

# 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 DAY Carols and Lessons December 25, 2023 – 10:00 AM Your Light Has Come

# As We Gather

The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks, and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. Others in history had to wait a much longer time for their Christmas joy. Approximately seven centuries before "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14), Isaiah would be inspired by the Spirit to proclaim to the people, "The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God" (Isaiah 52:10). Though the people of Isaiah's day would not experience Christmas as we do, they would hold on by faith to the anticipated promise of salvation through our Savior who was to come. For us, we give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, "The LORD has bared His holy arm" (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

**PRELUDE**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"Lanz

LSB 376

# SONG OF PRAISE: Once in Royal David's City

- Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
  And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
  With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew; He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
  For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
  And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
  With the oxen standing by
  Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
  Set at God's right hand on high.
  Then like stars His children, crowned,
  All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Public domain

# + PREPARATION +

# **INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

# LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pastor: On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

- **People:** Serve the Lord with gladness!
- Pastor: Come into His presence with singing!
- **People:** Know that the Lord, He is God!
- Pastor: It is He who made us, and we are His;
- People: we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!People: Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

- Pastor: For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever,
- **People:** and His faithfulness to all generations.

The candles are lit.

# **OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,

- **People:** and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- Pastor: In Him was life,
- People: and the life was the light of men.
- Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
- People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- Pastor: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
- **People:** Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Pastor: The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
- **People:** and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

# **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- Pastor: Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.
- People: We are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not

# loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

- Pastor: John writes in our Gospel lesson, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.
- People: Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.

Pastor: For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

People: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. 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.

Pastor: The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,People: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

# + WORD +

# **SALUTATION**

Assistant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

# **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Assistant: Let us pray.

People: O God, You make us glad with the celebration of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Help us and all people to the ends of the earth to see the salvation You have delivered to the world through this holy child. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1 Angels we hav Sweetly sing And the mount	Angels We Have Heard of ve heard on high, ging o'er the plains, tains in reply, ir joyous strains.	on High	LSB 368
<u>Refrain</u> Gloria in exc Gloria in exc			
What the glads	y this jubilee? byous strains prolong? some tidings be fre your heav'nly song?	(Refrain)	
<ul> <li>3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain) Text: Public domain</li> </ul>		(Refrain)	
HOLY GOSPEL		John 1:1–14	
	oly Gospel according to S to You, O Lord.	t. John, the first chapte	r.

- Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- **People:** He was in the beginning with God.

- Pastor: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.
- People: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- Pastor: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.
- People: He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.
- Pastor: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.
- People: He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.
- Pastor: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- People: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **People:** Praise be to You, O Christ.

# + LESSONS AND CAROLS +

- LESSON Part 1: Prophecies of a Savior
- Pastor: Our gracious God did not become one of us unexpectedly; rather, through the ages, He promised to enter human history to save us. Let us hear some of the prophecies and respond in song.
- Lector: Isaiah wrote about a descendant of Jesse, David's father:

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch

from his roots shall bear fruit. With righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth."

- HYMN "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
  St. 1: LSB 359
  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.
- Lector: In Numbers, chapter 24, we read that the Savior would be royal. "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, . . . I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

St. 1: LSB 357

- O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!
- Lector: Isaiah even wrote about our Lord's virgin birth. "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

**HYMN** "Savior of the Nations, Come"St. 1: LSB 3321 Savior of the nations, come,<br/>Virgin's Son, make here Your home!<br/>Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,<br/>That the Lord chose such a birth.St. 1: LSB 332

Lector: Micah foretold where Jesus would be born.

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days."

# HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

St. 1: LSB 361

 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
 The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

Assistant: It is not enough to look back at the historical fact of Jesus' birth; today we celebrate the love God showers on us daily, which we share, and about which we sing in later stanzas of these same hymns.

#### GRADUAL

Assistant: To us a child is born,

People: to us a son is given;

Assistant: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

- People: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Assistant: Sing to the Lord a new song,

#### **People:** for He has done marvelous things!

**LESSON** Part 2: Love from Our Savior

1 John 4:7–9, 10–12, 15–16; Titus 2:11–14

Lector: In his First Epistle, John writes,

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In 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."

# HYMN "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"St. 2: LSB 3592Isaiah 'twas foretold it,<br/>The rose I have in mind;<br/>With Mary we behold it,<br/>The virgin mother kind.<br/>To show God's love aright,<br/>She bore to us a Savior,<br/>When half-spent was the night.St. 2: LSB 359

Lector: John continues,

"In 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us."

# HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

St. 7: LSB 357

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

Lector: And John concludes,

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So 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."

# HYMN "Savior of the Nations, Come"

7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night. Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides. St. 7: *LSB* 332

Lector: Paul writes to Titus and us:

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works."

#### HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Sts. 3-4: LSB 361

3 How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

# **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.

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Assistant: Let us pray in song and in words spoken for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

# HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in,

Be born in us today.

St. 4: LSB 361

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us,

Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Public domain

- Assistant: Father, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world as an infant, to be our Savior and to forgive our sins.
- People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

# **HYMN** "Away in a Manger"

St. 3: LSB 364

- Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
  Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.
  Text: Public domain
- Assistant: Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

# People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

**HYMN** "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" St. 13: *LSB* 358

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,

Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,

A quiet chamber set apart

For You to dwell within my heart.

Text: Public domain

- Assistant: Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.
- People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.
- Assistant: Gracious Lord, You have bared Your holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, that the ends of the earth shall see Your salvation. Even amid

Christmas peace and joy, we experience the hurt and harm of this world. We lift up all those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Reach out to them with Your holy arm and the light of our Savior that they may be comforted in their time of need, seeing the salvation You have prepared for all through faith.

- Assistant: All these things we bring before You, through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
- People: Amen.

# **OFFERING** What Child Is This

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 LSB 370

# **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assistant: Let us pray. Receive, heavenly Father, these our offerings, signs of Your goodness and symbols of our love. Accept them for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was born among us that He could die for us.

People: Amen.

# **↓** 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 + 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 + 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.

VOLUNTARY	"Angels We Have Heard On High"	Leavitt
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# DISTRIBUTION

# DISMISSAL

- Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart 1 in peace.
- People: Amen.

# **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

- Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- People: Amen.

### **BENEDICTION**

LSB 380

People: Amen.

# CLOSING HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the\_angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the\_incarnate Deity! Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!" Text: Public domain

# **+**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED. LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.+

#### THOSE ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher Assistant Music Director Acolyte Lector Communion Assistants Rev. Marc A. Kappel, M.Div. Mr. Timm Leikip Mr. Michael Neas, M.M. Christian Menard Corinne Hoffert Elder Kip Sandersfeld

Helpful Links On-line Giving: <u>bit.ly/FaithEustisGiving</u> Church Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/FaithEustis</u> Pastor Kappel's Sermons <u>https://anchor.fm/marc86</u>

#### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebration (Contemporary) Worship – Saturdays, 5 p.m. Traditional Worship – Sundays, 10 a.m.

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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.
- Arc, Marcy, Micah, and Matthew in honor of our Savior's birth.
- Ieff and Megan Knittel in honor of their children, Gabriel, Samuel, Jude, and Luke.
- Ieff 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.

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 www.faitheustis.org (352)589-5683 school www.faitheustis.com

