FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

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. Liwei Sui*** ✢ *Dr. Priscilla Gabriel, Director of Parish Music*
2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✢ 812-332-1668 ✢ office@faithbtown.org

✢ ✢ ✢ 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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

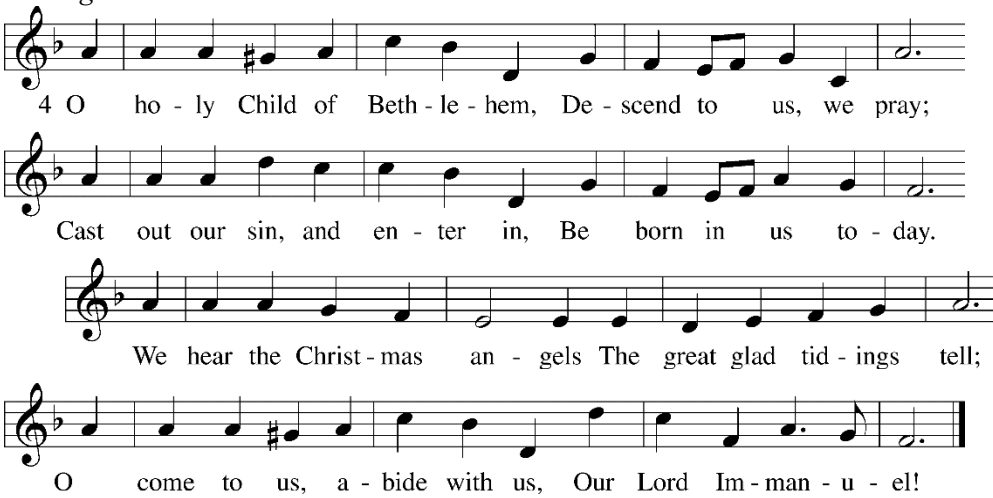
P The Lord be with you.

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:



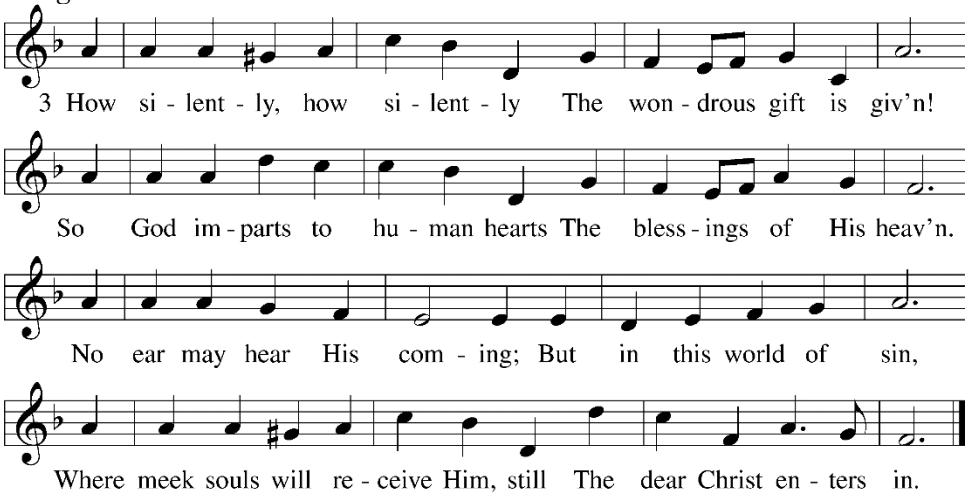
P Gracious Heavenly Father, knowing that You hear and answer us for sake of Jesus Christ, we bring the silent prayers of our hearts before Your throne of grace.

(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:



✢ ✢ ✢ 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 – **Isaiah 9:2-7 –** The promise of David's heir and Lord calls for great rejoicing.

