



THE MAGNIFICAT

(Mary's song of praise was first sung to her cousin Elizabeth.)

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Luke 1:46-55

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

Come Thou Long-expected

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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.

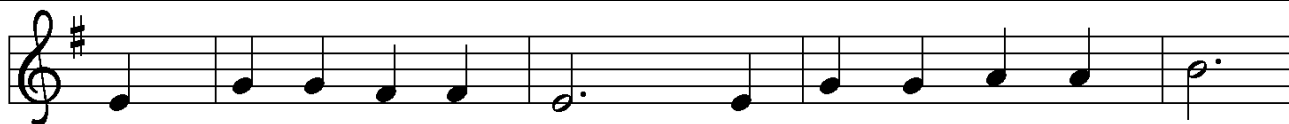
P Together we pray,

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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

- ² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
- ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
- ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

- ⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”
- ⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

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 1:39-55

C Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

L The Gospel of our Lord. **C** Praise to you, O Christ.

Music Ministry

Mary's Boy Child

Jester Hairston

SERMON

Pastor Armen

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

HYMN

Savior of the Nations Come

ELW 263



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

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



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.

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

Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

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!

Work Crew

Many thanks to the guys who come out every Tuesday to keep the church looking good and working well. We're giving them a break on December 24 and 31. You are encouraged to join them when they start again in January.

Please Join Us

This Tuesday for Christmas Eve worship. We will have a 5:00 and a 7:00 service. We still need 2 ushers for the 7:00 service. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

It's Cold Out There

The temperatures have been pretty low lately, and our homeless population (we call them campers) are feeling the impact. If you have items for the cold weather that you can spare, please bring them to church and leave them in the blue box in the narthex.

Attendance last Sunday: 67

Constitutional Changes

The ELCA has mandated some constitutional changes, which Faith members will vote on at the annual meeting. A copy of the constitution, with the changes highlighted, is available on the website.

Remember...

Two services resume January 5, 2025

Food Pantry

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

Friendship Gatherings Return for 2025!

Sign up in the narthex. Dates: Thursday, January 16th, held at church. Bring a hearty appetizer (BYOB if you wish). Thursday, February 13th, dinner held at host homes. Mix and mingle with the Faith family. Guests welcome.

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	Sylvia and Al Armen	
John and Linda Schleede		

Serving Today

Altar Guild: RoseAnne Woodliff

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Toni Newton

Ushers: Debby Porter, Ken Stephens, Marcia Wilkins

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Every week day morning	6:30 am	AA meets at church
Monday	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
Tuesday	5:00 & 7:00 pm worship	
Wednesday	Christmas – office closed	
Thursday	Office Closed	
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



The poinsettias were donated by:

Brian & Ellen Lindhurst

Ruth Rohrbach

Bobbie Neilson

Sandy Cox

Doug & Sue Schuemann

Tom & Linda Jasper

John & Kay Culver

Jim & Linda Hughs

Jack & Mary Lou Fitzgerald

Joyce Schultz

Steve & Cyndy Hoops

Dedication (if any):

In memory of parents &
brothers

Parents Rabe & Belly
Schaffent

Family & friends

All the hard workers of the
Church

Parents & brothers

In memory of loved ones

In memory of loved ones

Parents & family

Parents

Family

In memory of loved ones