

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 24, 2023 A.D.
Faith Ev. Lutheran Church – Pierre, SD
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*A Christ Caring People Who Gather Around Word and Sacrament,
Yoked Together, In Personal Service to Christ in World Wide Missions*



✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

OPENING HYMN

“Arise, O Christian People”

(LSB 354)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

EXHORTATION

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the gifts of our Lord Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

CONFESSION *and* ABSOLUTION

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

\dagger **WORD** \dagger

INTROIT

Ps. 89:1-5; (antiphon: Ps. 89:1)

- P** I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
- C** For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
In the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”
- P** You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
- C** ‘I will establish your offspring forever,
And build your throne for all generations.’”
- P** Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
- C** 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.
- P** I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

KYRIE



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



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION *and* COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 (“Your throne shall be established forever.”)

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL, arr. Lloyd Larson
Helen Kiepke, vocal soloist

EPISTLE *Romans 16:25–27* (“To the only wise God be glory forevermore.”)

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA and VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:26–38* (God reveals His eternal plan of salvation to the virgin Mary.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (LSB 357)

Vs. 1-4 before sermon; Vs 5-7 after sermon

SERMON “Rely” (*Psalm 89:1-5*)

Pastor Sam Handschke

THE CREED *Nicene* *Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** O Lord, our God, nothing is impossible with You. Grant us faith to believe Your Word and follow the example of Your servant Mary, to receive the miraculous gift of Your Son, our Immanuel. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Eternal God, Your Word has been sent forth into the world to the joy and edification of Your holy people. Encourage, comfort and strengthen all who hear it. Grant faith to those who do not know You, both here and abroad, that all peoples may sing to Your name and extol Your goodness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, fill all who hear Your Word with joy and peace in believing. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, our God, bless Matthew, our Synod president; _____, our district president; _____, our circuit visitor; and _____, our pastor(s), that like the angel Gabriel, they may be faithful messengers of Your Good News. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, our God, let Your favor rest upon all pregnant women and mothers of young children, that they may rejoice in the blessing of new life You give. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord of lords, by the reign of Your Son You govern all things in heaven and earth. Raise up true Davids among us to govern our land in faithfulness and in humble strength to do Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, our God, uphold [and] all who suffer in mind or body. Give them the knowledge of Christ, their Immanuel, who is with them in their trials. Grant them health and healing in accord with Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, our God, give us joy that as surely as Your Son was conceived in blessed Mary at Your Word, so He comes to abide in us also at Your Word in the blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

IN REGARD TO HOLY COMMUNION: According to Scripture, Holy Communion should be celebrated by those who are: **United in a common faith** (1 Cor. 10:16-17, 21-22; Rom. 16:17); **Repentant of sins** (1 Cor. 5:11, Matt. 18:17-18); **Able to examine their lives** (1 Cor. 11:27-29); and believe that in this precious meal they **receive the true body and blood of Jesus** given and shed for the forgiveness of their sins (Luke 22:19-22).

Since Scripture teaches that those people who do not fully understand the meaning of this meal eat and drink to their own harm (1Cor. 11:27-29), and because the Lord's Supper is the supreme act of stating our unity in faith and doctrine, we would ask those people who are visiting with us to **please speak with our pastor**, before communing, in order that we might fulfill our responsibility of properly instructing people in the right use of the precious Sacrament.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ **8:30 am Service**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

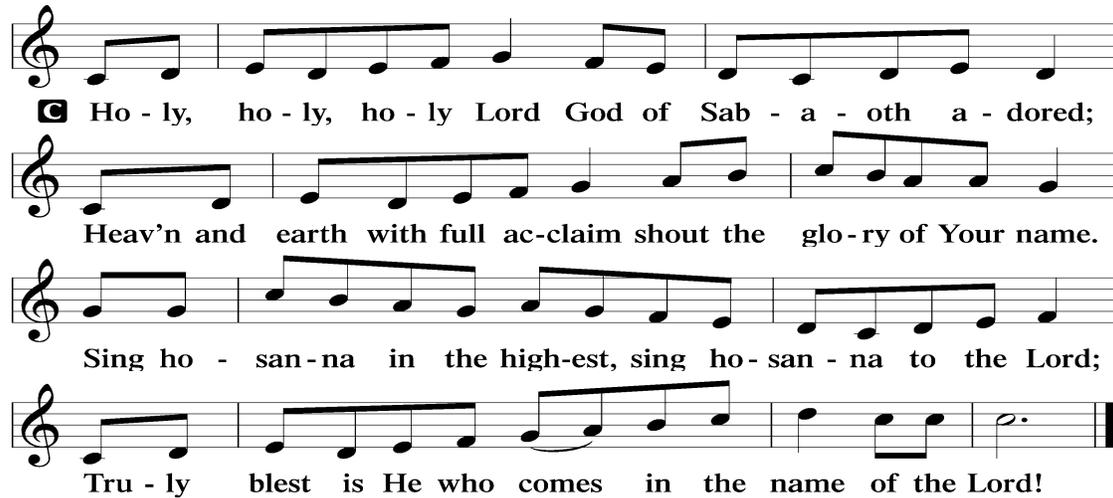
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

C Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matt 26:26–28; Mk 14:22–24; Lk 22:19–20; 1 Cor 11:23–25

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came"

(LSB 356)

"Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"

(LSB 338)



(Please stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *and* BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

(LSB 398)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



AS WE GATHER Advent is the season of waiting! Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel and then carried our salvation in her womb, delivering Jesus into the world. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said (Luke 1:38). May we say the same as we gather this day and, like Mary, receive the peace that God alone can give.

