

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

5:00* & 7:00 pm

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



PRINCE OF PEACE

During the season of Advent, we have prepared to celebrate the birth of God’s Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. Tonight, we turn our attention to His title, “Prince of Peace.”

We long for peace in this world but fail to obtain it. Peace comes only through the gift of God in our Savior, Jesus Christ, come into the flesh for us at Christmas. He alone offers us true and lasting peace. Therefore, Jesus is given the title Prince of Peace. He rules over creation and gives us peace with God through His sacrifice for us, which also results in believers being at peace with one another.

Rev. Eric J. Edwards ✠ *Rev. Christopher Beck* ✠ *Rev. Liwei Sui*

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✠ ✠ ✠ PREPARATION ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* (arr. Wilbur Held)

OPENING VERSES

from the books of Isaiah, John and Matthew

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.
- C** **Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. We have beheld Christ’s glory – glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
- P** The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call Him Immanuel – which means, “God with us.”
- C** **Immanuel, God is with us. It is in His name that we worship, live, and hope.**

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Let us go to the city of David and worship and adore Christ the Lord!**

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 380 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



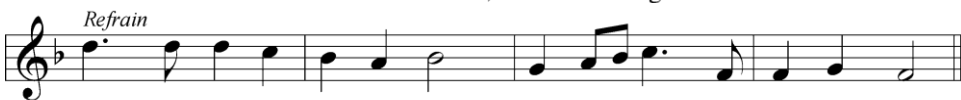
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P We give thanks for the eternal peace our Savior, the Prince of Peace, won, becoming one of us and dying for us. We must confess that we do not see much peace in the world, and we know that we have not been at peace personally. Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father.

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

All sing:

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

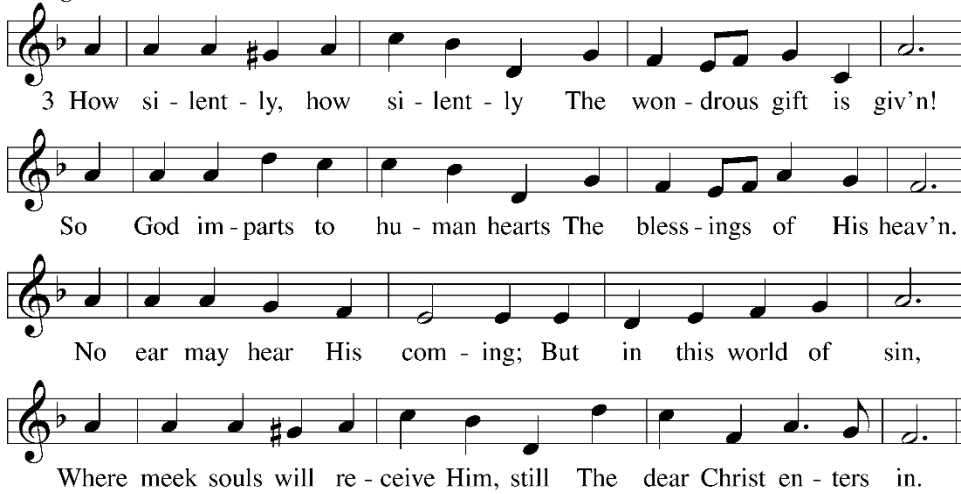
P Gracious Heavenly Father, knowing that You hear and answer us for sake of Jesus Christ, we bring the silent prayers of our hearts before Your throne of grace.

(silent reflection)

P By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Prince of Peace, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C **Amen!**

All sing:



3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

✠ ✠ ✠ WORD ✠ ✠ ✠

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- 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, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7 – “To us a Child is born.”

- A** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined...

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,



and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of His government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

GRADUAL HYMN – LSB 368 – Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public domain

SECOND READING – Micah 5:2-5a – “And He shall be their peace.”

A The Second Reading is from Micah, the fifth chapter.

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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.

⁵And He shall be their peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA – LSB 381 – Let Our Gladness Have No End – All sing:



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!
 He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Text and tune: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-20 – The Prince of Peace is born!

