



# *Faith Lutheran Church*

*The Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod*

*171 Eastmont Ave.  
East Wenatchee,  
Washington  
98802*

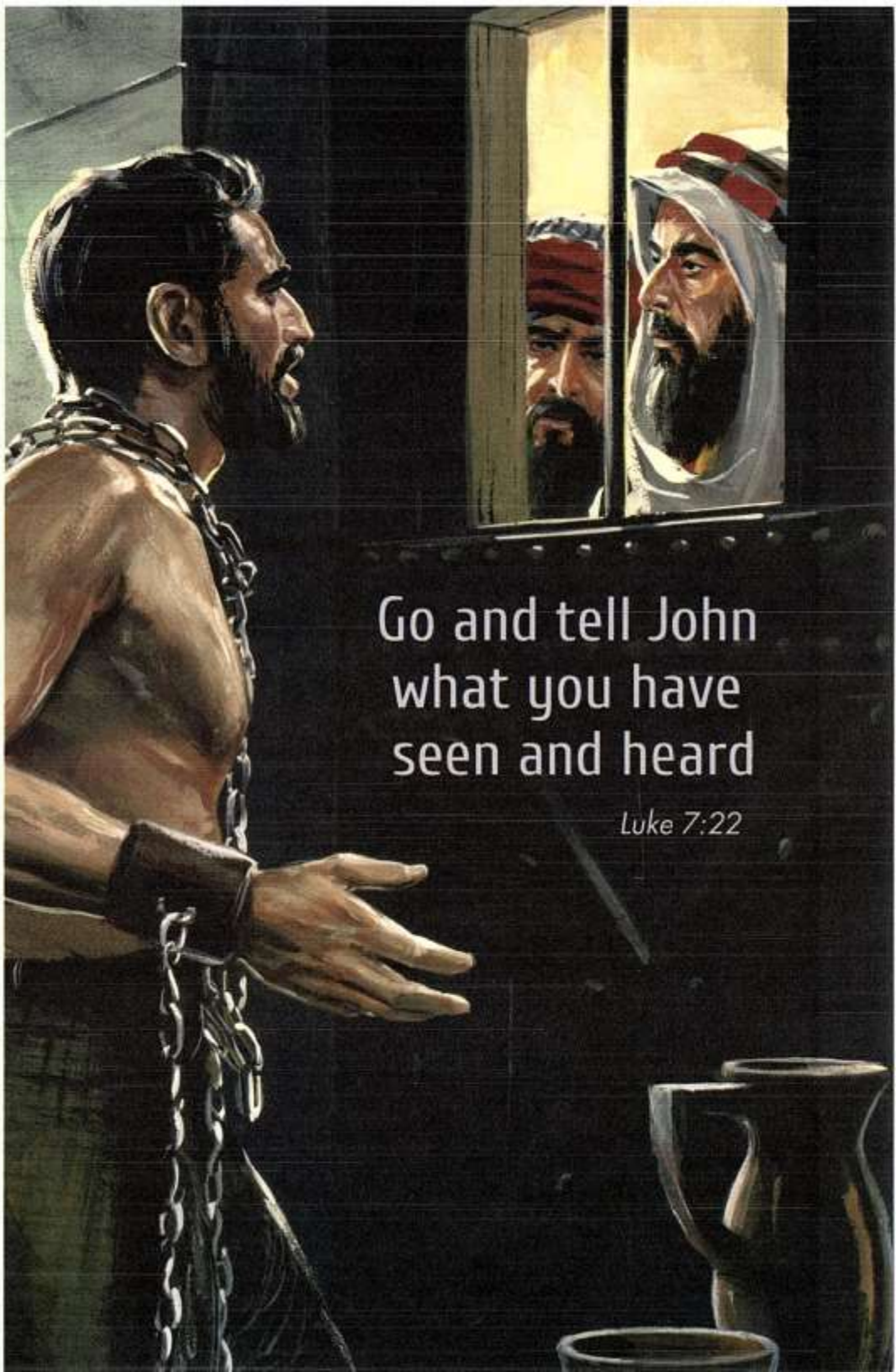
*509 884-7623*

*Worship 9:30 am*

*Sunday School  
& Bible Classes  
11:00 am*

*email  
[office@faith  
lutheranwen.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranwen.com)*