And the angel [Gabriel] said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor

with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus." *Luke 1:30–31*

If there are prayer concerns for you, your family, your friends, or your neighbors, please put them on the yellow prayer request card. Our Board of Elders are prayerful with our pastors about these joys and struggles of our earthly journey.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16b

Welcome to Faith Evangelical Lutheran on this Fourth Sunday in Advent! We are delighted to have you in worship with us. If you are visiting from out of town, we bid you welcome and God-speed on your journey. Should you be from our community, and have no church home, we invite you to make Faith your church home.

Preaching this morning is Rev. Sam Handschke.

Holy Communion is celebrated at our 8:30 service this Sunday. In this Sacrament, our Lord gives His true body and blood for our forgiveness. Those who confess the faith declared at this altar and who desire to receive communion today are asked to read our communion statement found in the bulletin. Thank you.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Wed. Dec. 13, Att. 148, Offering \$730.00; Sun., Dec. 17, Att. 317; General Fund \$11,443.14; Sunday School \$5.00; Building Fund \$290.00; Love Fund \$100.00; Contingency Fund \$100.00; Mexico Mission \$175.00; HVAC \$50.00; Organ Fund \$50.00; Sunday School Program \$15.00; Christmas \$200.00; Flowers \$160.00; Endowment Fund in memory of Lowell King (Blessings) \$50, (Undesignated) \$50.00; Endowment Fund in memory of Forrest Wixon (Foundations) \$25.00, (Blessings) \$50.00; Endowment Fund (Foundations) \$2,000.00, (Future) \$2,000.00, (Generations) \$102.75.

Endowment Fund There are lime green envelopes on the back side of the large center support post in the Narthex for your use. Donations do not have to be in memory of someone, they can be in celebration of an event in your lives, to the glory of God, or any number of happenings in your lives. The envelopes have an area where you can designate where you wish the funds to go. Please use a separate **check** for your donation. Where we deposit the funds does not take cash, so **it needs to be in the form of a check**. The counters cannot always find checks to cover when cash is given. Thanks for your help!



Christmas Eve Worship

3:00 pm
5:00 pm
7:30 pm

Please Join Us



Join us tomorrow also for our Christmas Day Worship at 9:00 am.

Congregational Pictorial Directories are here!!! You may pick up **ONE** per family. Please sign the sheet as you take your directory so we will know who has taken theirs.

Offering Envelopes Our 2024 offering envelopes are on the table beneath the confirmation pictures. They are numerically and semi-alphabetically arranged on the tables. **Please pick yours up today.** If you do not find yours let Helen know and she will make sure you get them. Even if you give automatically or by your cell phone there are special envelopes you can use throughout the year, **please take them home.** Please do not use before January 1, 2024.

Main Street Living “Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life.” Both can be viewed on KDLT (NBC) & KEVN (FOX) Visit www.mainstreetliving.com to view current and past episodes. **Did you know** you can see the Worship Service and Kid's Crossing on our website at anytime? All programs are streamed on www.mainstreetliving.com, and are available the day before they are broadcast.

Dec 24, 2023

KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

10:00 AM - “Christmas on Main Street” The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together.

10:30 AM - Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, presents a Christmas message. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. Visit www.mainstreetliving.com for more information

Life Quotes “This time of the year always fills us with cheer | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don’t know God’s Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the gift from above!” *Jerrod Nelson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



Faith Lutheran Youth

Bible Bowl 2024 We received word from the South Dakota LCMS district on the 2024 Bible Bowl. The books of the Bible are Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Students from sixth grade to seniors are eligible to participate. The statewide competition is before Palm Sunday. **The Bible Bowl is set for March 23, 2024.** For more information or to register please see Bible Bowl coach LeRoy Kropuenske. He is around on Sunday for Sunday School and Wednesday for confirmation.

Higher Things Retreat

Theme: Eyes to See - learn to distinguish between God's truth and the devil's lies.

When: January 14-15; 6pm Sunday to 3pm Monday

Who: high school and college age young adults

How much: Just come!

What: food, activities, learning, snacks.

Bring your Bible, notebook, sleeping bag, and pillow, and get ready to learn and have some fun!

This Week at Faith Lutheran

Today: Dec. 24	Advent 4 and	9:00 am Christmas Day Worship
	Christmas Eve	
8:30 am	Communion (Advent 4)	
3:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship	
5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship	
7:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship	
Mon: Dec. 25	Christmas Day	
		Tues: Dec. 26
		Office Closed
		Wed: Dec. 27
		7:00 pm Chapel/Communion

Thurs: Dec. 28
8:00 am Staff Devotions
Sun: Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

8:30 am Communion
11:00 am Communion