

The First Sunday in Advent
November 26, 2023

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 and INVITATORY FOR ADVENT: Psalm 80:1-3

Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock.

People: You Who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

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.

Pastor: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!

People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine that we may be saved!

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:“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Lutheran Service Book, #357, vs 1, 2, 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, 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, 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:

Pastor: The holy Word of God always points us to Jesus, my friends, and throughout this new year of grace the Scriptures will reveal Him to us as the Lord Almighty, our Friend and Redeemer, the Servant of God and Savior of sinners, the coming King, to Whom all glory and praise belong.

People: Yet in our sinfulness we often fail to recognize our Lord’s approach and give Him the honor and worship He deserves. We allow earthly concerns—joys and sorrows, fears and needs—to claim our attentions

and cloud our vision. We need someone to re-focus our hearts.

Pastor: That's exactly what the Holy Spirit does, beloved! By prophecy, psalmody, epistle, and gospel He directs our hearts toward the Son of God. Of His pure grace the Spirit opens our eyes to see and believe what the manger and cross disguise and what Satan wickedly conspires to hide and deny: That the infant Child of Bethlehem Who grew to be the Man of Calvary and rose again as the Mighty Victor over sin and the grave is the long-promised Messiah, the One anointed by God, through Whose life, death, and resurrection our transgressions are pardoned and our places in heaven guaranteed. As a called and ordained minister of this gospel and by the authority of the risen Christ 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.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy on us.

People: Christ, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

*Pastor: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor;
Jesus, true and mighty God;
Jesus, everlasting Father;
Jesus, Prince of Peace:*

People: We praise and bless Your holy name.

*Pastor: Jesus, Son of David;
Jesus, Branch of Jesse;
Jesus, Rose of Sharon;
Jesus, Lily of the Valley;
Jesus, Bright Morning Star:*

People: Deliver us from our sins, we beseech You.

*Pastor: Jesus, Scepter of Israel;
Jesus, Light of the Gentiles;
Jesus, Desire of all Nations;*

*Jesus, Sun of Righteousness;
Jesus, Lawgiver, Priest, Judge, and King:*

People: Help and bless us.

Pastor: O Jesus, hear us:

People: Fit us for heaven.

*Pastor: Gather Your disciples and equip them for ministry;
cause all unbelievers to come to Your light and truth; and
inspire all leaders and rulers of nations to fall down before You in reverence
and respect for the counsel of Your word:*

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let our cry come to You.

*Pastor: Help Your messengers to prepare the way before You in every land;
endow all ministers of Your Gospel with righteousness and knowledge;
preserve all who trust in You; and
give peace to all who love You:*

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let our cry come to You.

Pastor: Prepare us for Your coming:

People: And keep us faithful to the end. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: Stir up Your mighty power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 64:1–9*

Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at Your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make Your name known to Your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at Your presence!

When You did awesome things that we did not look for,
You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence.
From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides You,
Who acts for those who wait for Him.
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember You in Your ways.
Behold, You were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls upon Your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of You;
for You have hidden Your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
But now, O Lord, You are our Father;
we are the clay, and You are our potter;
we are all the work of Your hand.
Be not so terribly angry, O Lord,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all Your people.

RESPONSORY: Psalm 80:4, 7

Lector: O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by Whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

RESPONSORY: Psalm 80:14a, 19

Lector: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven and see.

People: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:24–37

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that He is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

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!

HYMN: "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" (LSB, #336)

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.
Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.
Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;

Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

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SERMON: “Why We Need Advent” (*Matthew 1:23*)

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.

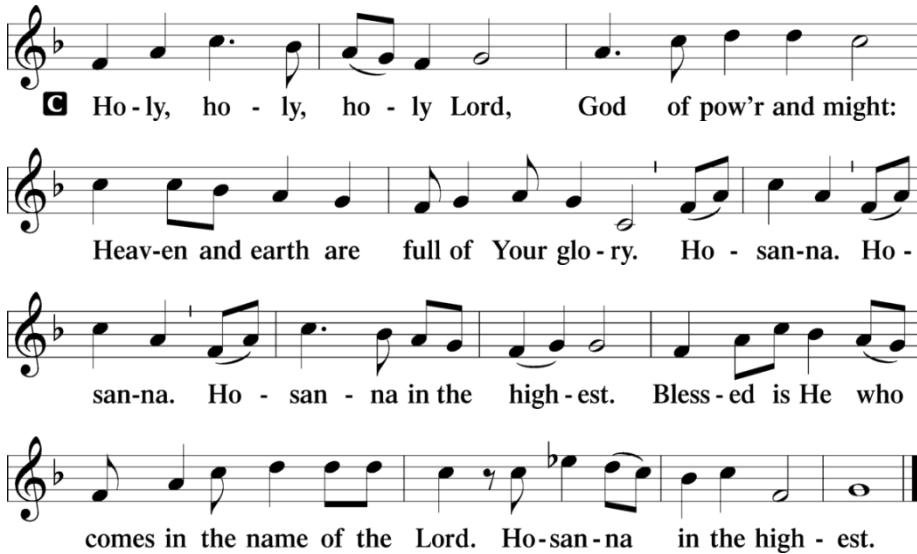
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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."

