

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 17, 2023 • 9AM

3rd Sunday of Advent • Now the Feast & Celebration Liturgy

INTRODUCTION

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

PRELUDE

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CALL TO WORSHIP & CONFESSION FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

Pastor: It is Advent, the holy season of preparation.

Congregation: Prepare the way of the Lord!

P: Blessed be the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit + who comes to wake us from sleep, from spiritual darkness, to lead us into the light of grace.

Silence for confession.

P: God of all time,

C: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C: Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

OUR VISION

To be an inspired body of Christ.



OUR MISSION

Love God. Love Others. Serve.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN hymnal #264, *stand*

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

GREETING

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

Congregation: And also with you.

KYRIE

Collin Kasefang, Assisting Minister

Assistant:

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:

Lord, have mer - cy.

3rd time to Coda ⊕

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer -

Assistant:

For the Reign of God, and for peace through - out the
For your peo - ple here, who have come to give you

cy.

world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the

⊕ Coda

Help, save, and de - fend us, O

cy.

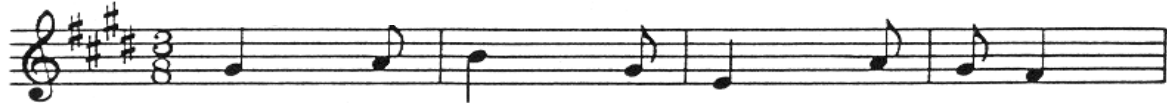
* *Ending for Kyrie*

God.

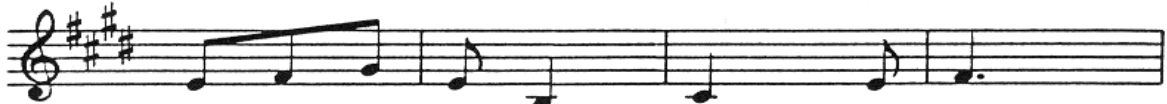
A - - - men.

NOW THE FEAST

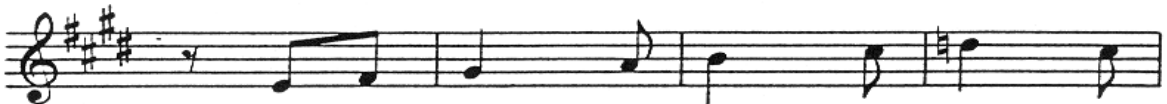
Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,



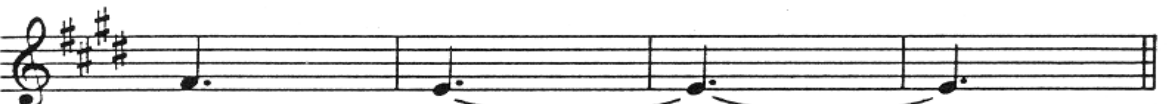
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy



to the God of life and love and



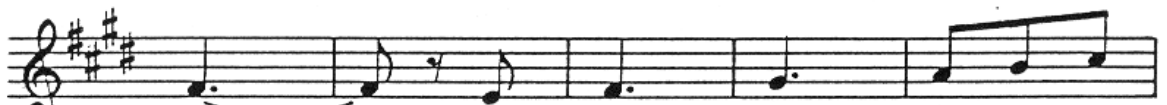
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for - ev -



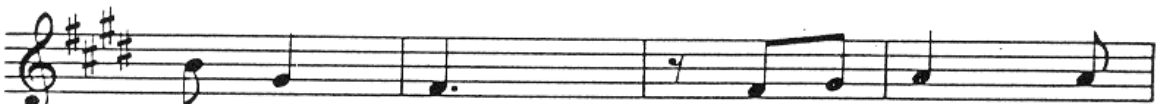
er - more!



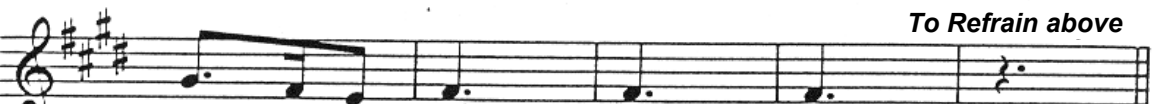
1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once



slain, whose blood has freed and u -



nit - ed us to be one great



peo - ple of God.

