❖ *Ruth Heichelbeck in memory of Gerald Heichelbeck.*
- ❖ *Deb Heilman in memory of her parents, Richard and Betty Heilman.*
- ❖ *Kevin and Marietta Hinton in memory of their son Peter.*
- ❖ *Larry and Jerre Kappel.*
- ❖ *Pastor Marc, Marcy, Micah, and Matthew in honor of our Savior's birth.*
- ❖ *Jeff and Megan Knittel in honor of their children, Gabriel, Samuel, Jude, and Luke.*
- ❖ *Jeff and Megan Knittel in memory of their grandparents.*
- ❖ *Cassie and Addison Schwartz in memory of Jean Spees.*
- ❖ *Carol Shaw and the Rogers family in memory of loved ones.*
- ❖ *Bradley and Laurie Stevens in honor of James and Katelyn Nelson.*
- ❖ *Rich and Angela Teschendorf in honor of our military and police.*
- ❖ *Rich and Angela Teschendorf in memory of our beloved son-in-law, Jay Gillespie.*
- ❖ *Cal and Lesley Shuster in memory of Richard and Rhoda Rankin and Carroll and Grace Shuster.*

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

Church Facebook www.facebook.com/FaithEustis

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



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!





(352)589-5433 church
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(352)589-5683 school
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