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

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
3 You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
4 For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

[5] For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
[6] For 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.
[7] Of 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

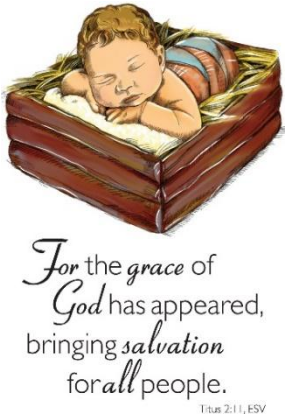
Text and tune: Public domain

EPISTLE – Titus 2:11-14 – Christ sanctifies us and gives us hope.

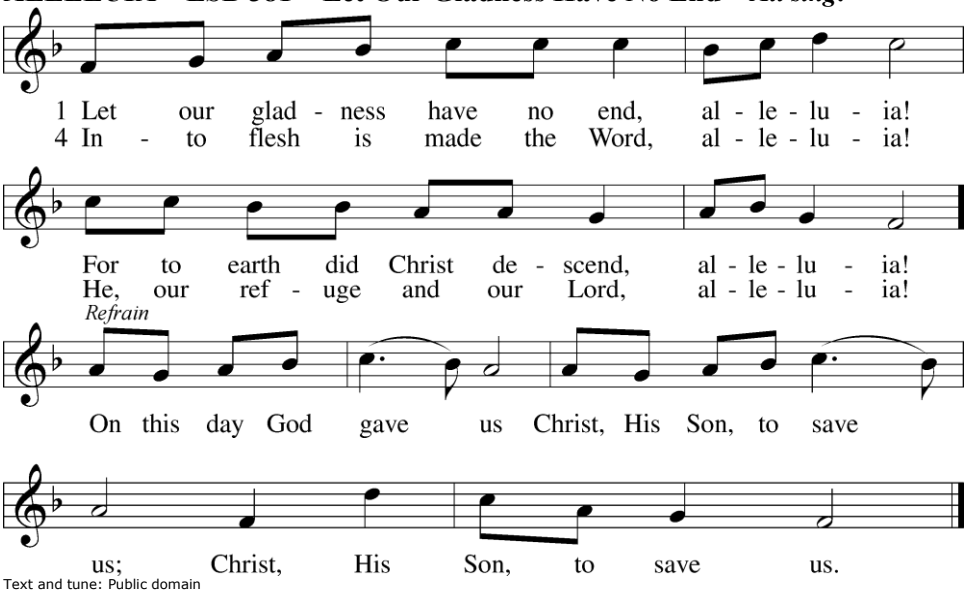
A The Second Reading is from Titus, the second chapter.

[11] For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, [13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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



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



Text and tune: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-20 – The Savior is born!

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord!**

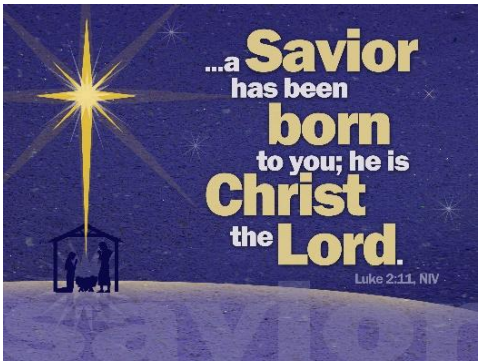
[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] And all went to be registered, each to his own town. [4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to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

Text and tune: Public domain

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SERMON – *Good News of Great Joy* – 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.