To Refrain above



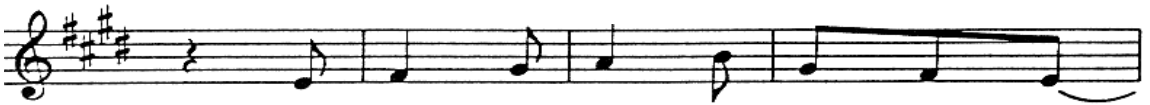
2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and



might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ _____



_____ for - ev - er. _____



3. For God has come to dwell with us, _____



_____ to make us peo - ple of God; to make



all things new. _____

SALUTATION



The _____ Lord be with you. And _____ al - so with you.

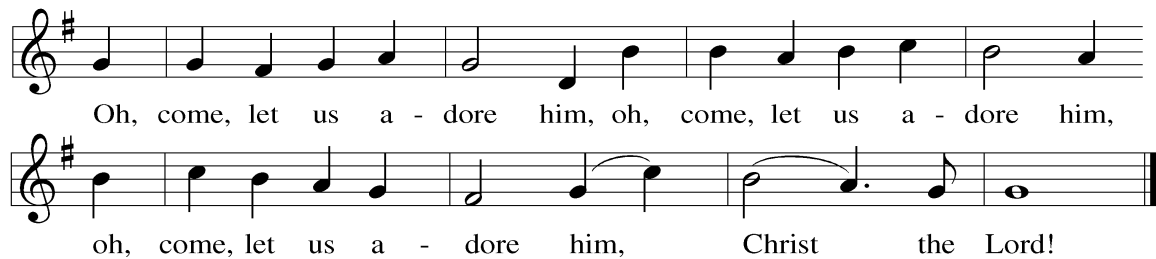
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray,

Congregation: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TALK

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, oh, come, let us a - dore him,
oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PARISH NEWS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Marti Poole, Lector

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11 *Pew Bible pg. #653.*

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

- ¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
- ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
- ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
- ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.
- ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
- ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
- ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Lector: The word of our Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2,8-13 *Pew Bible pg. #532.*

Lector: ¹Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**Congregation: ²You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.**

L: ⁸Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**C: ⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

L: ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

C: ¹¹**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

L: ¹²The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

C: ¹³**Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a *Pew Bible pg. #1111.*

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:1-8 *Pew Bible pg. #912.*

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

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

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.


²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

SERMON

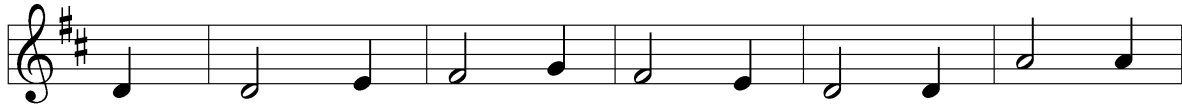
Pastor Bob Stelter

Wherever the Way May Lead Us

A manuscript of this sermon is available on our website: faithloves.org.

HYMN OF THE DAY hymnal, #249, stand

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

NICENE CREED FOR ADVENT

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us proclaim our faith.

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power
of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death
and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand
of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped
and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge
one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection
of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS *stand or kneel*

Assistant: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Assistant: Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

Congregation: **receive our prayer.**

A: Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need (*especially*). Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Silence for individual prayer petitions.

Pastor: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Congregation: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

Congregation: **And also with you.**

OFFERING FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY *sit*

OFFERING ANTHEM


In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst

Faith Bells

OFFERING HYMN *stand*

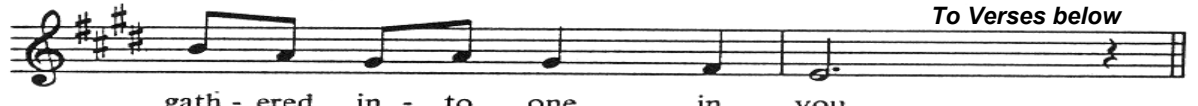
As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



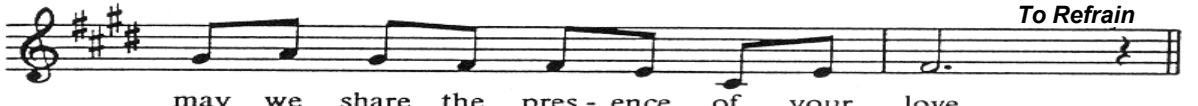
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in-to one in you.

To Verses below



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst, —
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

To Refrain



OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray. Merciful God,

Congregation: everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: *Congregation:*

The — Lord be with you. And — al - so with
 you. Lift up your hearts. We
 lift them to the Lord. Let us give
 thanks to the Lord our God. It is
 right to give God thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
 One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: With one will and one voice, we pray:

**All: 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.**

INVITATION

Pastor: Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. If you believe in me,
though you die, yet shall you live." This meal is a foretaste of the feast to come!