*web site  
[www.faith  
lutheranwen.com](http://www.faithlutheranwen.com)*



Go and tell John  
what you have  
seen and heard

*Luke 7:22*

# Faith Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Rev. Timothy Winterstein, Pastor ..... 884-7623, 885-8275, [pastorwinterstein@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwinterstein@gmail.com)  
Sermons and newsletters available at ..... [bishopandchristian.wordpress.com](http://bishopandchristian.wordpress.com)  
Rev. Mick Marquardt, Pastor Emeritus ..... 741-9773  
Carol Trunzo, RN, Parish Nurse ..... 393-9938, [cat121551@gmail.com](mailto:cat121551@gmail.com)

## ***THE PURPOSE OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH***

*In the power, guidance, and strength of the Holy Spirit, we seek God's presence in worship to open our hearts and minds that He may be glorified and we may be empowered to love and serve all people, that souls may be won for Jesus Christ.*

*The Third Sunday in Advent*

*December 16, 2018*

**Prayer upon Entering Church:** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. *Amen.* ✠

**Guests:** We welcome you in the name of our Savior and invite you to worship with us regularly. If you do not have a church home, why not make ours yours? If you have a spiritual concern, or would like to know more about our church, please consult with Pastor Winterstein.

**Holy Communion:** The practice of the Lutheran church is to receive Holy Communion with members of churches with whom we are in fellowship. If you are not a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, The Lutheran Church-Canada, or The American Association of Lutheran Churches, please speak to the pastor before communing. If you have not been baptized and instructed in what we teach and confess, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. You may indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest. The individual cups in the middle of the trays contain grape juice with a minimal amount of wine in them. If you have questions or concerns about receiving the Sacrament of the Altar here at Faith, please speak to Pr. Winterstein.

**Parish Nurse:** Carol Trunzo is available by appointment at 509 393-9938 or [cat121551@gmail.com](mailto:cat121551@gmail.com).

**Nursery:** We encourage all children to be in worship, but, at times, for you and those around you, you may consider using our nursery for your children age 3 and younger. We have helpers for our nursery so that you are able to stay and worship.

**Prayer Requests:** We encourage everyone to fill out the prayer cards located in the pew racks for any prayer request that you may have. Please hand the cards to the ushers at the time of the offering.

**The Rite of Friendship:** There is a red vinyl pad on the aisle side of the pew. During the offering please record your **first and last name** and, if you are a guest, please put your **mailing address**. This information helps us with ministering to the needs of guests and members. Members, please record address and phone number changes, as well as your current email address, if you would like to receive a weekly update from the church.

visit our website at [www.faithlutheranwen.com](http://www.faithlutheranwen.com)

# *The Third Sunday in Advent*

Prelude

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Month: **Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring**

LSB 353

1 Je - sus came, the heav'n's a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our  
realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,  
Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text and tune: Public domain

*At each ✠, one may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their Baptism. At each ❖ one may bow in reverence.*

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

*Hebrews 10:22 Psalm 124:8 Psalm 32:5*

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

## Confession of Sins

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

## Absolution

*John 20:19-23*

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 146:5-8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord always;

**again I will say, Rejoice.**

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

**who keeps faith forever;**

who executes justice for the oppressed,

**who gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

❖ *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Rejoice in the Lord always;

**again I will say, Rejoice.**

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

### *Israel's Joy and Restoration*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation.  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

## Epistle

*Philippians 4:4-7*

### *Rejoice in the Lord always*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Stand

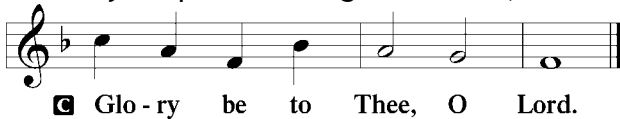
## Alleluia



## Holy Gospel

*Luke 7:18-28*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.



### *Messengers from John the Baptist*

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## Nicene Creed

*Creed comes from the Latin "credo" which means "I believe." We confess our Christian faith in one of the three creeds agreed upon by the ancient church.*

**C** 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.



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## Votum

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**G** Amen.

