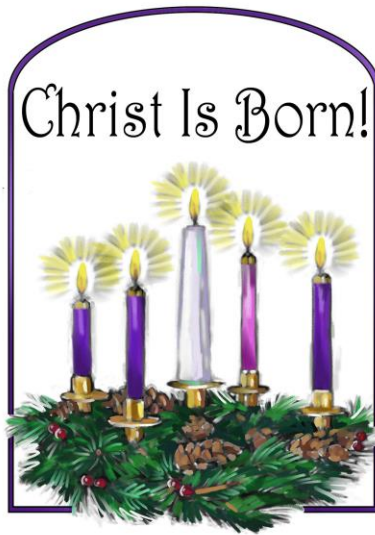


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



The First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

8:00 & 10:30*am

*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

AS WE GATHER

How much time do we spend waiting? A study by the Timex corporation revealed that the average American spends thirty-eight hours annually waiting in traffic and thirteen hours each year on the telephone waiting for customer service.

Waiting is not always easy, but certain kinds of waiting are truly worthwhile. The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Simeon, a “righteous and devout” man is “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25). And his wait is more than worthwhile. He gets to hold the infant Christ Child and to express his thanks firsthand for the salvation that Jesus will accomplish. The waiting for Simeon was over. God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth into this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus.

As we worship, we echo the words of Simeon, thankful that our waiting for Immanuel is over and that we are assured of the salvation brought by Jesus, the one for whom Simeon was waiting so patiently.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) ✝ [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) ✝ [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)

2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✝ 812-332-1668 ✝ office@faithbtown.org

✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 367 – Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ **WORD** ✠ ✠ ✠

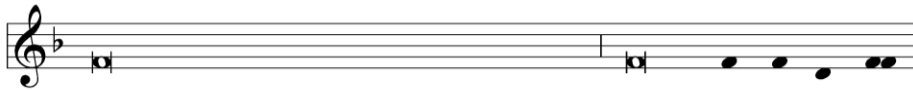
INTROIT – Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10

- P** The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- C** **Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**
- P** The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- C** **He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**
- P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
- 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. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – Mark 10:47

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



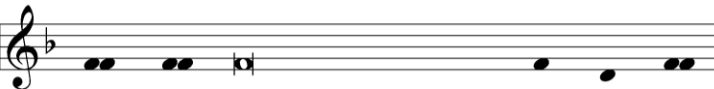
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS – Luke 2:14; John 1:29

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:
 We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.
 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:
 You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
 You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.
 For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray... one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 61:10-62:3 – Nations will acknowledge His righteousness.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
 my soul shall exult in my God,
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL – Isaiah 9:6 (paraphrased) - Sung by congregation.

3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul-der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

SECOND LESSON – Galatians 4:4-7 – At the right time, God sent His Son into the world.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA and COMMON VERSE – *John 6:68*

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL – **Luke 2:22-40** – Jesus is presented at the temple by Mary and Joseph.

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 389 – Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

6 He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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SERMON – *A Blessed End* – Luke 2:22-40

NICENE CREED

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A ...Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

A ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C** Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY – Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
 me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the

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courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ ✠ ✠ SACRAMENT ✠ ✠ ✠
beginning at LSB 160

For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that **in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is *truly* present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord's command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

- **If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith**, we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing.
- **If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper**, please speak with one of our pastors.

PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.



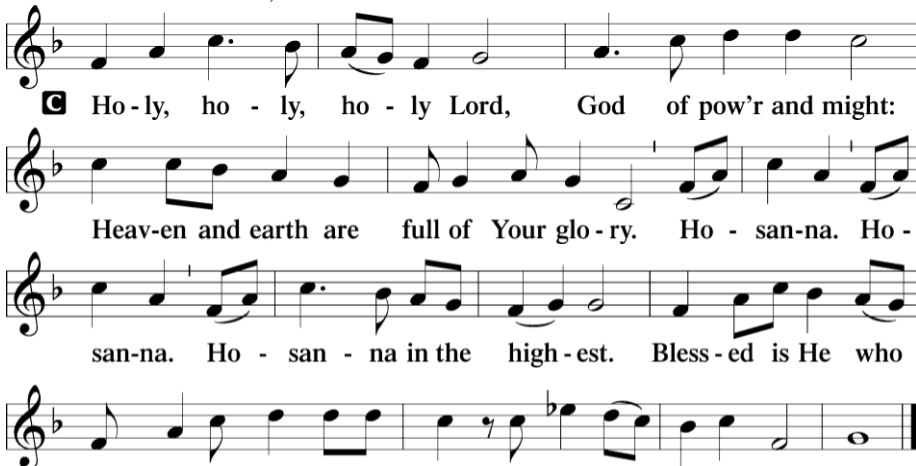
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, 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 pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P ...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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI – *The Peace of the Lord* – *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God – John 1:29

☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Notes:

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

Non-alcoholic grape juice, containing a *trace amount of wine*, is available in the center of the tray.