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN hymnal, #256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

COMMUNION BLESSING *stand*

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thanks Be to You



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy,
2. From of old you loved and sought us,
Thanks be to you for - ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for - ev - er! Truth and jus - tice
weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!
Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -
mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.
3. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy, Thanks be to you for -
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
Thanks be to you for - ev - er, Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray.

All: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER FOR SENDING OF DEACONS Mildred Fenske, Debbie Pinchok 12/17-30

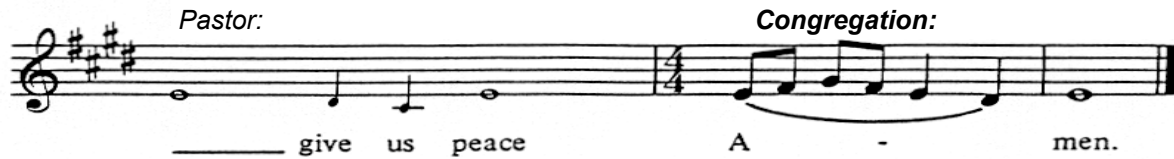
Deacons come forward to receive communion kits.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Congregation: Compassionate God, bless our deacons who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick and homebound. May this ministry be a sign of our love, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us
and be gracious. May God look on us with favor and † give us peace.



Pastor: _____ give us peace

Congregation: A - men.

SENDING HYMN hymnal, #246 to tune #494 as shown, stand

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



- 1 Hark! A thrill-ing voice is sound-ing!“Christ is near,” we hear the cry.
- 2 Star-tled at the sol-ern warn-ing, let the earth-bound soul a-rise;
- 3 See the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heav’n.
- 4 So, when next he comes in glo-ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
- 5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, do-min-ion to the Fa-ther and the Son



“Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!”
Christ, its sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for-giv’n;
he will shield us with his mer-cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev-er-liv-ing Spir-it while e-ter-nal a-ges run!

DISMISSAL

Leader: Our mission calls us from this place

Congregation: to love God, love others, serve!

L: Go in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship Lani Smith

Poinsettias are given in honor or memory of loved ones.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

225 Jamestowne Boulevard, Farragut, TN 37934

865.966.9626

www.faithloves.org

Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America

Founding Congregation of Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Tellico Village

Founding Congregation of Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry ▪ Stephen Ministry Congregation

Traditional Worship, 9am ♦ Contemporary Worship, 11:11am

Dr. Bob Stelter — *Pastor*

Greg Bohlken — *Ministry Associate*

Lynn Rognsvoog — *Organist*

Collin Kasefang — *Choir Director*

Lisa Stelter — *Worship Graphics*

Members of Faith Lutheran Church — Ministers

Sandra Bohlken — *Contemporary Worship Leader*

Trace Taylor — *Sound Technician*

Tiffany Bryson — *Nursery Caregiver*

Kim Frasch — *Quiet Music Ministry*

Mary Boring — *Office Manager*

Phylis Garrison — *Publications*

Barbara Birkholz — *Financial Secretary*

Mildred Fenske — *Prayer Chain Coordinator*

Alicia & David Brondos — *Missionaries*

WELCOME! As followers of Jesus, we rejoice in God's plan for a just, loving and peaceful world. We commit ourselves to making it a reality for all people everywhere. Just as all are welcome at the Lord's table during holy communion, all are welcome to this family of faith. People of all races, ages, social status, sexual orientations and gender identity are united here in our mission to love God, love others and serve. Please sign a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Want to know more about Lutheranism, our ministries and considering membership? Contact Greg Bohlken at greg@faithloves.org.

Sunday Worship 9 & 11:11am

Live in the sanctuary or online at:

[YouTube.com/@FaithLutheranKnoxville/stream](https://www.youtube.com/@FaithLutheranKnoxville/stream)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES TODAY — 10:15AM

Adult Sunday School, led by John Woods.

Confirmation Class

Children's Sunday School grades 5 & under

Teen Sunday School grades 6-12. youth room

WEDNESDAY MUSIC REHEARSALS

HANDBELLS, 5:15pm ♦ CHANCEL CHOIR, 6:30pm

PRAISE TEAM REHEARSALS

Thursdays, 6pm & Sundays, 10:15am

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS adorn our sanctuary during Christmas! To remember or honor a loved one place your \$15 donation in an envelope and remember to note your loved one's name on your envelope.

2024 FLOWER CHART has been posted by the library.

COLUMBARIUM NICHES are available to our members for \$1,800 and to non-members at \$2,500. Application forms are found in our *Columbarium Booklet* located in the narthex.

ANNA ESTHER CIRCLE Wednesday, December 20, 10am.

