
Sunday, December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent



「Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.」

Luke 21:28

WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

GATHERING

Prelude

(PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE)

P We gather today in the name of God; Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C Amen.

P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

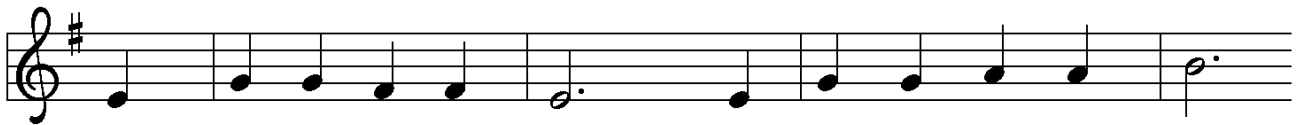
P Together we pray,

C **God of new beginnings, we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **C** **Amen.**

KYRIE

s203



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

THE GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Together we pray,

C **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem**

us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

the candle is lit

P O come O come, Emmanuel

C **let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

ACCLAMATION

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory.

²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

L The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Armen

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

HYMN

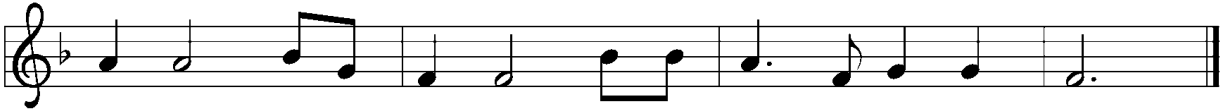
My Lord, What a Morning

ELW 438

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

A Together we confess our faith,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

each petition concludes...

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

In thanksgiving for God's blessing, we respond with our offering

OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and



take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the



joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Together we pray,

C **God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Strengthen us with this meal that we may live in hope and expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A Together we pray,

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.

DISTRIBUTION

As we celebrate the meal of our Lord, all are invited. If you are a guest and regularly commune at your church, you are welcome to commune here. For children who are not communing, please keep your hands folded and you will receive a blessing. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available at communion. Grape juice is in the inner section of communion tray, wine in the two outer rings. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please notify the server.

If you are unable to come to the altar rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please notify an usher.

after all have communed

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **C Amen.**

A Together we pray,

C Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and
forever.

C Amen.

HYMN

The King Shall Come

ELW 260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Faith's Weekly Announcements

Welcome to all of you attending this morning!

Ladies Luncheon

The December (Christmas) Ladies Luncheon will be held at 11:30 am on Wednesday, December 11th, at Arturs Restaurant. It is located at 70 N. Indiana Avenue, just north of the intersection with Dearborn Street, in Englewood. We will order off the menu with separate checks. Come for the enjoyment of fellowship and laughter! Sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Deadline is Sunday, December 8th. For more information, see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

Since it's Christmas season, let's do something this year for those less fortunate. When you come to the luncheon, please bring peanut butter and/or jelly, which will be donated through the St. Francis food pantry. (Plastic containers would be appreciated.)

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to help with our Christmas decorating, they are \$11 each. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. The codes for dedication are listed on a separate sheet. Please write legibly as your name and any dedication will be listed in the bulletin, with information taken from that sheet. You can place your checks, marked "poinsettia," in the offering plate. If you like, you may take the flower home after the second service on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Cards

Remember, the smaller bulletin board in the narthex is a spot where you can post your Christmas greetings to the Faith family. When your card is ready, just bring it in and tack it to the board.

Attendance last Sunday: 53

Food Pantry

This week the food bank especially needs canned meats and tuna. All donations should be placed in the bin in the narthex.

Looking Ahead...

- ~ Christmas Eve we will have a 5:00 and a 7:00 worship service.
- ~ Two services resume January 5, 2025

Save the dates for Friendship Tables

On January 16th we plan to have our first Friendship Table at church at 6 pm. We will each bring a hearty appetizer and our beverage of choice. Table hosts will help coordinate. On February 13th we will meet in host homes. The host will be responsible for the entrée and others bring a dish for the meal. Sign up to participate and let us know if you can be a host, either at church or your home. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex for each date. Contact Ellen Lindhurst (941-681-5542) or RoseAnne Woodliff (269-365-7747) for more information.

WE PRAY FOR...

Sandy Cox	Bob Ash	Larry Bennet
Deb Bush	Jack Myers	Chris Hoops
Jim Porter	Carolyn Furman	Ginny Linsberg
Toni Newton	Zack Stearns	Lynette Cormier
Marcia and Gary Wilkins		Tom and Linda Jackling
Sylvia and Al Armen		John and Linda Schleede

Serving Today

Altar Guild: RoseAnne Woodliff

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Ruthie Rohrbach

Ushers: Art Hanson, Jim Hughs, Jay Fisher

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Every week day morning	6:30 am	AA meets at church
Monday	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
Tuesday	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	8:30 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks
Wednesday	1:00 pm	OLT
Friday	Office Closed	

Your Church Council

Jeff Kamm (President), Larry Bennett (Vice President), Sandy Cox (Secretary), Art Hanson (Treasurer), Jim Taylor, Jeff Petersen, Gene Newlon, Jay Fisher and Sue Baran.

Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda

551 Rotonda Boulevard West – Rotonda West, FL 33947

(941) 697-3313

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Pastor Brian Armen, Cell (814) 248-0133

Secretary: Barbra Davis

Organist: Candace Montesi Custodian: Cyndy Hoops

Secretary Office Hours: 9:00 Am – Noon (M-F)

PASTOR'S OFFICE: 10:00 – 1:00 (M-TH) AND BY APPOINTMENT