



# Faith Lutheran Church

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2016**



# **PRELUDE**

# **WELCOME and 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: Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us.



During these final days of Advent we pray, “O come, O come, Emmanuel,” a beloved hymn based on ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

**C:** Amen



# **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.



Increase our longing for your presence,  
that at the celebration of your Son's birth  
his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen**



## **ADVENT HYMN, LIGHTING OF FOURTH CANDLE**

**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.**



**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

***Refrain***

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



# **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**ALL:** **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



Welcome to our children's  
liturgy for Christmas.  
Today we celebrate the  
most wonderful  
birthday of all -  
the birth of our Lord,  
Jesus Christ.



# ~ RESPONSIVE PRAYERS ~

Leader: Children bring unrestrained  
joy and excitement to the days  
of Christmas.

ALL: Thank you God for children.



**Leader:** Their eyes and hearts remind us that this is the birthday for celebration every day of our lives.

**ALL:** Thank you God for children.



Leader: Their simple faith renews and reaffirms our faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

ALL: Thank you God for children.



**Leader:** Their discovery is our discovery.

**ALL:** Thank you God for children.



Leader: Children were important to Jesus. They are important to us. They restore our joy and wonder. Let us be as children today and worship with fresh enthusiasm and joy without restraint.



*Entry Hymn for all to sing: “O Come All Ye Faithful”*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him born the King of angels;  
    O come, let us adore Him,  
    O come, let us adore Him,  
    O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord.



**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord**



# **PROGRAM**

***“Baby Jesus Song”***

***Group Poem ~ “The Shepherd and the Lamb”***

***“O Come Little Children”***

***Recitation ~ “Come Animals Everywhere”***

***“Away in a Manger”***



# **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-16**

A reading from Isaiah, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 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.

Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.



For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

**R: Word of God, Word of Life  
C: Thanks be to God!**



# **Psalm 80 ~ A Responsive Reading ~**

- R:** Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading  
Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that  
are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- C:** In the presence of Ephraim,  
Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your  
strength and come to help us.



R: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?



R: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

C: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.



P: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.



P: And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

C: **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**



## **SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7**

A reading from Romans, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son,



who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.



To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God



# “ALLELUIA”



Musical notation for the first line of the Alleluia chant, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a time signature of common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Musical notation for the second line of the Alleluia chant, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a time signature of common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Musical notation for the third line of the Alleluia chant, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a time signature of common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.



# **GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.



Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.



She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”



When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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



# **SERMON**

# **“When Angels Speak”**



# **HYMN OF THE DAY - “In the Bleak Midwinter”**

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**



**Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**



**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can give him - give my heart.**



# **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.  
(A brief silence.) For the church universal and all servants of the gospel, for poets and artists, for musicians and preachers, and for theologians and teachers; that all proclaim that God is with us in Christ, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**



P: For all plants and animals, seas and skies, snow and rain, and all of God's marvels; that all of creation grow and thrive as we bless, protect, and use with care what God has made, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**



P: For the nations and those in authority, for peace and justice throughout the whole world, and for those who advocate on behalf of others; that all in positions of leadership choose what is good for the community, let us pray.

C: **Have mercy, O God.**



P: For the thirsty and hungry, the weak and fearful, those childbirth, those who mourn, and the sick (*especially*); that they know Christ the Anointed One who dries up every tear and comforts those who suffer, let us pray.

C: **Have mercy, O God.**



P: For those who travel near and far, for those who prepare our congregation for worship and celebration, and for those who gather around word and sacrament; that all experience welcome and refreshment, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**



P: In thanksgiving for the saints who have died and are now at rest; that the witness of their faith point us to the promises of grace and resurrection in Christ, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.



**P:** Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

**C:** Amen.



## **SHARING PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
C: And also with you.

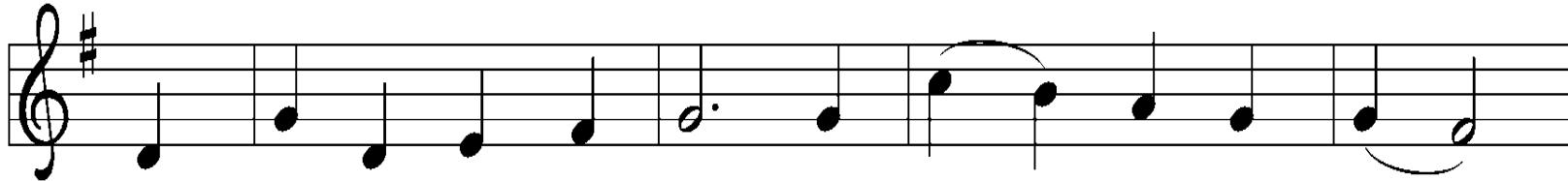


**~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~**

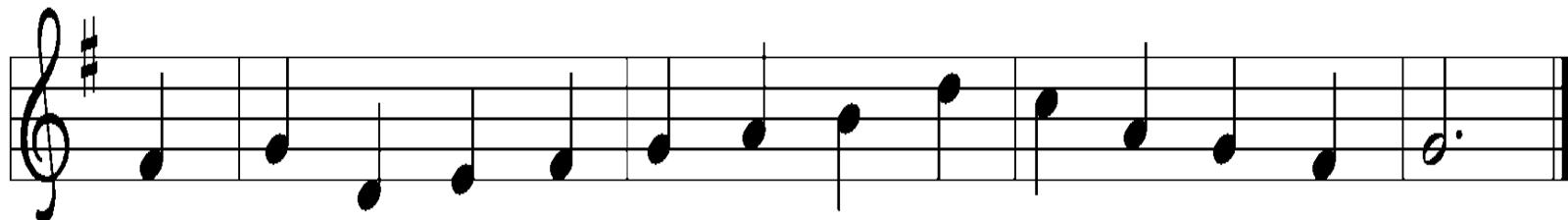
**“Breath of Heaven” by Amy Grant**



# 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: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **We give you thanks and praise.**



# 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: May Christ the Sun of righteousness  
shine upon you and scatter the darkness  
from before your path. Almighty God,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you  
now and forever.

C: Amen



## **CLOSING HYMN ~ “Fling Wide The Door”**

**Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;  
the King of glory comes in state;  
the Lord of lords and King of kings,  
the Savior of the world who brings  
his great salvation to the earth.  
So raise a shout of holy mirth  
and praise our God and Lord,  
Creator, Spirit, Word.**



**He is the rock of our belief,  
the heart of mercy's gentle self.  
His kingly crown is holiness;  
his scepter is his loveliness;  
he brings our sorrows to an end.  
Now gladly praise our king and friend,  
and worship him with song  
for saving us from wrong.**



**Oh, happy towns and blessed lands  
that live by their true king's commands.  
And blessed be the hearts he rules,  
the humble places where he dwells.  
He is the rightful Son of bliss  
who fills our lives and makes us his,  
creator of the world,  
our only strength for good.**



**Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;  
our hearts are open wide in trust.  
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,  
upon our sorrows shine your face,  
and let your Holy Spirit guide  
our journey in your grace so wide.  
We praise your holy name,  
from age to age the same!**



## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God.

































































