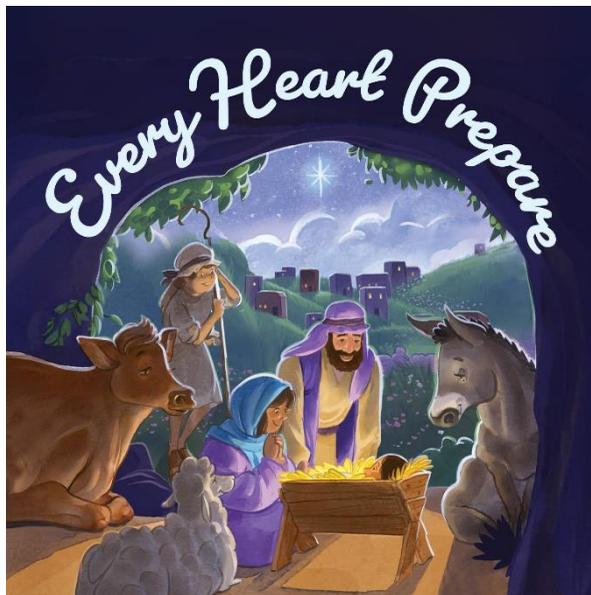


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 3, 2025
12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

EVERGREENS

“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 evergreens. Perhaps the most innocuous decorations in the eyes of the world, their prickles remind us of the crown of thorns, and the berries of the holly evoke the blood-stained brow of our crucified Lord. Above all, the steadfastness of their green in the midst of death symbolizes life amid death—and the life eternal Jesus won for us on the cross.

[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 twice.



C 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

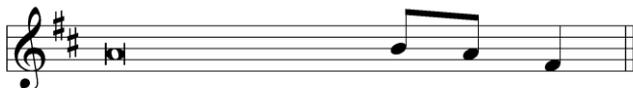


He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

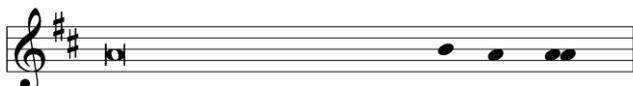
ADVENT VERSICLES



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 – *Hosea 14:4-8*

P A reading from Hosea, the fourteenth chapter.

- ⁴I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for My anger has turned from them.
- ⁵I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily;
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;
⁶his shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive,
and his fragrance like Lebanon.

⁷They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;
they shall flourish like the grain;
they shall blossom like the vine;
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.
⁸O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
It is I who answer and look after you.
I am like an evergreen cypress;
from Me comes your fruit.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – *Revelation 22:1-5*

P A reading from Revelation, the twenty-second chapter.

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. ⁴They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING – *John 11:17-27*

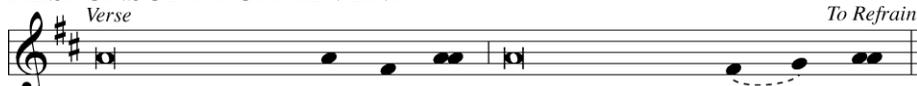
P A reading from John, the eleventh chapter.

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPNSORY FOR ADVENT



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a right-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



C This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Right-teous-ness.

HYMN – The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

Refrain: Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer.
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom as white as any flow'r,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior. *Refrain*

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. *Refrain*

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn. *Refrain*

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. *Refrain*

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown.
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. *Refrain*

Text: English carol. Public domain

7:00 p.m. – CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON – *Evergreens*

✠ ✠ ✠ CANTICLE ✠ ✠ ✠

ANTIPHON

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT – LSB 231

*The congregation sings where marked **C***



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.
C 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



C 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, 4)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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.*