

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22, 2024 A.D.
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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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; 3:16; Psalm 36:5-9

- P** We light the fourth Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** The fourth Advent candle has been known as the angel candle and the candle of love. As our Advent season soon ends, we await the angelic message of the good news of a Savior. We have come to know the love of the one true God this season and always as we have prepared to celebrate His birth. We know God's promises come to fruition in Jesus, who later made known His Father's love in His being born into this world; in His life, ministry, teaching, preaching, healing; and ultimately in His dying and rising. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
- C** **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**
- P** Guided by the light of love, we respond with the psalmist: "Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds."

- C** Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.
- P** How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
- C** They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.
- P** For with You is the fountain of life;
- C** in Your light do we see light.”



Four Advent candles are lit.

EXHORTATION

- 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.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

- 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.
- 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.


† **WORD** †

INTROIT

1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47

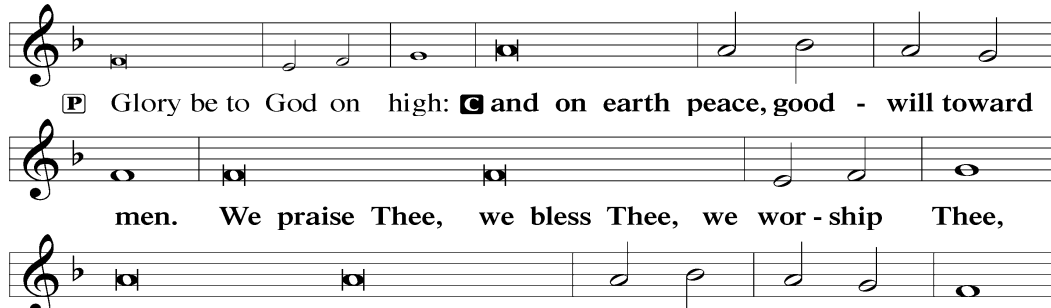
- P** My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
- C** My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in Your salvation.
- P** There is none holy like the LORD;
there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.
- C** The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.
- P** The LORD kills and brings to life;
He brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- C** The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
He brings low and He exalts.
- 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.
- P** My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

KYRIE



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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- 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 live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 5:2–5a* (The coming King born in Bethlehem)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (arr. Mitchell & Sandra Eithum)
Bell Ensemble

EPISTLE *Hebrews 10:5–10* (Jesus comes to do God's will)

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)* (Mary visits Elizabeth.)

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.

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (LSB 357)

Verses 1-4 **before** sermon, verses 5-7 **after** sermon

SERMON "Little Judah" (Micah 5:2-5a)

Pastor Sam Handschke

THE CREED 8:30 *Apostles' Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book*

11:00 *Nicene Inside back cover of the Lutheran Service Book*

OFFERTORY



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.

OFFERING AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Please stand)

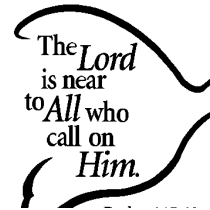
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P O Lord, there is none like You in holiness, constancy and might; yet, You exercise Your power for the salvation of sinners. As we draw near to the celebration of Jesus' birth, fill our hearts with gratitude that Your Son humbled Himself and became flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Mighty God, You have done great things for us, looking upon our humble estate and exalting us to be Your children for Jesus' sake. Preserve us by Your Holy Word, that we would properly fear Your name and rejoice in it all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.



- P** Heavenly Father, Your Son from of old was born of Mary in time to be our peace. Grant us repentant hearts, that for His sake we would be at peace with You. Grant also that, forgiven of our sins, we may forgive and be at peace with those around us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, our God, Bethlehem was too small to be among the clans of Judah, yet from it came forth the King of kings. Remember the congregations of Your people where numbers are small and resources are scarce. Provide for their needs and remind them that the Lord of lords dwells among them in His Means of Grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty God, You are the Creator of all life. Have mercy on those women who are unable to conceive or who suffer the heartbreak of miscarriage. Be their rock against despair, provide them consolation and purpose in Your Son, and restore them to exult in Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Holy God, You sent Your Son to shepherd His flock in strength and to be great to the ends of the earth. Grant wisdom to our leaders and peace among the nations, that we may dwell secure. 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** Almighty God, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ on the cross. Prepare the hearts of all who commune this day with penitence and trust in Your promises, and so make us holy with Your Son's body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly the King of the nations and their desire. He who formed us of clay took on our human nature that He might save us. He came to His own and was rejected by them, yet You established Him as the true cornerstone, tested and precious, that whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving

His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, 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.

The 8:30 am service continues on page 12 with the Benediction.

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 pastors**, before communing, in order that we might fulfill our responsibility of properly instructing people in the right use of the precious Sacrament.

Communion Distribution: We offer both the common cup and individual cup. If you desire to receive Jesus' blood in the common cup, you are invited to come forward in the first group (after the Elders and Pastors receive communion). If you desire to receive his blood in the individual cups, you may remain in your seat and the Ushers will dismiss you row by row. If you desire to receive Jesus' body and blood in your seat, please let one of our Ushers know and we will bring you communion at the end of the distribution.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

11:00 am

PREFACE

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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. 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;



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.

