

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 18, 2022

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: *Psalm 24:1, 3, 7-10*

Pastor: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

People: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors" (LSB, #339)

Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors,
And weep no more!
O Zion's daughter, sing,
To greet your coming King;
Now wave the victor's palm
And sing the ancient psalm:
"Lift up your heads, you everlasting gates!"

Your King awaits!
Who is this King of great and glorious fame?
What is His name?
Lord God of Sabaoth,
Of whom the prophets wrote,
Whose chosen, humble steed
Declares Him king indeed!
Hosanna, Lord! Messiah, come and save
From sin and grave.
Who may ascend Mount Zion's holy hill
To do God's will?
The One whose unstained hands
Can meet the Law's demands,
Whose purity within
Reveals One free from sin.
Come, praise this King who claims the cross as throne—
Praise Him alone!
“Worthy is Christ!” The Lamb who once was slain
Now lives to reign.
He rules our earthly ways
As Lord of Ancient Days—
O join the endless song
Sung by the ransomed throng:
“Worthy is Christ!” The Lamb be praised again!
Amen! Amen!

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: “Amen” means “truth,” dear ones; and it is surely true that Christ is worthy of all praise. He ascended the hill called Calvary to open for us the doors of Paradise. Jesus’ innocence makes good our guilt, and His holiness covers our unholiness. We bow in faith before the risen Son of God to confess our sins and receive His pardon:

People: Lord Jesus, our hope is in You. Our sinfulness should disqualify us from any place in heaven, but You took our wickedness into Yourself when You hung on a cross. With Your blood You paid for our crimes against God and each

other. We look to You for mercy and peace and ask the aid of Your Spirit to guide our hearts and wills to live more fully to the praise of Your name.

Pastor: Fear not, my friends! For Jesus' sake Your Father in heaven welcomes Your prayers and surrounds You with blessings. He will never withhold His love from You but will always hold You close to His heart. At the end of days He will raise You to places of honor in His eternal kingdom. As a called and ordained minister of this gospel, and with the authority Jesus Himself has bestowed on His church, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

A LITANY FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT:

Pastor: O God, the Father of all:

People: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: O God, the Son, given that we might not perish but have everlasting life:

People: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: O God, the Spirit, dwelling in our hearts to lead us in the way of peace:

People: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Eternal Father, we, Your unruly children, living in a world of disorder and strife as the result of our many misdoings, pray for Your grace and seek Your help in the knowledge that soon Your Son Jesus will come again to earth. From the things in ourselves that make for war and disunion:

People: Save us, we pray.

Pastor: From pride of race and class and from contempt of others:

People: Save us, we pray.

Pastor: From the desire to impose our will on others and exploit them in our own interests:

People: Save us, we pray.

Pastor: From willingness to reap benefit at the cost of privation and pain to others:

People: Save us, we pray.

Pastor: From delight in power for its own sake and from the use of it in pursuit of selfish greed:

People: Save us, we pray.

Pastor: From the arrogance that believes that we have a right to do whatever we will:

People: Save us, we pray.

Pastor: From false ideas of greatness and glory, and from unwillingness to work for justice and peace everywhere:

People: Save us, we pray.

Pastor: For the coming of Christ to be the Savior of the world and the Prince of Peace, for His teaching and example, His life and death and resurrection, and for the miracle of His rule in human hearts:

People: We bless and praise Your glorious name.

Pastor: For the peace that passes understanding:

People: We bless and praise Your glorious name.

Pastor: That we may know and do the things that make for peace:

People: Give us Your grace, O God of our salvation.

Pastor: That we may love our enemies and learn to overcome evil with good:

People: Give us Your grace, You Who are kind to the unthankful and the evil.

Pastor: That we may imitate Your Son in sacrificing ourselves for the welfare of others:

People: Give us Your grace, You in Whose sight every life is dear.

Pastor: That before the Day of Judgment all nations may know the Babe of Bethlehem as Savior and Lord:

People: Work in us that our witness to Jesus will be bold and loving, constant, joyful, and prayerful, for we ask this in His name. 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 Amen.

BELL ENSEMBLE: “Savior of the Nations Come”

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 7:10-17*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *Romans 1:1-7*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, Who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through Whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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. Matthew, the 1st chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 1:18-25*

Now 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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But 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. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and they shall call His name Immanuel"

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

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.

CONFESSION 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: “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” (LSB, #900)

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev’ry knee
Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old,
To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell,
By the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth
To the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave,
“Jesus shall His people save.”

Jesus! Name of mercy mild,
Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe
First He tasted here below.

Jesus! Only name that’s giv’n
Under all the mighty heav’n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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SERMON: “God With Us” (Matthew 1:18-25)

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

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.

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.

PROPER PREFACE FOR ADVENT

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, Whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS: page 178

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



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."

PAX DOMINI ~ The Peace of the Lord

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI: page 180



DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper will be distributed at the altar rail. Please follow the ushers' directions.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (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!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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.

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

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!

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DISTRIBUTION SONG: "How Can I Keep from Singing"

My life goes on in endless song
Above earth's lamentations,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear that music ringing,
It sounds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth!
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night He giveth!

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am His,
How can I keep from singing!

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (LSB, #621)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,

Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

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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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: Lord Jesus, King of glory, You have called us to follow You and have fueled our faith by Your body and blood, given and shed for our forgiveness. Daily raise us with You to lives of discipleship that reveal Your name to all nations before You come again; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

VERSICLES FOR ADVENT:

Pastor: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: All those who await His appearance pray:

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: The whole creation pleads:

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

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: “Hark the Glad Sound” (LSB, #349)

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.

He comes the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

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DISMISSAL:

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Liturgist: Rev. Walt Pohland

Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Jim Marriott

Musicians: Adam Perez

Organist: Rev. Dr. Jim Marriott

8:15 Lay Reader: Al Basler

11:00 Lay Reader: Karl Mattlage

Children's Message: DCE Jonathan Loesch