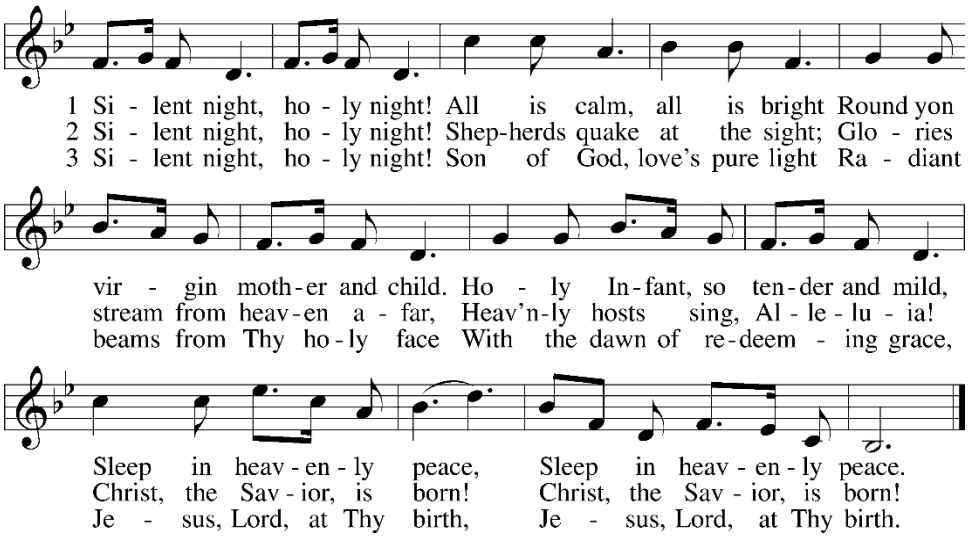
A The Light of Christ for the people of Christ.

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.
Worshipers 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.



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

SILENT PRAYER

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

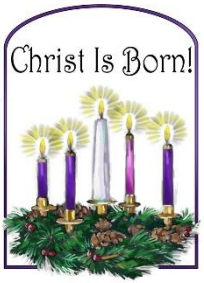
✢ ✢ ✢ ✢ ✢ ✢ ✢ ✢ ✢

Thanks to our narthex instrumentalists:
Asher Edwards, Jarrod Franklin, Jonah Grimes,
Joshua Grimes, Noah Grimes, Nia Johnson,
Jonathan Schaefer, Ben Williams, Nick Williams

Tonight's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by **Richard A'Hern** in loving memory of –

- **Seamus Finnegan A'Hern** 12/24/1988 - 7/6/1989 (S.I.D.S.)
- **Ethan Scott Bell** 6/06/2002 - 12/24/2020

* Service will also be **livestreamed** on Facebook and YouTube
Follow the bulletin available on our website.



Join us on Sundays:
8:00am + 10:30am + 5pm **Worship**
>>>January 4 & 11 only: NO 5pm *(see back page)*

9:15am
December 28: Video "The Art and History of the Nativity" *all ages welcome*
Resuming **January 4: Sunday School + Confirmation + Bible classes**

Please note:

- 2025 offerings ***must be received*** **by December 31.**
- **Gifts to our Endowment Fund will be doubled**, if *received* **by December 31, 2025**.
- Check your mailbox for your **2026 Offering envelopes**, if you haven't already picked them up. If yours are missing or mislabeled, contact the church office.

From **December 30-January 11** Pastor Edwards and family will be in Belize.

Church office hours will be as follows:
December 29 & 30: 10am-Noon
New Year's Eve & New Year's Day: CLOSED
January 5-8: 10am-Noon

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

If you have **urgent pastoral needs** please **contact Pastor Sui** at 812-671-3915.

Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 12.

Sunday, January 4 **Epiphany** (observed)
8:00 & 10:30am worship *(communion at both services)*

Sunday, January 11 **Baptism of our Lord**
8:00 & 10:30am worship *(communion at 10:30)*

Our full worship schedule will resume on Sunday, January 18.

PLEASE NOTE: **On the first two Sundays in January** Pastor Edwards will be in Belize and there will be **NO 5pm** service. Plan to worship with us at 8:00 or 10:30am on those Sundays!

Mitten Tree through January 4
Help decorate the tree in the narthex with **mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, etc** for the Salvation Army to distribute. Items for both **children and adults** will be gladly received. Thank you!

Altar Flowers
The **2026 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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