

Christmas Day
December 25, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church
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flcms.org

(*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Ringing of the Bells*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “Angels From the Realms of Glory” ([LSB](#), #367 vs 1, 2, 3, 5)

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light.

Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star.

Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.

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INVOCATION:

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

INVITATORY: (Isaiah 9:6; Galatians 4:4-5; 1 Peter 1:18-19; John 1:29)

Pastor: *Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given!*
People: **Oh, come, let us worship Him.**
Pastor: *When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law*
People: **to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.**

Pastor: You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

People: but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Pastor: Look, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!

People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

HYMN: "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" (Lutheran Service Book, #375 vs 1-3, 5-6)

Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.

Jacob's star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,

Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.

Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

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CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION: (*drawn from Galatians 4 and 1 John*)

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! We are sinners, undeserving of the holy Gift given us this day.

People: What you say is right. We have broken God's righteous law in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We deserve from God neither mercy nor favor; our sinfulness should discredit us in His sight and disqualify us for heaven.

Pastor: Do not be afraid, my friends. God is rich in grace. His favor rests on you, for in the fullness of time He sent forth His Son, born in human flesh, to shed for us the blood that alone would secure our redemption, remove from us all guilt, and open heaven to us. Christ bore sin for us, suffered in full its condemnation, paid in full its wage of death, then rose victorious over it.

People: We are rescued from death by the death of Christ! His blood covers us and purifies us from sin.

Pastor: God in Christ has given you new and eternal life. For Jesus' sake He welcomes you into His kingdom. Jesus' manger is the Christian's hope, His cross the

Christian's glory, and His crown the Christian's joy. These gifts are yours! They seal your salvation. As a called and ordained minister of this gospel and with the authority the risen and soon returning Lord has bestowed on His Church I declare to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit that your sin is forgiven; peace with God is yours in Christ!

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son You gladden our hearts and lift our spirits. Grant that we who today joyfully welcome Jesus as our Redeemer may winsomely introduce others to Him as Savior and greet Him fearlessly when He comes to be our Judge; through Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS PSALM: Psalm 98 (Chanted by Austin)

Oh, sing unto the Lord a new song,
for He hath done marvelous things.

His right hand and His holy arm
hath gotten Him the victory.

The Lord hath made known His salvation;
His righteousness hath He openly showed in the sight of the heathen.
He hath remembered His mercy and His truth toward the house of Israel:
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth.

Make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise.

Sing unto the Lord with the harp
and the voice of a psalm.

With trumpets and sound of cornet
make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea roar and the fulness thereof,
the world and they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands, let the hills be joyful together before the Lord,
for He cometh to judge the earth:

With righteousness shall He judge the world
and the people with equity.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of Him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted His people;
He has redeemed Jerusalem.

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.

Lector: Alleluia! Alleluia! To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.

People: and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Alleluia!.

EPISTLE READING: *Titus 3:4-7*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

People: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Alleluia!

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. 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.

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. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

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. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. 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.

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. (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'") And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, Who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the explanation of the second article of the Apostles' Creed, from Luther's Small Catechism.

CONFession OF FAITH:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and

condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives, and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN: "What Child is This" (LSB, #370)

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!

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!

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!

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SERMON: “What Child is This?” (John 1:1-18)

OFFERTORY:

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His 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 covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

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.**

Pastor: *It is truly good, right, and salutary, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing:*

HYMN: “Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn” (LSB, #391)

Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn,
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory!
His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption’s story!
My soul, extol
God’s great favor;
Bless Him ever
For salvation;
Give Him praise and adoration!

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PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

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

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord’s Supper will be served in continuous stations a section at a time. The usher will invite one pew forward. Families may approach the table together. Individuals are asked to practice proper social distancing as they wait their turn. Pastors will invite each table to “take, eat” and then to “take, drink.” Please follow the ushers’ directions.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “A Great and Mighty Wonder” (LSB, #383)

A great and mighty wonder,	And yet remains on high,
A full and holy cure:	And cherubim sing anthems
The virgin bears the infant	To shepherds from the sky.
With virgin honor pure!	Proclaim the Savior’s birth:
Proclaim the Savior’s birth:	“To God on high be glory
“To God on high be glory	And peace to all the earth!”
And peace to all the earth!”	
The Word becomes incarnate	

While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands.

Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em,
The Savior and the Lord.

Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

All idols then shall perish
And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace.

Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

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DISTRIBUTION SONG: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (LSB, #384)

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessedèd,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.

Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" (LSB, #390)

Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

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COMMON DISMISSAL:

Pastor: *Now may this true body and blood our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in faith unto life everlasting.*
People: **Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYERS:

Pastor: *Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!*
People: **Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!**

Pastor: *O God the Father, the Glory of Christmas lies in a manger. You made Your Son to be like us—weak, small, and subject to death—so that we may live with Him and forever enjoy the bliss of heaven. You humbled Jesus and honored us; You exiled Him and exalted us; You abandoned Him and adopted us. The miracle of Your grace confounds us even as it delights us.*

People: **We marvel at Your love and sing to You a hymn of praise.**

Pastor: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Savior and Brother, You took our guilt into Yourself and exchanged it for Your innocence when You allowed Yourself to be crucified in our place and executed for our transgressions. By the power and grace of God, and according to His eternal will, Your manger became a cross that emptied into a tomb that opened to eternal life for us and all believers.*

People: **We marvel at Your love and sing to You a hymn of praise.**

Pastor: *Holy Spirit, Bearer of Light and Giver of Life, by the preaching of the gospel You call sinners to faith in Christ and inspire us to serve one another in His name. You reside in the hearts of all Jesus' disciples and fill them with*

grateful joy. Use us as You will for the blessing of others, and, by the Christmas miracle, make Your will our delight.

People: **We marvel at Your love and sing to You a hymn of praise.**

Pastor: Great Trinity beyond comprehension:

People: **accept our joyful worship and graciously grant that all on earth who today celebrate the birth of Christ may rejoice forever with Him in heaven; for You live and reign, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle song:

Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

BENDICAMUS:

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

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 on you with favor and give you peace.*

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Let All Together Praise Our God” (LSB, #389 vs 1, 2, 4, 6)

Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,

And in a manger, poor and lone,
 Lies in a humble stall,
 Lies in a humble stall.

He undertakes a great exchange,
 Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
 His glory, and His name,
 His glory, and His name.

He is the key and He the door
 To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
 To God our praises rise,
 To God our praises rise.

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DISMISSAL:

† † †

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Proclaimer – Rev. Bill Crowe

Liturgist – Rev. Walt Pohland

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

Organist: Leland Frese

Children's Message: DCE Jonathan Loesch