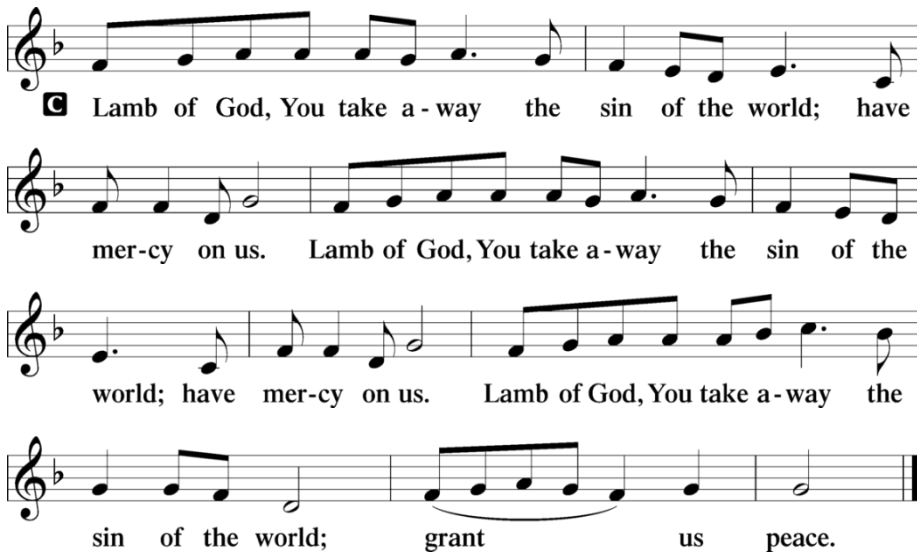
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

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

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

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

DISTRIBUTION SONG: "Build My Life"

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing.
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe.
We live for You.

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name.
Jesus the only one who could ever save.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe.
We live for You.

Holy, there is no one like You,
There is none beside You.
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me
who You are and fill me
with Your heart and lead me in Your love to those around me.

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name.
Jesus the only one who could ever save.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe.
We live for You.

Holy, there is no one like You,
There is none beside You.
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me
who You are and fill me,
with Your heart and lead me in Your love to those around me.

I will build my life upon Your love;
It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in You alone,
And I will not be shaken.
(repeat)

Holy, there is no one like You,
There is none beside You.
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me
who You are and fill me,
with Your heart and lead me in Your love to those around me.

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DISTRIBUTION SONG: “Behold the Lamb”

See Him there, the great I Am,
A crown of thorns upon His head.
The Father's heart displayed for us.
O God, we thank You for the cross.

Lifted up on Calv'ry's hill,
We cursed Your name and even still
You bore our shame and paid the cost.
O God, we thank You for the cross.

Behold the Lamb, the story of redemption
Written on His hands.

Jesus, You will reign forevermore!
The victory is Yours!
We sing Your praise,
Endless hallelujahs to Your holy name.
Jesus, You will reign forevermore!
The victory is Yours!

Offer up this sacrifice.
For ev'ry sin our Savior died.
The Lord of Life can't be contained.
Our God has risen from the grave.

Behold the Lamb, the story of redemption
Written on His hands.
Jesus, You will reign forevermore!
The victory is Yours!
We sing Your praise,
Endless hallelujahs to Your holy name.
Jesus, You will reign forevermore!
The victory is Yours!

When the age of death is done,
We'll see Your face bright as the sun.
We'll bow before the King of kings.
O God forever we will sing.
O God forever we will sing

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray” (LSB, #623)

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.
By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;

All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.
One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide" (LSB, #355)

O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.
O Father, light from heaven send;
As morning dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
To Jacob's line rain down the King.
O earth, in flow'ring bud be seen;
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare,
Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.
O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
When will You come with comfort strong?
O come, O come, Your throne forego;
Console us in our vale of woe.
O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.

O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.
There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore
Forever and forevermore.

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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: We praise and bless You, Lord Jesus, for by this holy meal You have forgiven our sin and fortified our faith. Keep us always so confident of Your goodness and so eager for Your return that no trouble, threat, or tribulation inhibits our witness to You and Your promise of everlasting life to all who believe; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION:(2 Corinthians 13:14)

Pastor: 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: “The Advent of Our King” (LSB, #331)

The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on
To set His servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

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DISMISSAL:

+ † +

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

Organist: Adam Perez

8:15 Lay Reader: Sabrina Stolle

11:00 Lay Reader: Nicky Shepherd

Children's Message: DCE Jonathan Loesch