

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Order of Service

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

Divine Service 4

With Communion (LSB – page 203)

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

Behold, the King of glory waits.

The King of kings is drawing near;

The Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation He doth bring;

Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.

To God the Father raise

Your joyful songs of praise.

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
 Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
 Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
 And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
 For word and deed and grace!

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

5 Redeemer, come and open wide

My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!

O enter with Thy grace divine;

Thy face of mercy on me shine.

Thy Holy Spirit guide us on

Until our glorious goal is won.

Eternal praise and fame

We offer to Thy name.

Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of
the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord

C **who made heaven and earth.**

Confession and Absolution

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the

Confession and Absolution

P fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

Confession and Absolution

P God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us,
forgive us our sins, and lead us to
everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I

Confession and Absolution

P therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Psalm 85: 1-13 (read responsively)

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**

³You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

⁴**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward
us!**

Psalm 85: 1-13 (read responsively)

⁵Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**⁶Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

**⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to
his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly**

Psalm 85: 1-13 (read responsively)

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

that glory may dwell in our land.

**¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

Psalm 85: 1-13 (read responsively)

¹³Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.**

Amen

Kyrie

**C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord,
have mercy.**

Gloria in Excelsis (Hymn 357 v1 and 4)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Gloria in Excelsis (Hymn 357 v1 and 4)

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them victory o'er the grave

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson – Zephaniah 3: 14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments
against you;

he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

Old Testament Lesson – Zephaniah 3: 14-20

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,

Old Testament Lesson – Zephaniah 3: 14-20

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised

Old Testament Lesson – Zephaniah 3: 14-20

among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your King is coming to you, righteous and having salvation.

C **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Epistle Lesson – Philippians 4: 4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Epistle Lesson – Philippians 4: 4-7

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia & Verse

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you
may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

**P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke,
the 7th chapter**

C Glory You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel – Luke 7: 18-28

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he

Holy Gospel – Luke 7: 18-28

bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to

Holy Gospel – Luke 7: 18-28

see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’”

Holy Gospel – Luke 7: 18-28

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

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

**And 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.**

Apostles' Creed

**C 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 will
come to judge the living and the
dead.**

Apostles' Creed

**C 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.

349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,
The Savior promised long!
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

349 Hark the Glad Sound

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

349 Hark the Glad Sound

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace,
To enrich the humble poor.

349 Hark the Glad Sound

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And Heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory and Offering

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy
salvation, and uphold me with thy free
spirit.
Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament - Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Preface

P It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not

Preface

P die eternally. Because he is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth
adored:**

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
shout the glory of your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest,
sing hosanna to the Lord;**

**Truly blest is He who comes in the
name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and you justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
and made His cross a life-giving tree for all
who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You
have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may
faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross
and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life,

Lord's Prayer

P and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Here us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**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;**

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My
T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of

The Words of Our Lord

P you: this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you
always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

- C 1. O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**
- 2. O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you
outpoured;

Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,

To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,

Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

3 Come forward then with faithful hearts
sincere,

And take the pledges of salvation here.

O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks
endow

As in this feast of love You bless us now.

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green: He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

2 My soul He doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
ev'n for His own name's sake.

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill:
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

4 My table Thou hast furnishèd
 In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
 And my cup overflows.

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

5 Goodness and mercy all my life
 Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forever more
 My dwelling place shall be.

Nunc Dimittis

- 1. O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace;
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

Nunc Dimittis

- 2. All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His

Post-Communion Collect

P kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and
T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home.
Marvel now, O Heav'n and Earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh:
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
 From His pure and kingly hall,
 God of God, yet fully man,
 His heroic course began.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

6 For You are the Father's Son

Who in flesh the vict'ry won.

By Your mighty pow'r make whole

All our ills of flesh and soul.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

8 Glory to the Father sing,
 Glory to the Son, our King,
Glory to the Spirit be
 Now and through eternity.