HANDY FAITHFULS Thursday, December 21, 9:30am.

VIA DE CRISTO REUNION GROUP Monday, noon, library

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY	
9am Traditional	
Altar Guild	Lois Simmons
Assisting Minister	Collin Kasefang
Lector	Marti Poole
Communion Ministers	Carol & Randy Schaefer, Kathy & Bryan Thompson
Greeter	Mildred Fenske
Ushers	Gary Mount, John Woods
Offering Stewards	Gary Dakolios, George Herbold

SHEPHERD OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Open tomorrow, December 18, 3-6pm.

CURRENT NEEDS

Brownie Mix, Vegetable Oil, (32oz), Coffee (1lb ground)

Tea bags (20-48 count), Canned Green Beans,

Canned Corn, Cranberry Sauce, Yams,

Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Stuffing Mix

Monetary donations for a ham or turkey.

Shepherd of Hope donation envelopes are in the narthex.

Contact: Reneé Stone, 865-599-7424.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER Wednesday during Advent
December 20 at 6:30pm.

SALVATION ARMY SHELTER VISITS Tuesday, December 19.
We'll make an early Christmas visit to the men's & women's shelters to bring cheer, sing carols and distribute your gifts of treats and needed L-XL men's boxer briefs & women's sizes 8-11 briefs. Contact Michael Lee at 865-405-6585 or Debbie Ragucci, 865-567-1945.

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 24 WORSHIP, 10AM

1 Combined Morning Worship Service

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24 WORSHIP

• 5pm Contemporary Service, music begins at 4:30pm

• 7pm Traditional Service, music begins at 6:45pm

Both worship services include holy communion, carols, children's talk and singing *Silent Night* in candlelight.

Sermon: *"Have Yourself a Messy Little Christmas!"*

Share our Christmas invitation video!

[TINYURL.COM/FAITHCHRISTMAS2023](https://tinyurl.com/faihtchristmas2023)

NEWYEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31 WORSHIP, 10AM

1 Combined Service with Baptism followed by Brunch

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **YOUTH 3RD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH** We'll meet with youth groups today **December 17 at 6pm** at St. John Lutheran Church for a Christmas Program.

Giving: 12.10.2023

Offerings last Sunday: 20,198

Offerings Year to Date 605,140

Walk by Faith as of November 30 755,749



Scan this QR code with your phone camera to donate now on our secure webpage.



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS: Shannon Allred, Shaun Allred, Arlene Aring, Doug Bales, Mary Blackburn, Rebecca Calderone, Amy Canapa, Leon Cole, Myles Cooper, Chuck Crosby, Mac Curtis, Patsy Elmore, Kim Frasch, Pat & Nick Gary, Green family, Leo Hebert, Eric Johnson, Carmen Larsen, Bonnie Legako, Kris Lehman, Anne Loyacano, Patricia Mabry, Heather McDonald, Lin & Mike McKinley, Bob Moore, Joe Morelli, Joe Poole, Lynda Primka, Toby Rosenbaum, Ken Savitz, Donnie & Lisa Smith & family, Pamela Spaar, Bobbie Steele, Paul Turner, Jim Van Deusen, Susan Vanacore, Nick Vanacore, Danny Willis, Maurice and Rebecca.

This column will start anew on the first Sunday of each month.

FRIENDS: Caroline Beavers, David Bernal, Valborg Bernal, Marsha Bode, Dee Bohn, Sharon Brokenshire, Noah Bryant, Frank Caprio, Michael Carfi, Harold Chapel, Jan Colangelo, Jenna Cormany, Pam Covington, Sarah Covington, Bill Crain, Nancy Crain, Damico family, the Darling family, Brandy & Brian Duke, Edington family, Vader Ernst, Alanna & Arnie Fenske, Jim Ford family, Jordan & Tyler Fordiani, Garber family, Gregory Goodall, Gutelius family, Rita Heavner, Allyn Hildebrand, Linda Holtz, Joy Hymer, Matt Kilgore, Sandra Kilgore, Donna Knick, Junior Koontz, Anthony Koran, Barb Korsmo, Alexis & Taylor Lee, Nicole & Dalton Light, Loyacano family, David Matthews, Paul Miller, Audra Tyler Moore, Becky Moore Larsen, Bob Moore, Julie Moore, Salles families, Marilyn Saviglisky, Jessica Savitz, Scaglione family, Nathan Schattuck, Terry Serrano, Victor Serrano, Jim Shea, Donna Smith, Austin Stephens, Mark Syler, Paul Travis, Frank Tyler, Brigette Williams, Virginia Williams, Mya, Ro & Haven Wolfe, Carley, Darcy, Jodi, Sue *and those we name to You.*

JOY: First Wednesday gatherings each month!