*Stand*



## Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Sit*

## Offering

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1 Psalm 136*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary .... evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3 Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**C** 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28 Mark 14:22-24 Luke 22:19-20 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the 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 testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.



*Sit*

## Distribution

**Prayer before receiving Christ's Body and Blood:** Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof, but speak the word and I shall be healed. [For further preparation, you may want to consider Luther's Christian Questions with their Answers on pp. 329-330 of Lutheran Service Book.]

**Prayer after receiving Christ's Body and Blood:** Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my  
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and  
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the  
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to  
 door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.  
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,  
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,  
 me this hour— In this or - di - nar - y sign.  
 He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His  
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the  
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter  
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His  
 in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."  
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.  
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.  
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
 Whose own feast of love I savor,  
 Bidden by His gracious call.  
 Wedding garments He provides me,  
 With a robe of white He hides me,  
 Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,  
 Comfort in my tribulation,  
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
 Cleanses me from sin and error,  
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem-bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

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

Δ 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

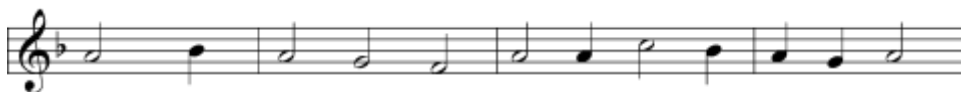
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1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

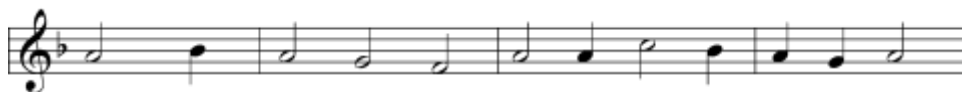
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 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Tune and text: Public domain



## Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

Psalms 107:1

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*

- A** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Announcements

*Stand*



1 Re - joice, re-joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.  
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text and tune: Public domain

**P** Go in the peace of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Please join us for fellowship, coffee and cookies in the Fellowship Hall after the service*

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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# Prayers

**Missionaries:** Neil & Lindsey Broere and children, Sean & Caria Graham and children, Rev. John & Sue Mehl, Danelle Putman, Loraine Rathman, Mark & Becky Schoepp, Faith Lutheran Preschool staff

**Our Synod's Leaders:** Dr. Matthew Harrison, Rev. Paul Linneman

**Prayers for Our Nation:** Our President, our Congress, our Governor and Legislators

**Our Military:** Afghanistan: Jackson Nystrom; Germany: Jonathan Janos; Stateside: Dakota Aldrich, Jonas Balloga, Kyle Barger, Levi Barger, James Beedie, Robert Haight, Thomas & Monica Heuer, Zach Manyrath, Elizabeth Martin, Tim McCamey, Dylan Mitchell, Nick Neely, Mark Pappal, Joseph Reese, Luke Sukow

**Prayers for Comfort:**

**Prayers for Continued Healing:** Karen Bailey, Shad Bailey, Larry Barger, Keegan Beckman, Al Berg, Malakiah Blackwell, Daryle Booth, Walt Brunner, Ted Conrad, Jacob and Mellissa Crosby, Pam Dais, Joy Deich, Bob Donnell, Ray Ericksen, Doug Fischer, Gary Fischer, Pita Gonzalez, Dorothy Haight, Steve & Jenny Hancock, Chad Hoffman, Ashlee Johnson and children, Janie Kester, Bob Koenig, Nick Leishman, Paul Lichtenberg, Genevieve Marrapodi, Donaji Maydole, Jo Maydole, Larry & Maxine Melcher, Perci Owens, Kelly Peterson, Don Rosentrater, Leslie Simpson, Diana Snell, Stephanie Taylor, Karen Turnipseed, Ernie Vipond, Dwayne Visser

**Prayers for Shut-Ins:** Elsie Dobrowolski, Tom Oelke, Harriet Robinson, Wes & Judy Visser

**General Prayers:** For those seeking employment and/or experiencing hardship in these difficult times, and for the preschool children

**For those continuing their instruction in the Christian Faith:** Paige Fischer, Ava Langford, Jameson Maydole, Jonas Winterstein, Salem Winterstein

**Prayers for Marriages and Families:**

**Prayers for Safe Travel and Spiritual Growth:**

**Expectant Mothers:** Kaitlyn Aldrich, Angelina Puligadda

## Announcements

**Children's Christmas Service:** Please join us next week, December 23, for our special Children's Christmas Service at 9:30 am! Our children are working hard to practice for it and learning about the true meaning of Christmas.

