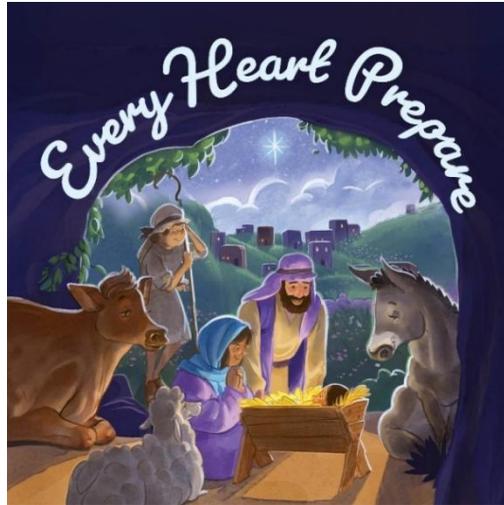


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

CRÈCHE

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn’t mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

Tonight, we focus on the crèche—those miniature models of the nativity scene that abound each December. Unlike lights and evergreens, the symbols that aided our meditation these last two weeks, the crèche is distinctly Christian. In it, we behold Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Magi, the angels, the stable animals, and, at the center, baby Jesus. Some places introduce the characters in chronological order; others put them all out at once. Either way, the crèche represents a crucial, historical event: God taking on human form and human nature so that He could take our place and redeem us from all sin. We behold it with fresh eyes this evening.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) ✝ [Rev. Liwei Sui](#) ✝ [Dr. Priscilla Gabriel](#), *Director of Parish Music*
2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✝ 812-332-1668 ✝ office@faithbtown.org

CANDLELIGHTING – Light One Candle

The congregation sings all three verses.



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

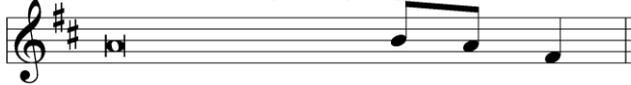


He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

ADVENT VERSICLES



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



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



Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

HYMN – People, Look East (v. 1)



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near
Of the crown - ing of the year.
Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Tune: BESANÇON, 87 98 87; French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

✠ ✠ ✠ READINGS ✠ ✠ ✠

FIRST READING – *1 John 1:1-4*

P A reading from First John, the first chapter.

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN – LS 338 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;



Dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

7:00 p.m. – CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON – Crèche

✠ ✠ ✠ CANTICLE ✠ ✠ ✠

ANTIPHON



L Let my prayer rise before You as in-cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

MAGNIFICAT – LSB 231

The congregation sings where marked 



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,

and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.

II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy

as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.

III 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.

OFFERING

✠ ✠ ✠ PRAYER ✠ ✠ ✠

KYRIE

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



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.

COLLECTS

L O Lord, hear my prayer.
C And let my cry come to You.
L ...let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

L Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

L The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.

HYMN – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 5)



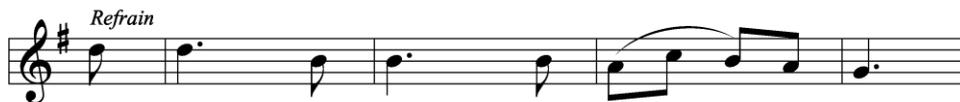
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

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Advent & Christmas 2025

Wednesdays – December 3, 10, 17
Midweek Advent Fellowship & Worship:
12 Noon **Worship** · 12:30pm Meal
5:45pm Meal · 6:45pm Carols · 7pm* **Worship**

Sunday, December 7 – 4:00pm *at ULu*
Lessons & Carols led by Faith/ULu choirs

Wednesday, December 10 – 11:45am
Preschool Christmas Program Preview

Thursday, December 11 – 11:30am
Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21 – 10:30am*
Lessons & Carols led by Sunday School children & FLY

Christmas Eve – 5pm* & 7pm
Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day – 10am*
Worship *with Holy Communion*

New Year's Eve – 5pm*
Worship *with Holy Communion*

* Service will also be **livestreamed** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) (FaithBtownLCMS)
Follow the bulletin available on our [website](#).

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