

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

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Georgetown, TX 78628

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

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

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *p.263 (Advent)*

Vicar: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

People: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Vicar: He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

People: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Vicar: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

People: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

OPENING HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (LSB, #357 v. 1, 5, 6, 7)

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, 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 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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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Vicar: Beloved, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Vicar: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature 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. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.

Vicar In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die and rise for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, Who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Vicar: 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.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE ANTHEM: *“Emmanuel, Rejoice!”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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

Now when the king 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 1st 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 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!

HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (LSB, #338) (melody: Hyfrydol)

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.

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SERMON: "Advent's 'Amen'" (Romans 16:27)

DEDICATION OF "BAGS-TO-MATS"

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

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, ever more praising you and singing:

SANCTUS



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."

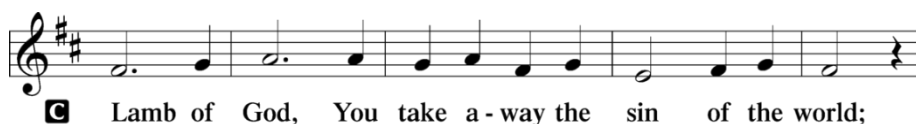
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI



DISTRIBUTION

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

DISTRIBUTION SONG: "Lord I Need You"

Lord I come I confess
Bowling here I find my rest.
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart.

Lord I need You, oh I need You.
Every hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where You are.
And where You are Lord I am free,
Holiness is Christ in me.
Where You are Lord I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.

Lord I need You, oh I need You.
Every hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

Lord I need You, oh I need You.
Every hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need You.

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DISTRIBUTION SONG: “How Deep The Father’s Love”

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away;
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life - I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “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 blessèd,
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: "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born" (LSB, #624)

The infant Priest was holy born
For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He,
Anointed from eternity.
This great High Priest in human flesh
Was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;
His hand removed impurity.
The holy Lamb undaunted came
To God's own altar lit with flame;

While weeping angels hid their eyes,
This Priest became a sacrifice.
But death would not the victor be
Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place
Within the veil, before God's face.
The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.

The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.

With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and
King.

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COMMON DISMISSAL:

Vicar: 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

Vicar: Let us pray.

People: 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION: (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Vicar: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Come Quickly, Lord Jesus" (melody: St. Denio)

Come quickly, Lord Jesus; our hearts for You yearn.

Your people pray earnestly, "Speed Your return."

In power and glory from heav'n come again.

Reveal all the triumphs of Your holy reign.

O great Son of David through Your gracious name

Your saints will inherit eternal acclaim.

Though times of affliction Your Church must endure
With strength You will guide it to peace full and sure.

The favor of God rests on all who believe
In You, the Messiah, first promised to Eve,
Conceived then in Mary, from her brought to birth,
To rescue from Satan all nations on earth.

With joy, mighty Savior, Your gospel we preach,
Our aim: To embrace ev'ry soul within reach
'Til ev'ry knee bows at the sound of Your name
And each tongue rejoices Your cross to proclaim.

DISMISSAL:

+ † +

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Liturgist: Vicar John Cotner

Proclaimer: Rev. Walt Pohland

Musicians & Organist: Adam Perez and Lauren Brezina

8:15 Lay Reader: Sabrina Stolle

11:00 Lay Reader: Tanya Broughman

Children's Message: DCE Austin Angerman