

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C **Amen.**

P In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Together we pray,

C **Holy God, we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

P I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW 267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

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 Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L The word of God.

C Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

ACCLAMATION

ELW 279

4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

GOSPEL

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

L The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

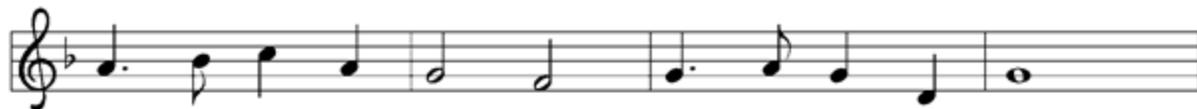
Pastor Armen

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



yet what I can I give him— long a - go.
give my heart.

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

L Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
each petition concludes...

L Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 282

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Together we pray,

C Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

ELW 283

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him,
born the king of angels: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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. If you prefer grape juice to wine, please raise an index finger when the server comes to you. If you require a gluten-free wafer, 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 We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

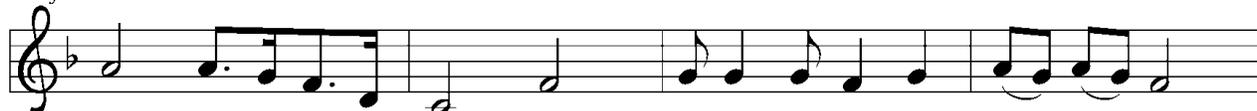
C Amen.

HYMN

Go Tell it on the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Faith's Weekly Announcements

Welcome to all of you attending this morning!

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this week were given by Roger and Gloria DeMeritt in celebration of their anniversary.

Food Pantry

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

WE PRAY FOR...

Gary Wilkins	Chris Cameron	Elaine Young
Lois Howell	Mike Williams	Patricia Banting
Roger DeMeritt	Jerry Faught	Richard Enderle
Tom Jackling	Nancy Smith	Joanne Best
Kent Neilson	Cyndy Hoops	Merrilee Warner
Harold Schultz	Persecuted Christians	

Attendance last Sunday: 58

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
	1:00 pm	Faithful Families

Serving Today

Altar Guild:

Second Service:

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Toni Newton

Ushers: Noma Hickok & Jim Taylor

Poinsettias Were Given by:

Gary Rosemore
Jim & Lou Taylor
Jim & Lou Taylor
Doug & Sue Schuemann
Jack & Mary Lou Fitzgerald
Harv & Alma Claussen
Lynn Beck
Jim & Linda Hughs
Nancy Smith
Brian & Ellen Lindhurst

Ron & Sherry Hatt
Steve Wolfe
Steve Wolfe
Joyce Schultz
Ken & JoAnne Stephens
John & Limnda Kohler
Larry & Linda Bennett

Dedication:

Linda Rosemore
Bud & Marian Taylor
Bob & Marilyn Mitchell
In memory of Our Parents
In memory of Our Parents
In memory of Our Parents
My Parents
Our Parents
In loving memory of Jim Smith
In memory of Our Parents &
Brothers

Family
Andrea
Alex
Family
Marc Relske
Alice/ Kathern
Family

Electronic Giving

To contribute to support God's work, you may visit our web page
<https://alivingfaith.org> and use the "Give" button.

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

Choir Director: Charlene Howe

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

Our Guiding Principle: GOD'S GRACE WINS....

As we WORSHIP Jesus as our Lord and Savior

As we LOVE one another, welcoming everyone

As we SERVE, inspired by the Holy Spirit

As a deep FAITH is taught and caught

As we make WITNESS and MISSION our life