



# Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ***

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2017**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who comes to wake us from sleep,  
who leads us into the light of grace.

**C:** **Amen.**



P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. *(A brief silence.)*  
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: Amen.**



# **OPENING HYMN *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers***

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.**



**The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.**

**The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.**

**Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.**



**The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.**



**Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!**



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

**C:** **And also with you.**



# INTRODUCTION

P: God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in."



We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say,  
“Count us in.”

**C: Amen.**



# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen.**



# ADVENT HYMN, LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”***

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

***Refrain***

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**



**O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way.**

***Refrain***

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**



**O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

***Refrain***

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**



# PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

**C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct our mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**





# The Little Star: A Christmas Fantasy



Time

The evening of the  
First Christmas



**CAST**

**Narrator - Taylor Gruenberg**

**Starlighter - Alexis Rice-Devlin**

**Little Star - Erika Stinson**

**Talking Stars - Hannah Guffey, Nate Blakeman, Hayden Gruenberg,  
Samantha Guffey**

**Mary - Kamyia Robison**

**Joseph - Tyson Williams**

**Angels - Mariah & Lily Schlegel, Ava Williams, Aubrey Miller,  
Aly Hatch**

**Shepherds - Bennet & Autumn Marty, Aaron Blakeman, Liam Cihlar**

**Wise Men - Reece Binder, Tallen Baker, Lucy Naff**



# 1. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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 ransom thee, O Israel.



## **2. “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.**

**Above the deep and dreamless sleep,  
the silent stars go by.**

**Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.**

**The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonite.**



**3. “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**

**Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King.**

**Peace on Earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.**

**Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!**



#### **4. “We Three Kings”**

**We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar.  
Field and fountains, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.  
O, star of wonder, star of might;  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**



## **5. “Morning Has Broken”**

**Morning is breaking like the first morning,  
Born like the new light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise this new morning,  
God’s re-creation of the new day.  
This is the morning, time re-beginning,  
World without ending now has begun.  
Praise him with singing on this glad morning,  
The newborn Savior smiles at the sun.**



# **GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

**P:** The holy gospel according to Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."



But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”



The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.



# **SERMON**

## **“Proclaiming God’s Greatness”**



# **HYMN OF THE DAY “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”**

**My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;**

**I sing my Savior's praise!**

**You looked upon my lowliness,  
and I am full of grace.**

**Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age**

**this blessing shall proclaim—**

**great wonders you have done for me,**

**and holy is your name.**



**To all who live in holy fear  
your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud,  
their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside,  
the lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things,  
the rich sent off unfed.**



**To Israel, your servant blest,  
your help is ever sure;  
the promise to our parents made  
their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One,  
give honor to the Word,  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,  
one God, by all adored.**



# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**P:** Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people. *(A brief silence.)* Your eternal reign has come into the world. Give us ears to hear your call to serve your kingdom, and send us out to those who are hurting and in need of good news.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** You created the mystery and beauty of the earth. Replenish rivers, lakes, seas, and all bodies of water, so that plants, animals, and humans can have life and be refreshed.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** You bring down the powerful and raise up the lowly. Where war rages, shatter hatred with forgiveness and peace. Where fear rules, make your all-powerful and eternal presence known. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** You remember us with mercy, Lord, as you have done for all generations. Fill us, comfort us, strengthen us, and enlighten us. Make your will known to all in need. Today we pray especially for . . . . Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** You called Mary to bear your Son. We pray for pregnant women, for mothers and fathers of infants and small children, and especially for couples who bear the pain of infertility, miscarriage, or stillbirth. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** Your kingdom has no end. With your servants throughout time, women and men, old and young, unite us forever in your reign of peace and joy. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



# SHARING PEACE

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**



~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

*“Mary, Did You Know?”*  
by Texas Tenors



## OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive.



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.



# OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C: Amen.**



# DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION



# **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.**



# ~ COMMUNION ~



# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.



# BLESSING

**P:** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**



# **CLOSING HYMN “Choral Benediction”**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May it show us where to travel,**

**lead us back if we should stray.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**



**May the love of God live in us today.  
May the love of God live in us today.  
May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.  
May the love of God live in us today.**



**May the peace of God be with us today.  
May the peace of God be with us today.  
May it guide us and protect us,  
as we go our separate ways.  
May the peace of God be with us today.**

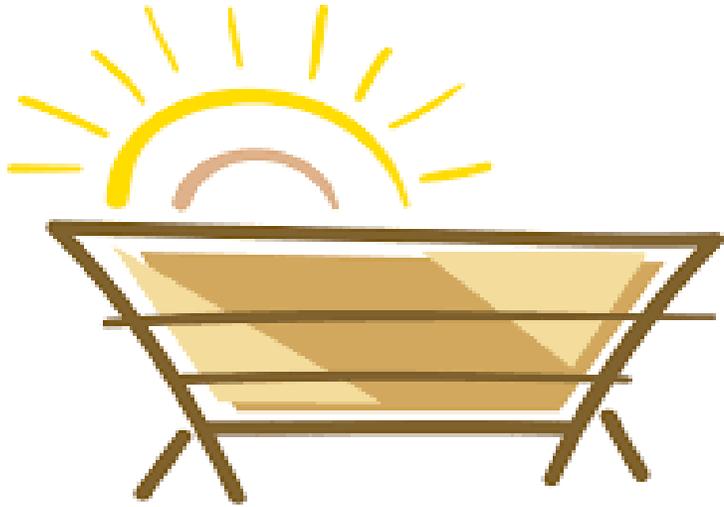


# DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**





# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



**Sunday, Dec.24 ~ 5pm  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
NO 9:30am SERVICE**

**Sunday, December 31  
Second Sunday of Christmas  
9:30am Worship  
Happy New Year's Eve!**













































