

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 20, 2020

Faith Lutheran Church

Online

Georgetown, TX 78628

512-863-7332

flcms.org

*(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)*

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION:**

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

**People: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:**

*Pastor: O God, once You sent Your angel Gabriel to the virgin Mary to announce to her that “The Lord is with you!”*

**People: and she was troubled by his words.**

*Pastor: When we hear Your Word, O Lord, we are troubled. We are truly convicted by our grievous faults.*

**Pastor: We are troubled by our sins, troubled by our guilt, troubled by our disobedience, our selfishness, our rebellion against You. Have mercy upon us, O God, and forgive us all that separates us from You.**

*Pastor: God tells us not to be afraid. In Christ we have found favor with God’s grace overshadows all our sins. We are forgiven for Jesus’ sake.*

**People: Amen. Nothing is impossible with God. We are Your servants, Lord. May it be to us as You have said! Amen!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Pastor: Let us pray.*

**People: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Lutheran Service Book, #338)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,  
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.  
  
Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*Text: Public domain*

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:** *2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

Now when [King David] lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 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.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build Me a house to dwell in? 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. 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?”’ 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. 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. 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, 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. . . .

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 READING:** *Romans 16:25–27*

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 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— 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.**

*Lector: Please rise, as you are able.*

*Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter:*

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

**GOSPEL READING:** *Luke 1:26–38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. 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, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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.

*Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

**People: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Nicene Creed*

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH:** The 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!**

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

The Children’s Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at [www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons](http://www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons).

**HYMN:** “Glory Be to God the Father” (LSB, #506)

Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit:  
Great Jehovah, Three in One!  
Glory, glory  
While eternal ages run!

Glory be to Him who loved us,  
Washed us from each spot and stain;  
Glory be to Him who bought us,  
Made us kings with Him to reign!  
Glory, glory  
To the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels,  
Glory to the Church’s King,  
Glory to the King of nations;  
Heav’n and earth, your praises bring!  
Glory, glory  
To the King of glory sing!

Glory, blessing, praise eternal!  
Thus the choir of angels sings;  
Honor, riches, pow’r, dominion!  
Thus its praise creation brings.  
Glory, glory,  
Glory to the King of kings!

*Text: Public Domain*

**SERMON:** “Mystery No More” (Romans 16:25-27)

**OFFERTORY:**

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at [www.flcms.org/index.php/give](http://www.flcms.org/index.php/give).

## **OFFERTORY BELLS by Faith's Bell Choir:**

"Hark, the Glad Sound," arranged by Ron Mallory,  
*Published by Ring Out! Press.*

"Fantasia on Ding Dong Merrily on High," arranged by  
Richard Shepherd, published by St. James Music Press.

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:*

### **Following each petition:**

*Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: Hear our prayer.**

### **Following the final petition:**

*Pastor: For these and all other concerns we have; we pray as You have taught us to pray:*

## **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.**

## **BENEDICTION:** *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

*Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.*

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB, #357 sts. 1, 5-7)

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

**REFRAIN**

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

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**

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**

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*

**DISMISSAL:**

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**In Christian Service:**

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

*with*

Proclaimer – Rev. Walt Pohland

Liturgist – Rev. Bill Crowe

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

Faith Bell Choir

Director – Joyce Best

Lay Readers:

Online Reader – Sonja Guyer

Children's Chapel:

DCE Jonathan Loesch, DCE Austin Angerman