BLESSINGS: Holden Evening Prayer service on Wednesday, 12/20.

BLESSINGS & CONGRATULATIONS: Retirement of Dr. Rick Parsons.

COMFORT IN THE MIDST OF DEATH FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Judy Wellner, Jack Cleave, Mr. Furman, Jo Watson, Stephen O'Connor, Milton Creighton, Paul Hearnberger, Jim Kilgore, Audrey Meland, Teresa Rozanski.

SALVATION ARMY FRIENDS: Denisha, Tara, Leila, Larissa, Katricia, Sierra, Stephanie, Brittany, Genesis, Robert, C.J., Shane, John, Gibby, Josh, Roy, J.R., Scott, Ty, Reggie, John.

PRAYERS, CONCERN & ASSISTANCE: The people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia. Mentally & physically challenged. Veterans.

LEARNING & PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT: William Bales at Concordia Seminary.

PARTNERSHIPS: Bishop Pro-Tem Michael Burk the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Bishop Strickland & the Southeastern Synod; Alicia & David Brondos, Missionaries in Mexico; Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry; Quiet Music Ministry; Tyson House; Deacon Ministry; Knox Area Rescue Ministry; Via de Cristo Ministry; Salvation Army Women's & Men's Homeless Shelters; Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking; Cole Center Caregivers and Parkinson Band, Mercy Ships, Iglesia Luterano Augustana de Guatemala & Milagro Women's Education Center, AL-ANON, Narcotics Anonymous.

PEACE: Protection for all armed forces, especially: Jacob Cole, Andrew Chovancek, Nathan Goodall, Tyler Hitter, H.M., Anthony Hu, Julianne LeFevre-Kerr, Chase Linell, Olivia Parrott, Alex Primka, Christine Russ,



COUNCIL

Ted Primka
President

Doug Goins
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Alan Bernal
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Laura Beardsley

Ritchie Case

Adam Edwards

Alice Pigott

Rick Smenner

WEEK OF DECEMBER 17-24, 2023

Sunday, December 17 3rd Sunday in Advent

9:00am Traditional Worship *Sanctuary*
10:00am Fellowship *The Cup*
10:15am Children's Sunday School *5th Grades & under*
Teen Sunday School *Grades 6-12*
Confirmation
Adult Sunday School
Praise Team Rehearsal
11:11am Contemporary Worship
6:00pm Youth Event at St. John Lutheran Church
5:00pm AL-ANON meeting *Zoom*

Monday, December 18

Noon Via de Cristo Reunion Group *library*
3-6pm Food Pantry open

Tuesday, December 19

1:30pm Bible Study Small Group *The Cup*
5:00pm Salvation Army Shelter Visits
6:00pm MOPS *Nursery*
6:00pm AL-ANON meeting *zoom*
7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous *The Cup*

Wednesday, December 20

10:00am WELCA Anna Esther Circle
11:00am AL-ANON meeting *Community Room*
4:00pm Staff meeting
5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer
6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 21

9:30am Handy Faithfuls
6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal
7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous *The Cup*

Friday, December 22

7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous Group *The Cup*

Saturday, December 23

11:00am AL-ANON meeting *Zoom*

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve/ 4th Sunday in Advent

10:00am Combined Advent Worship *Sanctuary*
5:00pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship
7:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday: Psalm 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17. • **Tuesday:** Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4.

Wednesday: Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13. • **Thursday:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4.

Friday: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:12-19; Hebrews 1:5-14. • **Saturday:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Judges 13:2-24; John 7:40-52

4th Sunday in Advent: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

WORSHIP THIS MONTH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 6:30pm

Holden Evening Prayer

followed by Cookie Fellowship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 10am

Sunday Morning Service

1 Combined Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services

- **5pm**, Contemporary (*4:30pm, Special Music begins*)
- **7pm**, Traditional (*6:45pm, Special Music begins*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 10am

Sunday Morning Service

1 Combined Service

followed by **11am** Brunch in *The Cup*



NEW LINKS FOR

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

facebook.com/faithlutheranknoxville



youtube.com/@faithlutheranknoxville



instagram.com/faithlutheranknoxville

Advent



PREPARING FOR JESUS

- Advent week 1 – **Hope**: Prophecy Candle
- Advent week 2 – **Peace**: Bethlehem Candle
- Advent week 3 – **Joy**: Shepherd's Candle
- Advent week 4 – **Love**: Angel's Candle
- Christmas Eve – **Jesus**: Christ Candle