**Worship Plan for Sunday, December 24, 2024** **\* Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Processional**

**AM: Welcome**

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church where grace and love abound. A special welcome to those of you here for the first time, or joining us online, and to our guest pastor, Rich Ajer. It's a joy to worship with all of you! Let’s all tune into where the Holy Spirit is leading us and then jump in. Multiple blessings await as we work together to experience and share the love of Jesus Christ here at Faith and beyond our doors.

**P: Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**P: Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Call to Worship and candlelighting**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**All: O, come let us adore him.**

AM: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**All: O, come let us adore him.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of darkness, on them light has shined.

**All: O, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

AM: We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

**All: O, come let us adore him.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**All: O, come let us adore him.**

AM: In him was life and the life was the light of all people.

**All: O, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**P: Silence**

Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

**AM: Please turn to hymn 283**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)**

**p: Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S CHAT**

**P: Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**LECTOR: First Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7

### 2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. 3You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**AM: PSALMODY**: Psalm 96

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare God’s glory among the nations and God’s wonders among all peoples.

4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

6 **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

10 **Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**

13 You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

Amen.

**LECTOR: Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14

11The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Please stand for the gospel***

**Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 151)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**P: Gospel:** Luke 2:1-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 270**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day:*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)**

**p: Christmas Eve Prayer**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of your true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PASTOR AND ASSISTING MINISTER: Prayers of Intercession**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

The holy family finds shelter around the animals’ manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy, especially Kiki; Lynn Bennett; Rudy Bosinger; Arnette Calkins; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Reba Dyer; the family and friends of Ruth Ditsch; Yvonne Fields; Doris Hays; Leah Henroid; Sarge Hunter; Patricia Lee; Pat Loughboro; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Dee Seel; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**P: Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**P: Offering**

At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship. Whether you give of your time, talents, or treasures, a combination of them, or are discerning how you can give to God's beloved community, thank you so much for all the ways you give and help to make the ministries of this church possible!

**AM: Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along***

**Musical Offering: *Jesus What a Wonderful Child* (DOTTIE PEOPLES)**

**p: Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P: PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ALL SING)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**p: Thanksgiving at the Table (ELW p. 153)**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**P: INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

As you are comfortable, you are invited to come forward to receive communion. All of God’s children are welcome to Christ’s table.

Gather at the altar rail to receive the communion elements or if you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may commune yourself once you’ve received the communion elements. Please commune the bread first, turn over the vessel and then carefully open the grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets on your way back to your seat.

If you would like communion brought to you at your seat, indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

**p: Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**During Distribution:*Away in a Manger* (ELW 277)**

 ***What Child is This* (ELW 296)**

 ***Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life* (ELW 472)**

**P: Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**AM: Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Candle Lighting**

Instructions: Soon we will be dimming the lights and lighting our candles. Please hold your lit candle upright and let your neighbor light their candle from yours. Parents, please supervise children for safety.

**CANDLELIGHT PRAYER**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light of Jesus Christ.  Continue to shine your light on us so that we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence forever. We need you to shine in the dark corners of our world. Come to us and shine in our lives that we may reflect your love on earth.  In Jesus’ name we pray.

**Amen.**

**CandleLight Carol:*Silent Night, Holy Night!* (ELW 281)**

**Benediction and Candle Extinguishing**

The faith of Joseph, the wonder of Mary, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the Shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child abide with you always. **Amen.**

(Please extinguish your candles)

**AM: Please turn to hymn 289**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:*Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289)**

**P: Blessing**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

**THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

Wednesday, the 25th: Christmas Day

Thursday, the 26th: Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study begins at 7:00. To join in, email Pr. Ken at hopegiver@aol.com

Friday, the 27th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Sunday, the 29th: Lessons & Carols service

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