**Christmas Worship Services:** We have many worship opportunities available for the Christmas holidays. We will celebrate Christmas Eve at a Candlelight Service with Readings and Hymns at 7:00 pm, December 24. Christmas Morning we will celebrate The Nativity of Our Lord with Divine Service at 9:30 am. We will sing Christmas Carols at a special Hymn Sing on December 30, with a potluck lunch and games following the Adult Bible Study. December 31 we will celebrate New Year's Eve and Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus with Divine Service at 7:00 pm.

**Christmas Bonus:** As is our tradition here at Faith, we will be accepting donations for a monetary gift for Pastor Winterstein and his family to be presented to them on Christmas. If you would like to contribute, please give it to Robert Brunner or bring it to Hollie in the office by noon December 21. And don't tell Pastor!

**Office Hours:** The office will be closed December 24 & 25 for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and also December 31 and January 1 for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



<b>Sunday 16 Third Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>Divine Service</b> Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study/Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal	<b>9:30 am</b> 10:45 am 11:00 am
Monday 17	SAIL Exercise Class	11:30 am
Tuesday 18	Matins	8:30 am
Wednesday 19	Matins SAIL Exercise Class Adult Bible Study Confirmation Advent Midweek III	8:30 am 11:30 am 2:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm
Thursday 20	Matins	8:30 am
Friday 21	SAIL Exercise Class	11:30 am
Saturday 22	Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal	11:00 am
<b>Sunday 23 Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Service</b> Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study	<b>9:30 am</b> 10:45 am 11:00 am



<i><b>Today</b></i>		<i><b>Next Sunday</b></i>	
Ushers	Carl Ericksen Merle Wischnofske	Stan Delzer Byron Lee	
Organist	Susan Rumble	Laura Cornwall	
Altar Care	Maxine Melcher & Marilyn Delzer		
Chancel Flowers	Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Stan & Marilyn Delzer in celebration of their birthdays		
<i>Last Week Offerings:</i>	<i>\$3,350</i>	<i>Offerings This Month:</i>	<i>\$9,350</i>
		<i>Attendance Last Week:</i>	<i>87</i>





### About the Cover

Oh, the light of joy that must have filled John's heart to hear of Jesus' work as he sat in the darkness of prison! John came to know what it means to rejoice always and in all circumstances. Christians indeed have reason to rejoice always, even in the midst of darkness. Advent teaches us the resilient rejoicing that is not based upon circumstances but upon the promises of God in Christ.

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14–20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your  
heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;

he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in  
your midst;

you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to  
Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with  
gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud  
singing.

<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who  
mourn for the festival,

so that you will no longer suffer  
reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into  
praise

and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you  
together;

for I will make you renowned and  
praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes," says the LORD.

### Epistle: Philippians 4:4–7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I  
will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer

and supplication with thanksgiving let  
your requests be made known to God.  
<sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses  
all understanding, will guard your  
hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18–28

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all  
these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling  
two of his disciples to him, sent  
them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the  
one who is to come, or shall we look  
for another?" <sup>20</sup>And when the men  
had come to him, they said, "John the  
Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are  
you the one who is to come, or shall  
we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup>In that hour  
he healed many people of diseases  
and plagues and evil spirits, and on  
many who were blind he bestowed  
sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, "Go  
and tell John what you have seen and  
heard: the blind receive their sight,  
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed,  
and the deaf hear, the dead are raised  
up, the poor have good news preached  
to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who  
is not offended by me."

<sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had  
gone, Jesus began to speak to the  
crowds concerning John: "What did  
you go out into the wilderness to see?  
A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What  
then did you go out to see? A man  
dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those  
who are dressed in splendid clothing  
and live in luxury are in kings' courts.  
<sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see?  
A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more  
than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom  
it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger  
before your face,  
who will prepare your way  
before you."

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of  
women none is greater than John. Yet  
the one who is least in the kingdom of  
God is greater than he."