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 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

- "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (LSB 361)
- "O Bless the Lord, My Soul" (LSB 814)



(Please stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

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

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

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** 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 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

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

BENEDICAMUS

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

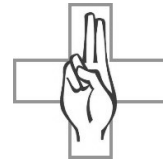
BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

CLOSING HYMN

“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

(LSB 670)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



AS WE GATHER The Advent season of preparing for the promised Savior to be born as one of us soon reaches its climax. Though in our homes and lives we may be wondering if we have done all we have needed to get ready for our own celebrations, we give thanks that at the center of our coming Christmas observations the Lord has prepared all we need. In this last Sunday of Advent and in the days ahead of anticipated Christmas joy, may we find peace in the preparations done freely for us out of grace, mercy, and perfect love centered on the Savior we soon welcome, who was born for us and all the world.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2

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 today is Reverend Sam Handschke.

Holy Communion is celebrated at our 11:00 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.



Want to listen to our worship service via livestream? Go to: www.faithluth.com. Click on livestream and it will take you to the service or if you have missed the service it will take you to the archived services. We livestream our 8:30 service each Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Wed. Dec. 11, Att. 140; Offering \$820.00; **Sun., Dec. 15, Att. 284;** General Fund \$12,040.39; Building Fund \$290.00; Love Fund \$100.00; Contingency Fund \$100.00; Security System \$169.00; Men's Club \$500.00; Todd's Electric \$2,000.00; Mexico Mission \$1,025.00; Bus Maintenance \$500.00; Extra Missions \$500.00; Flowers \$75.00.

Reports for December 22 and 29 will be included in the bulletin for January 5.

ENDOWMENT FUND When giving to the Endowment Fund **PLEASE** make it a **SEPARATE CHECK**. Must be a **CHECK** as the account doesn't accept cash for the deposit. It is not always easy to find a check for the correct amount to substitute for cash or for a check made out for multiple purposes that includes an Endowment donation. The counters would greatly appreciate your help in this matter. Thank you.

Thanks to “Do-Gooders” – Each week we will highlight people who are doing good within our church, community, and world, with the intent of affirming the ways that all of us “do Good.”

This week we would like to thank everyone who gave food items, blankets, laundry products, and more to our collection for Pastor Utecht and his congregation in Rosebud. We would also like to thank our members who travelled there to distribute the items and spread Christmas joy through caroling. Stay tuned for our next Do-Gooder Sunday after the New Year on January 5.

Graduate Mailings Faith Circle will be sending the 2024 high school graduates as well as the college students a Christmas greeting. It will be sent to their home addresses. We are letting parents know this so they can expect a small envelope in their mail to pass on to their young adults.

If there is a better way to connect with these young adults, please contact the church office to let us know. Thank you for your support of this ministry.
God’s Blessings Members of Faith Circle

Offering Envelopes The 2025 offering envelopes are on the tables in the Narthex. *Please pick yours up today.* Even if you give on-line there are additional envelopes you can use: Building, Endowment, Special Missions, Lent and Advent. The use of envelopes is helpful for our counters and posters. If you don’t use envelopes, it is helpful if you put your envelope number on your check.

Main Street Living Did you know the Main Street Living program is broadcast throughout South Dakota and into bordering states on two TV stations: KDLT in Sioux Falls at 10:00 AM central and KEVN at 8:00 AM mountain in Rapid City? **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 22, 2024

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. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Life Quotes “Merry Christmas! And may the certainty of God’s love for you in Jesus Christ give you strength, comfort, and confidence this day to face whatever comes tomorrow. For, nothing can overpower the persevering power and blessing of Christmas.” *Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Faith Lutheran Youth

Attention...Parents of children from birth to three years who are on the Cradle Roll (any Baptized at Faith or elsewhere that are members). These children will be given a Christmas card and gift from Priscilla Circle. Please check the table in the Living Room area to find your child’s card. Thank you. Members of Priscilla Circle

E It’s time once again to start thinking about the LCMS Youth Gathering! The LCMS Youth Gathering will be July 19-23, 2025, in New Orleans, Louisiana. LCMS youth and adult leaders will visit the city under the theme Endure based on Hebrews 12:1-3. Held every three years, LCMS Youth Gatherings provide young people an opportunity to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. During the five-days of the Gathering youth spend time together in worship, God’s Word, prayer, song and service. This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in Saint Louis, Missouri.

ENDURE
2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

This Week at Faith Lutheran

Today: Dec. 22 Advent 4

8:30 am Worship

11:00 am Communion

Mon: Dec. 23

7-10 pm Pickleball

Tues: Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Wed: Dec. 25 Christmas Day

9:00 am Christmas Worship/Comm

OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs: Dec. 26

OFFICE CLOSED

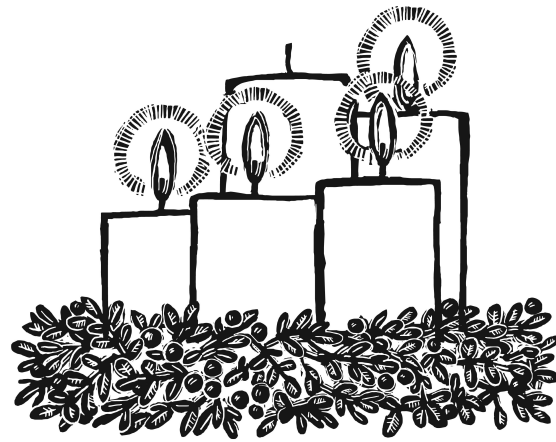
Fri: Dec. 27

OFFICE CLOSED

Sun: Dec. 29 Christmas 1

8:30 am Communion

11:00 am Communion



— FOURTH SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

Join us this Tuesday for our Christmas Eve Worship services at
3:00, 5:00 and 7:30 pm

Then celebrate Christmas Day with a worship service at 9:00 am.
This will be a Communion service.

December 29 brings us the first Sunday after Christmas, the fifth
day in the Christmas season.

Then let's start the New Year right with worship at 7:00 pm on
New Year's Day.