

ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21, 2025, 8:00 a.m.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.



- congregation stands.



- congregation sits.



- congregation sings.



- congregation kneel or sit as you are able.

Congregation responds in **bold print**.

Reminders in Preparation for Service:

- Please sign the red record of fellowship book to keep our records up to date.
- Out of respect for God's house and for those preparing for service, please maintain a quiet atmosphere prior to service by holding conversations in the narthex.
- While corporate confession and absolution is present at most services, if you would like to meet with Pastor privately, please speak with him to schedule a time for confession.
- Children are welcomed into our service and encouraged to participate with the rest of the congregation. If they do need some "wiggly room," you may move to the Wiggle Room (located in the narthex area), until they are ready to return to the service.

Visitors and Guests: Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church. We are blessed to have you with us.

- While most of what you will need for service is found in this service folder, if the indication LSB appears, it refers to the Lutheran Service Book, which is found in the hymnal rack on the back of the pew in front of you.
- Please speak with Pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. If you do not have the opportunity before service begins, you are welcome to receive a blessing during communion. Please indicate this desire by crossing your arms during the distribution of the sacrament.

College Students: Please let us know how we can assist you during your time away from home. Be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor or Deaconess before leaving and indicate your university and contact information in the red record of fellowship book.

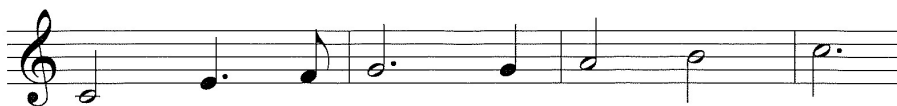
St. Thomas, Apostle All four Gospels mention St. Thomas as one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. John's Gospel, which names him "the Twin," uses Thomas's questions to reveal truths about Jesus. It is Thomas who says, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" To this question Jesus replies, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:5-6). John's Gospel also tells how Thomas, on the evening of the day of Jesus' resurrection, doubts the report of the disciples that they had seen Jesus. Later, "doubting Thomas" becomes "believing Thomas" when he confesses Jesus as "my Lord and my God" (John 20:24-29). According to tradition, Thomas traveled eastward after Pentecost, eventually reaching India, where still today a group of people call themselves "Christians of St. Thomas." Thomas was martyred for the faith by being speared to death.

Prelude

"Lift Up Your Heads" - setting by David Lasky

Order of Service

HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"



1. Lift up your heads ye might - y gates!
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;
3. How blest the land, the cit - y blest,
4. Re - deem - er, come and op - en wide



Be - hold the King of glo - ry waits.
Make it a tem - ple set a - part
Where Christ the rul - er is con - fessed!
My heart to Thee; here Lord, a - bid!



The King of kings is draw - ing near;
From earth - ly use for heav - en's em - ploy,
O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes
O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine;



The Sav - ior of the world is here.
A - dorned with prayer and love and joy
To whom this King in tri - umph comes!
Thy face of mer - cy on me shine.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

(Lutheran Service Book p. 268)

Baptized today: Elliot Scottie Smolik
Parents: Mati and Alex Smolik
Sponsors: Abby Austin and Christian Smolik

CONFESSION OF SINS

Do you renounce the devil?
Yes, I renounce him.

Do you renounce all his works?
Yes, I renounce them.

Do you renounce all his ways?
Yes, I renounce them.

ABSOLUTION

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BAPTISMAL HYMN



1 See this won - der in the mak - ing: God Him -
2 Mir - a - cle each time it hap - pens As the
3 Far more ten - der than a moth - er, Far more
4 Here we bring a child of na - ture; Home we

self this child is tak - ing As a lamb safe in His
door to heav - en o - pens And the Fa - ther beams, "Be -
car - ing than a fa - ther, God, in - to Your arms we
take a new-born crea - ture, Now God's pre - cious son or

keep - ing, His to be, a - wake or sleep - ing.
lov - ed, Heir of gifts a king would cov - et!"
place him, With Your love and peace em - brace him.
daugh - ter, Born a - gain by Word and wa - ter.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, You strengthened Your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in the resurrection of Your Son. Grant us such faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that we may never be found wanting in Your sight; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ SCRIPTURES FOR THE DAY +

Old Testament

Judges 6: 36-40

Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water.

Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God



GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Blessed are those who | have not seen
and yet | have believed.*

John 20.29b

(Repeat alleluias)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN: "By All Your Saints in Warfare" - LSB #517, stanzas 1, 6 (St. Thomas), 3



By all Your saints in war - fare, For all Your saints at rest,
All praise, O Lord for Thom - mas Whose short-lived doubt - ings prove
Then let us praise the Fa - ther And wor - ship God the Son

Your ho - ly name, O - Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest!
Your per - fect, two - fold nat - ure, The full - ness of Your love.
And sing to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One,

For You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the crown;
To all who live with ques - tions A stead - fast faith af - ford;
Till all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne,

And now they shine in glo - ry Re - flect - ed from Your throne.
And grant us grace to know You, True man, yet God and Lord.
A - scrib - ing pow'r and glo - ry And praise to God a - lone.



SERMON: Pastor Joshua Errer

Gathering of the Offering Adult Choir: "Comfort, Comfort" - arr. Richard Proulx

Did you know that your offering provides financial support to families sending their children to Faith Christian Preschool?

Faith members willingly support the ministry of this congregation with their tithes and offerings. Visitors are always welcomed as our guests, so please do not feel obligated to contribute. During the offertory we ask that the registration in the red folder located at the end of each pew be passed down and filled out by visitors and members. Visitors, please remember to include contact information if you are interested in knowing more about Faith.

Scan to Give



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+ SACRAMENT +

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) recognizes and respects the differences in beliefs regarding the nature and confession of Holy Communion and therefore holds to the Biblical practice of closed communion. We believe Christ's body and blood is being distributed with the bread and wine during the Lord's Supper. This is Christ's gift given for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and for the public confession of what we believe and teach. Since it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper sinfully and to your detriment, we ask that you speak with the pastor prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.

— Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

might. — Heav-en and earth are full, — full —

of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He that comes

— in the name of the Lord. — Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

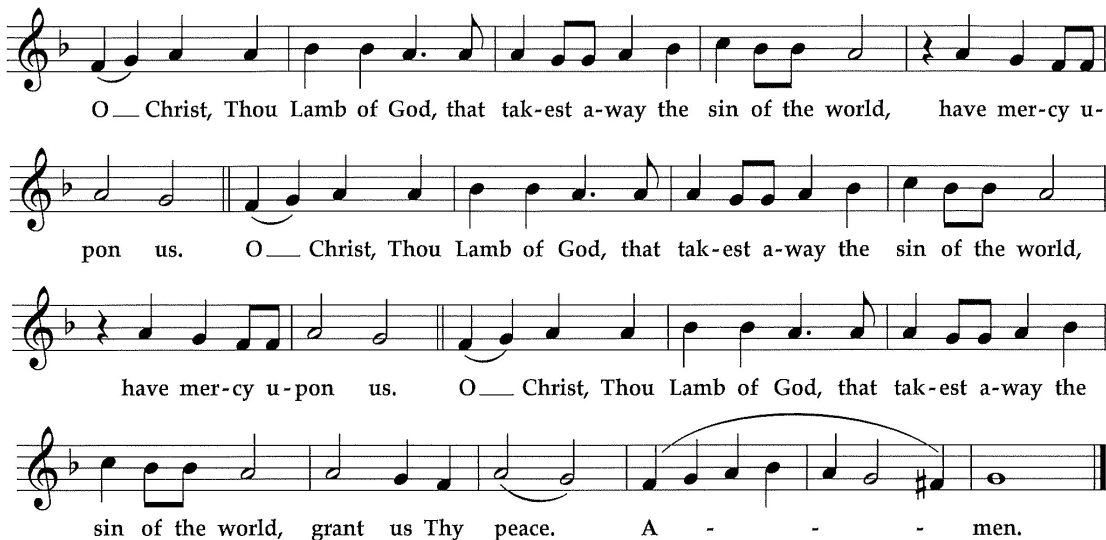
LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI



O — Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy u-
pon us. O — Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,
have mer-cy u-pon us. O — Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the
sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.



COMMUNION HYMNS

8:00 Adult Choir: "All Praise to Thee, Eternal God" - Elaine Hagenberg

*All praise to Thee, eternal God
Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
Dost take a manger for Thy throne,
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone. Alleluia*

*Thou comest in the darksome night
To make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine,
Like Thine own angels, round Thee shine. Alleluia*

*A little child, Thou art our Guest
That weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lonely is Thy birth
That we may rise to heav'n from earth. Alleluia*

Martin Luther
translation unknown



"The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came" - LSB #356

"My Soul Rejoices" - LSB #933

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" - LSB #338

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION

Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

HYMN: "People, Look East" (back page)

