

First Sunday after Christmas
December 26, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church

512-863-7332

Georgetown, TX 78628

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

*Pastor: I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."
(Psalm 122:1)*

People: One thing have I asked of the Lord, this I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple. (Psalm 27:4)

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless You from the house of the Lord. (Psalm 118:26)

People: The Lord is God, and He has made His light shine upon us. (Psalm 118:27)

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: I rejoiced with those who said to me,

People: "Let us go into the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: Because Jesus came to our world and became one of us, He suffered when He was tempted. He understands our weakness and is able to help us when we are being tempted. Let us confess our sins to God, trusting in Jesus to forgive us.

Most merciful God,

People: we confess our weakness and reluctance to follow You. We confess that we are tempted to be concerned only about ourselves and our lives. Forgive us for our self-serving lifestyle, our immaturity of faith, and our

lack of trust in Your promises. Forgive us for seeking our own pleasure and not Yours. Our sin has separated us from You and one another. Forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Jesus became like one of us in every way except sin, in order that He might present Himself to God as our faithful priest, sacrificing His life to redeem us from all our sins that we might now belong to the Lord. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, it is my privilege today to announce to you the grace of God, that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;

People: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” (Lutheran Service Book, #386)

Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,

Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!

Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing

In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

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THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15*

The Lord said to Moses, "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is Mine."

Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. . . .

"When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'"

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *Colossians 3:12-17*

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

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 2nd chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 2:22-40*

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
according to Your word;
for my eyes have seen Your salvation
that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to Your people Israel.”

And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Apostles' Creed

CONFESSIOIN OF FAITH: The 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

HYMN: "God's Promise Made is Now Fulfilled" (*tune: St. Agnes*)

God's promise made is now fulfilled! Laud, praise, and glory be!
Let all man's fear and pain be stilled; Christ took our misery.

In Jesus, we are rescued sure! All doubt and fear be gone!
Praise Him, so holy and so pure; salvation has been won!

Doubt not God's holy promises! His Word is pure as gold!
He sent His Son in swaddling clothes; the Lord who was foretold!

Both Simeon and Anna, too, praised Jesus Christ the Lord!
Let mankind's voice sing songs anew; by all, be He adored.

At last, in glory we will see, our Rescuer, the Lamb!
In bliss, the saved will bend the knee, serving the great I Am!

Till then, let's work while it is day, the Gospel to declare!
To each lost soul, let us say, "In Christ, salvation's here!"

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SERMON: “No More Waiting” (Luke 2:25-38)

OFFERTORY:

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: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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 know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (LSB, #368)

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Refrain

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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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach 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.

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

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

People: Amen.

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!

Text: Public domain

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 SONG: *“Once in Royal David’s City”* (LSB, #376)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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DISTRIBUTION SONG: "Great Are You Lord"

You give life. You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart
that is broken.
And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to You only.

You give life. You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart
that is broken.
And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to You only.
And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
"Great are You, Lord!"
(Repeat 2X)

It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to You only.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (LSB, #358)

"From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.

“These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav’ns and earth were
made.”

How glad we’ll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.

Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,

That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.

Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.

And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

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

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.

Text: Public domain

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.

BENEDICTION: 2 Corinthians 13:14

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" (LSB, #374)

Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
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.

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.

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

DISMISSAL:

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Proclaimer – Rev. John Selle

Liturgist – Rev. Bill Crowe

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

Organist: Karen Darby

Lay Readers:

8:15 Reader – Warren Matson

11:00 Reader – Ken Stelzer

Children's Message:

DCE Jonathan Loesch