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First Sunday of Christmas  
8:00 am worship service

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | Inviting, Growing, Serving...**

**Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**

December 27, 2020

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Faith is a growing faith community in the Aurora area. We're people just like you, who are hungry to know God better. We're looking for the answers to life's tough questions. We're struggling to be better parents, spouses, friends, and neighbors. We don't have all the answers but we're growing as we go.

Faith is a great place to find healing for broken hearts and broken lives. In every Sunday message you'll learn new skills and attitudes to help you live life with the kind of joy that God intends for us. You'll also meet people who are also growing in their journey through the joys and challenges of life. You'll find lots of "walking partners" for your journey here. There are no closed doors at Faith, just lots of opportunities to grow in Christ, friendship, and love.

Faith is a church with a great vision; however, accomplishing a great vision requires the participation of many great people like you. There's a place in our vision for you to use your unique gifts and talents.

## **CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES: MERRY CHRISTMESS**

We all look for meaning in even the most random events—especially in the negative, difficult, challenging events. The Christmas story is a reminder that God interrupts our stories for a clear purpose that bring hope to not only us but the entire world.

# The Gathering

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

*please stand*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice | ELW #288



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



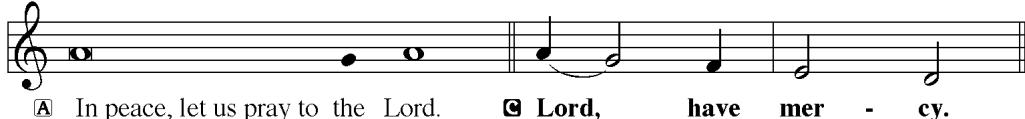
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



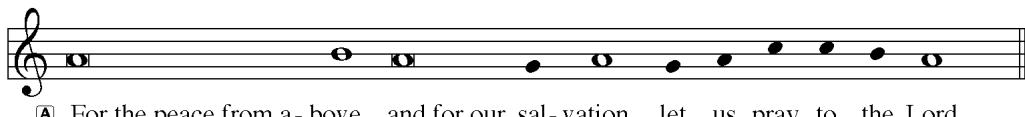
## GREETING

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.**

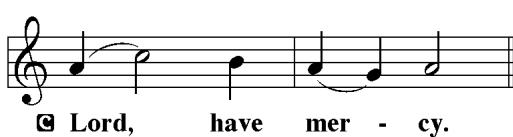
## KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



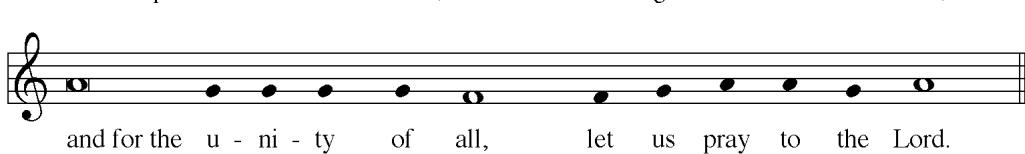
A For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



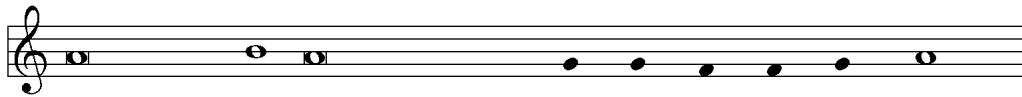
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



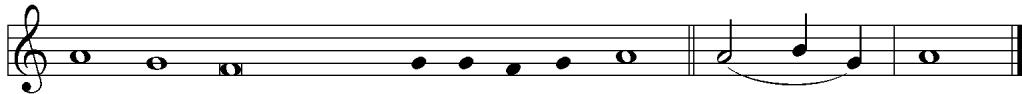
C Lord, have mer - cy.



¶ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ¶ Lord, have mer - ey.