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter. **C** Glory to you, O Lord!

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered,
 each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to
 the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be

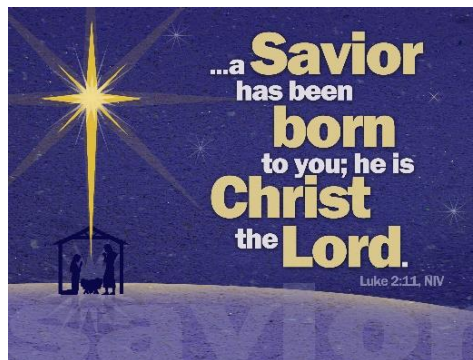
registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to you, O Christ!



HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 359 – Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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SERMON – *Prince of Peace* – Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7; Micah 5:2–5a; Luke 2:1–20

CREED

- A** We confess our faith in the second article of the Apostles' Creed.
- C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**
- A** What does this mean?
- C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live**

under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – *Luke 2:1–10*

- A** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**
A ...in the name of the One whom You sent, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. **C** **Amen.**

OFFERING – *What Child Is This* (arr. Timothy Albrecht)



✠ ✠ ✠ **CANDLELIGHTING** ✠ ✠ ✠

LITANY OF LIGHT

1 John 1:5, 7; John 8:12; Matthew 5:16

- P** This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you,
C **that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.**
P If we walk in the light, as He is in the light,
C **we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
P Jesus says, “I am the light of the world.
C **Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**
P “In the same way, let your light shine before others,
C **so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The Pastor takes a candle and lights it from the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World.

- A** The Light of Christ for the people of Christ.
C **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

*The ushers will light their candles from the Pastor's candle,
and then they will light the candle of the worshiper nearest the aisle.
Worshippers light their candles by **dipping the unlit candle**
into the flame of the lit one.*



LSB 363 – Silent Night, Holy Night

After the extended introduction, please join in singing the hymn.

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round you
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

BENEDICTION

- P** May He who is the Light of the World lighten our darkness and give to each one of us the Light of life.
- C** Amen.

The worshippers' candles may be extinguished when the Pastor's candle is extinguished.

SILENT PRAYER

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – In Dulci Jubilo (J. S. Bach)



Thanks to our narthex instrumentalists:
*Asher Edwards, Nicholas Ehrgott, Jarrod Franklin, Jonah Grimes,
 Joshua Grimes, Noah Grimes, Ben Williams, Nichole Williams, Nick Williams*

	<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.*

The church office will be closed through New Year's Day.
If you have any **urgent pastoral needs** please contact **Pastor Beck** at 812-332-166 (ext. 3).

The office email (office@faithbtown.org) will be monitored on a *limited basis only* on those days.
Please use this for *non-essential* matters only.

Regular office hours will resume on Thursday, January 2.

Sunday, December 29

8:00am + 10:30am + 5pm **Worship** with holy communion

9:15am **Bible study for all ages**



Sunday, January 5 – Epiphany (observed) with holy communion



Please note:

- 2024 offerings *must be received* by **December 31**.
- **Gifts to our Endowment Fund will be doubled**, if *received* by **December 31, 2024**.
- Check your mailbox for your **2025 Offering envelopes**, if you haven't already picked them up. If yours are missing or mislabeled, contact the church office.



Double your gift

All gifts to our Endowment Fund through December 31, 2024 will be matched.

Visit FaithBtown.org for details.



Mitten Tree

Our annual in-gathering of warm, winter accessories for the Salvation Army continues **through January 5**.

Help decorate the tree in the narthex with **mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, etc.** Items for both **children and adults** will be gladly received. Thank you!



Altar Flowers

The **2025 Flower Chart** is posted on the narthex wall, near the church office.

Choose an available date to order and donate flowers in memory of someone, in celebration and thanksgiving for an anniversary, birthday, or other occasion, or in thanksgiving for God's blessings.

For guidance or more information, please contact Altar Guild coordinator *Deanie Bently* (812-330-0328), or the church office.



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Subscribe to **FaithBtown News** for weekly announcements and updates.