Advent and Christmas Season Service Schedule

Christmas Eve Services (Wednesday, Dec 24)

1:00 pm Festival Service with Adult Choir

4:30 pm Service with Children's Choir

7:00 pm Festival Service with Handbells

10:00 pm Vigil Service

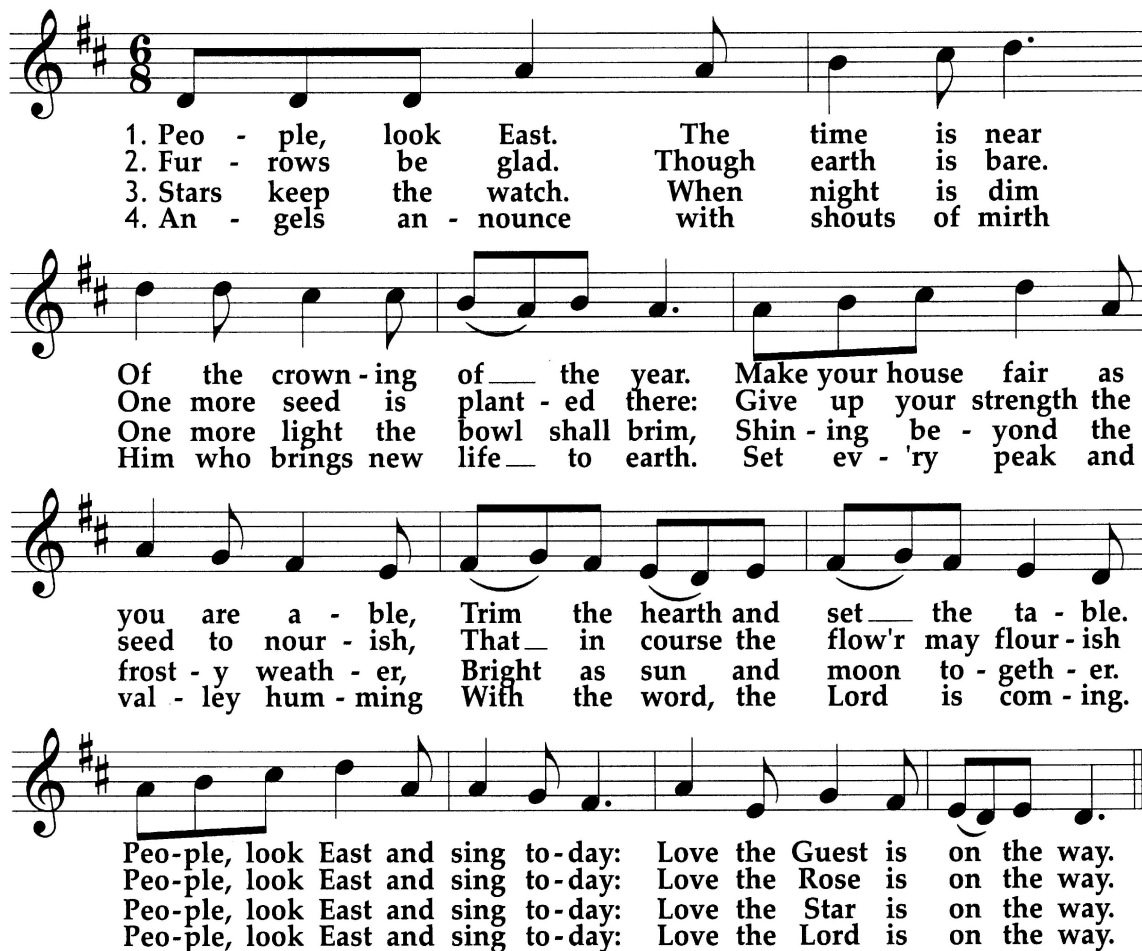
Christmas Day Service (Thursday, Dec. 25)

10:00 am Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve (Wednesday, Dec. 31)

6:30 pm New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion

HYMN: "People, Look East" (back page)



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near
 2. Fur - rows be glad. Though earth is bare.
 3. Stars keep the watch. When night is dim
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth

Of the crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as
 One more seed is plant - ed there: Give up your strength the
 One more light the bowl shall brim, Shin - ing be - yond the
 Him who brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and

you are a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 seed to nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish
 frost - y weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 val - ley hum - ming With the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the Guest is on the way.
 Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the Rose is on the way.
 Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the Star is on the way.
 Peo-ple, look East and sing to-day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Prostlude "Savior at the Nations, Come" - setting by Paul Manz

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