¶ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. ¶ A - men

## HYMN OF PRAISE



*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

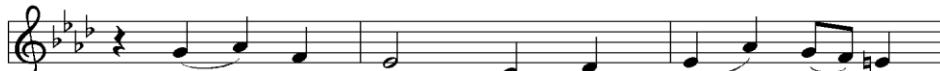


Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless-ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

*Refrain*



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -  
gun his reign. Al - - le - lu - ia.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Let us pray,
- C: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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## The Word

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### SECOND READING

**Galatians 4:4-7**

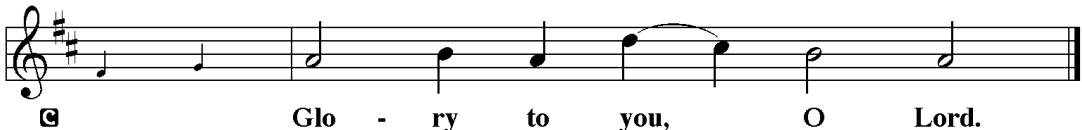
But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *please stand*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

**Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

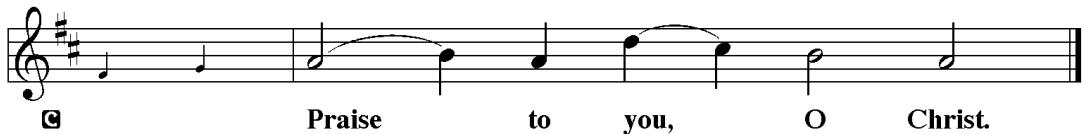
‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



**MESSAGE**

Merry Christmess | Pastor Rob

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## The First Noel | ELW #300

please stand



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin-ing  
 3 And by the light of that same star three  
 4 This star drew near to the north - west, o'er  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, fell . . .



cer-tain poor sheep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of . . . fered



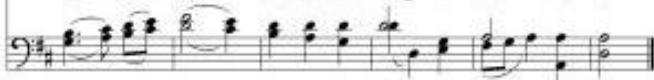
they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 did there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and



Refrain  
 night that was so deep,  
 tin-ued both day and night,  
 star wher - ev - er it went, No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay,  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - rael.



## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

P: Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: (Prayers of the community). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

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## *The Sending*

### **BLESSING**

P: Almighty God,  
    who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
    proclaimed joy through the angels,  
    sent the shepherds with good news,  
    and led the magi by a star,  
    bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

## Angels We Have Heard on High | ELW #289

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Rhythm: Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **REVOLUTION ONLINE**

God is good, and He is with us in everything! We want our students to know that, trust that, and experience that every moment of their lives. Our fall groups for middle & high school students have begun. These 45 minute gatherings will allow our students to connect with each other and with God, and grow in their faith. This will be a fun, and engaging opportunity for your child to connect with others during this confusing time, where they will find encouragement, support, and growth.

### **KIDWERKS LIVE**

Resumes 1/10 | 5:00 & 6:00 PM

We've changed to a new time and a new engaging format to help our kids connect with God and with each other. Every Sunday morning kids are invited to connect and grow through our Kidwerks Live 2.0. This fun, interactive, event happens at our new time at 10:30am.

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## JOYS & CONCERNS

The Family of Pat Gatske, who passed away

The Family of Muriel Weigel- mother of Gary Weigel, who passed away

Chris, friend of Danita Curry

Betty Wampach

Sarah Hennings prayers of healing

Nancy Staton

Mitch- son of co-worker of Christy Douglas

Mike Autry

Taylor Scott

Doris Johnson, mother of Karen Banschbach

Kathy, daughter-in-law of Karen Solan

Strength for Sonja Ramsey

Sarah Barr

Scott Perkins, friend of Randy & Bonnie Schumacher

Bob Clark

Jay Bridge, brother of Dale Bridge

Ron Cizek, prayers of healing

Scott Lee

Jerry, son of Judy Bridge

Dana & Daniel, friends of Judy Bridge

Nick Falkos

John Larkin, cousin of Pastor Rob

Bella, Karen Solan's granddaughter

Dave & Jan Belinski

Dave Hibler, brother of Kathryn Pawluczyk

Christy Dunn, Diane Rinehard, Jess Schell- working with Covid patients



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