DISTRIBUTION

LSB 374 – Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen-tle Mar-y laid her child Low-ly in a man-ger;
 2 An-gels sang a-bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen-tle Mar-y laid her child Low-ly in a man-ger;
 There He lay, the Un-de-filed, To the world a strang-er.
 Heav-en's star shone bright-ly forth Glo-ry all a-round Him.
 He is still the Un-de-filed But no more a strang-er.
 Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav-ior?
 Shep-herds saw the won-drous sight, Heard the an-gels sing-ing;
 Son of God of hum-ble birth, Beau-ti-ful the sto-ry;
 Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa-vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring-ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo-ry!

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 624 – The Infant Priest Was Holy Born



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con -
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
 As at the rail on bended knee
 Our hungry mouths from Him receive
 The bread of immortality.

On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
 His quenching blood that life restores.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
 A priestly food and priestly meat;

7 With cherubim and seraphim
 Our voices join the endless hymn,
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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LSB 382 – We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth



1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You
 2 Now in the man - ger we may see God's Son from e -
 3 The vir - gin Mar - y's lul - la - by Calms the in - fant
 4 The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to



came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy
 ter - ni - ty, The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne
 Lord Most High. Up - on her lap con - tent is He
 gleam a - new; His beams have pierced the core of night,



And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al-le-lu-ia!
 Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Al-le-lu-ia!
 Who keeps the earth and sky and sea. Al-le-lu-ia!
 He makes us chil - dren of the light. Al-le-lu-ia!

5 The very Son of God sublime
 Entered into earthly time
 To lead us from this world of cares
 To heaven's courts as blessed heirs.
 Alleluia!

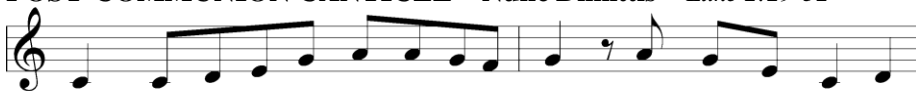
As we, like angels, sing His praise.
 Alleluia!

6 In poverty He came to earth
 Showing mercy by His birth;
 He makes us rich in heav'nly ways

7 All this for us our God has done
 Granting love through His own Son.
 Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice
 And sing His praise with endless voice.
 Alleluia!

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POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Nunc Dimittis – Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P We give thanks to You, almighty God ... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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 look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 519 – In His Temple Now Behold Him



1 In His tem - ple now be - hold Him, See the long - ex -
2 In the arms of her who bore Him, Vir - gin pure, be -
3 Je - sus, by Your pre - sen - ta - tion, When they blessed You,



pect - ed Lord; An - cient proph - ets had fore - told Him,
hold Him lie While His a - ged saints a - dore Him
weak and poor, Make us see Your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled His word. Now to praise Him,
Ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia,
Seal us with Your prom - ise sure; And pre - sent us



His re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.
al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
in Your glo - ry To Your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

Text and tune: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC



Thank you to Josiah Hamill for serving as guest organist this morning.



TODAY (1st Sunday after Christmas)

8:00am + 10:30am* + 5pm

+++ **All three services** are Divine Service 1 with Holy Communion
AND Year-end prayers and praises. +++

9:15am Multi-age activity

Monday, January 1 – office closed

Wednesday, January 3 – Preschool resumes

Sunday, January 7 (Epiphany, observed)

- **8:00am + 10:30am** Commissioning of PPC/Ministry Teams/congregational officers
- **11:30am Voters' Meeting** (*Stop in the office to see the turf samples, and visit Friday@Faith to view the video answering questions raised at the December 3 Voters' Meeting.*)



Blood Pressure Checks

Stop by the library after either morning service TODAY for a complimentary Blood Pressure check, offered by our Health and Human Care Ministry Team.

Voters' Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

in the sanctuary, following the 10:30 service



- Revisit the Playground resolution

All communicant members age 18+ are automatically voting members.

