



Faith
Lutheran Church
of Rotonda West
Listening • Caring • Serving



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!

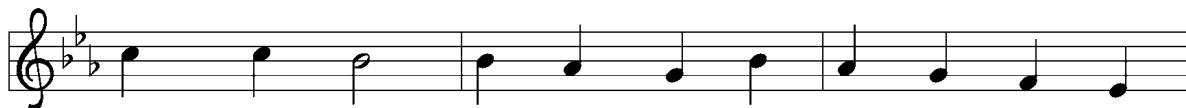
HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice

ELW 246



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv'n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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.

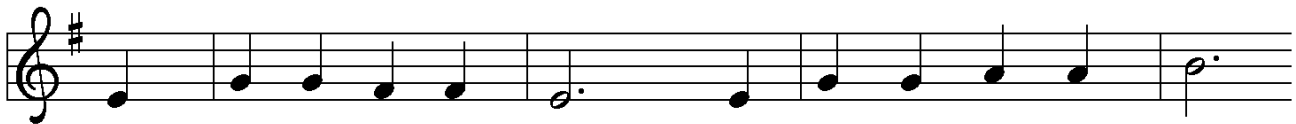
P Together we pray,

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.
You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in

these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

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 3:1-6

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

L The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Armen

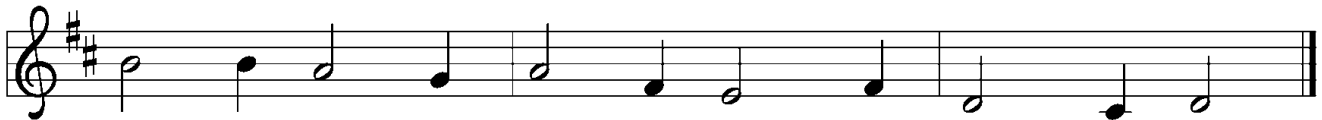
PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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.

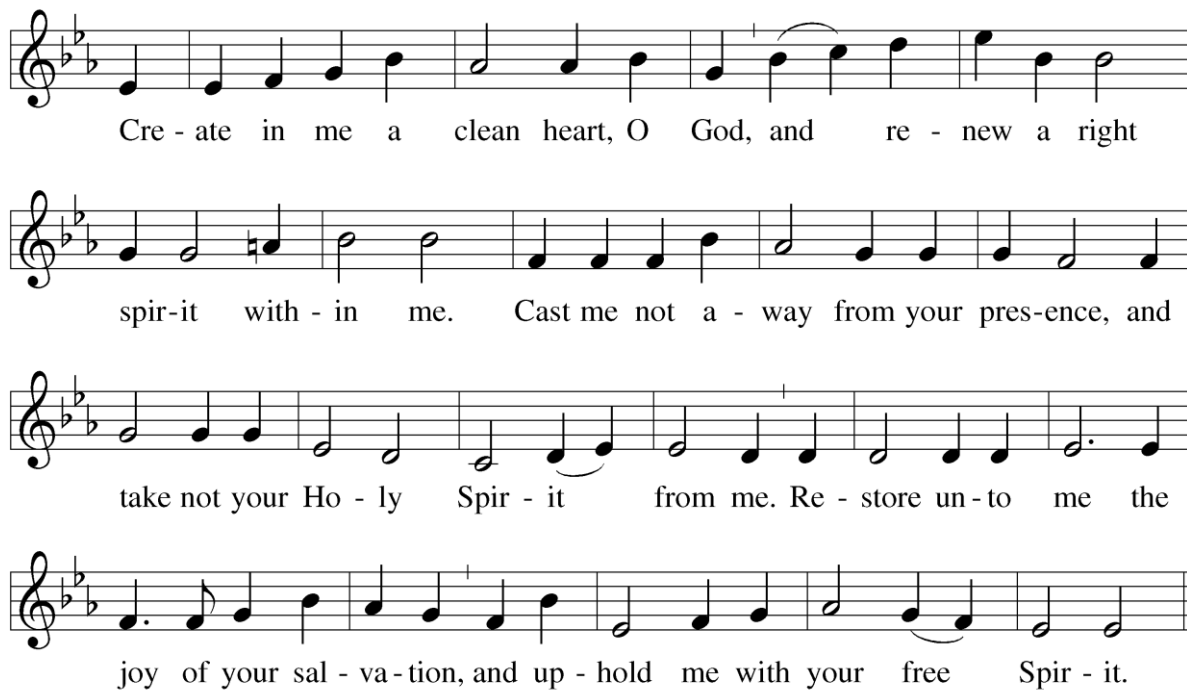
P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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.

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 264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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 this 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. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Today is the deadline to sign up. For more information, see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

Since it's Christmas season, when you come to the luncheon, please bring peanut butter and/or jelly, which will be donated through the St. Francis food pantry.

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.

The Campers Need Help

With the extremely low temperatures this past week, it became evident that the campers (homeless) we feed every Tuesday really need warm clothing, gloves, hats and blankets. If you have any good used or new items to give, bring them in and put them in the container in the narthex. Your help will mean a lot to them.

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: 63

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.

Food Pantry

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

Nametags

If you would like a nametag, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Your nametag will be hanging with the others the next Sunday.

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. On February 13th we will meet in host homes. Details are in the December newsletter. 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

Deb Bush

Jim Porter

Toni Newton

Jackling family

Sylvia and Al Armen

Bob Ash

Jack Myers

Carolyn Furman

Zack Stearns

Marcia and Gary Wilkins

John and Linda Schleede

Larry Bennet

Chris Hoops

Ginny Linsberg

Lynette Cormier

Serving Today

Altar Guild: RoseAnne Woodliff

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Jim Taylor

Ushers: Noma Schattauer, Jan Moynihan and Kathie Wiley

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 | Work Crew |
| | 9:00 am | Lutheran Chicks |
| 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

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(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
