

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

8:00 & 10:30*am, 5:00 pm

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

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.

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

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✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (arr. Paul Manz)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 357 – **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (vv. 1, 7)

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain



10:30 am – SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM – Malachi Wayne Mack

After the baptism, the service continues with the Salutation and Collect of the Day on page 5.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We remember His arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We long for His glorious return. As we wait, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.

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 ✠ ✠ ✠

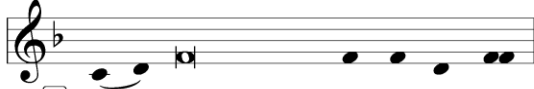
INTROIT – 1 Samuel 2:1-2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47

The congregation sings all.

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.
My mouth derides my | enemies,*
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.
There is none holy | like the Lord;*
there is none besides you; there is no rock | like our God.
The barren has borne | seven,*
but she who has many children | is forlorn.
The Lord kills and | brings to life;*
he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.
The Lord makes poor and | makes rich;*
he brings low and | he exalts.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.



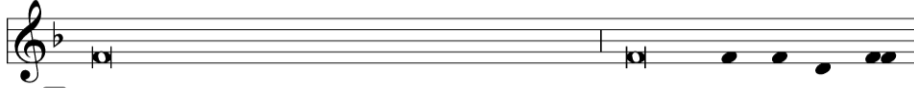
KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – Mark 10:47



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.



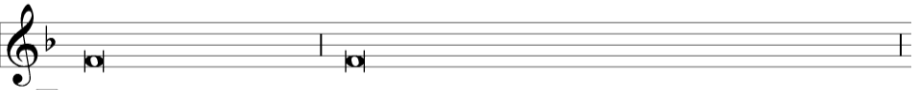
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



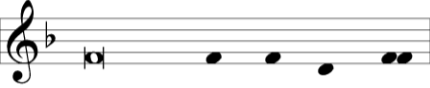
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



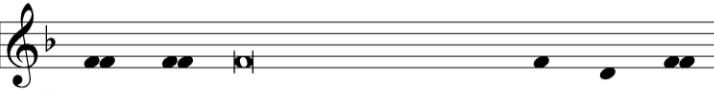
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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 – Micah 5:2-5a – The coming King born in Bethlehem

² 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.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

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



GRADUAL – Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

The congregation sings all.



Re - joi - ce great - ly, O daugh - ter of Zi - on!



Shout, shout, daugh - ter of Je - ru - sa - lem. See, your



King comes to you, right - eous and hav - ing sal - va - tion.



Blessed is he — who comes in the name of the Lord.



From the house of the Lord — we bless you.

SECOND LESSON – Hebrews 10:5-10 – Jesus comes to do God’s will.

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA and VERSE – Matthew 1:23a

The choir sings the Alleluias and the congregation repeats them.

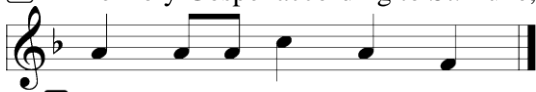
The congregation then repeats the Alleluias after the verse.



*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel.*

HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 1:39-56 – Mary visits Elizabeth

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



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

8:00 am – CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 356 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
“To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
“My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON – *Expectant People* – Luke 1:39-56

8:00 am– APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

10:30 am & 5:00 pm – 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 ...one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C** Amen.

OFFERING – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (arr. Flor Peeters)

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

**8:00 am – Continues with the Lord’s Prayer (page 11)
 and concludes with the Benediction and Hymn to Depart (page 15).**

✠ ✠ ✠ **SACRAMENT** ✠ ✠ ✠
 10:30 am & 5 pm
 beginning at LSB 160

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

**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.

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...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.

Distribution Notes:

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

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

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




C 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

Anthem – *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (arr. John Ferguson)

LSB 373 – See amid the Winter’s Snow



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,

See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

*“Comfort, comfort
now my people;
Tell of peace!” So
says our God.
Comfort those who
sit in darkness
mourning under
sorrow’s load.
To God’s people
now proclaim that
God’s pardon waits
for them!
Tell them that their
war is over; God
will reign in peace
forever!*

*For the herald’s
voice is crying in
the desert far and
near, calling us to
true repentance,
Since the Kingdom
now is here.
Oh, that warning
cry obey! Now
prepare for God a
way! Let the valleys
rise to meet him,
And the hills bow
down to greet him!*

*Straight shall be
what long was
crooked,
And the rougher
places plain!
Let your hearts be
true and humble,
as befits God’s holy
reign.
For the glory of the
Lord now on earth
is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall
see the token that
God’s word is
never broken.*



Hail, O ev - er - bless-ed morn! Hail, re-demp-tion's hap-py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa-lem: "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 431 – Not All the Blood of Beasts



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con-science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 820 – My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me
2 He of - fers all His trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and
3 For as a ten - der fa - ther Has pit - y on his
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of
righ - teous - ness, His love be - yond all mea - sure, His
chil - dren here, God in His arms will gath - er All
yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who

mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose
 yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we
 who are His in child - like fear. He knows how frail our
 in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His

meek - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry
 mer - it But sets His an - ger by. The poor and con - trite
 pow - ers, Who but from dust are made. We flour - ish like the
 dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -

weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and
 spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh; And high as
 flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade; The wind but
 cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -

care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who
 heav'n a - bove us, As dawn from close of day, So
 through them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er. We
 ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our

leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.
 far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.
 with - er like the grass - es; Our place knows us no more.
 life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Thank the Lord

☞ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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 515 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

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'nings 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!

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SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* (arr. Timothy Shaw)



Luminary lighting - 3pm on Christmas Eve

Bundle up and come help place and light our annual luminaries along our driveway and around the parking lot. This is a 1-hour (or less) service opportunity.

To help this year, meet at church at **3pm on Christmas Eve.**

Please **bring a long lighter** (or two) if possible.



Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by **Richard Ahern** in memory of **Seamus Finnegan Ahern** and **Ethan Bell.**

	<p>Christmas Eve – 5pm* & 7pm Candlelight Worship</p> <p>Christmas Day – 10am* Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>New Year's Eve – 5pm* Worship with Holy Communion</p>
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* Service will also be **livestreamed** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
Follow the bulletin available on our [website](#).

*Any changes or updates to this schedule will be available at
www.faithbtown.org as they occur.*



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