



Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members
and visitors in Jesus' name**

First Sunday of Advent

10:15 a.m., December 1, 2024



Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | www.faithlutheransrq.com

All the baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.

The flowers on the altar today are presented by FLC.

Presiding Minister

Pastor Eric Olaf Olsen

Assisting Minister

Rev. Marianne Powrie

Lector

Mark Nelson

Director of Music/Organist

Andi Zdrava

Greeters & Ushers

Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz, Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Scott Rice, Jane Sanks, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

Media Team

Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell, Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood

Altar Guild

Linda Fewell, Dottie Gustavson, Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan

Congregation Council

Scott Rice, president; Lauren Wardach, vice president; Mark Nelson, secretary; Anita Wooton, treasurer; Jane Sanks, assistant treasurer; Jerry Cooper; Quyen Dang; Ann Greenwood; Peggy Ragan; Joan Searles

* * * * *

Pastor

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

Assistant to the Pastor

Rev. Larry Wright

Retired Pastors in Residence

Rev. John Hilficker

Rev. Marianne Powrie

Rev. John Spittal

**Executive Assistant to the Pastor
for Administration**

Heidi Floyd

- Noted throughout the service - P: Presiding Minister L: Lector C: Congregation
- Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s) also are enabled.
- Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Light the One Candle

ELW 240

First Verse

Confe



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

WE STAND

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (brief silence)

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

The King Shall Come

ELW 260

We sing together

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davission, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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

We sing together

Refrain




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,




Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Canticle

We sing together


Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



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




1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be




peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



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



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



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

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

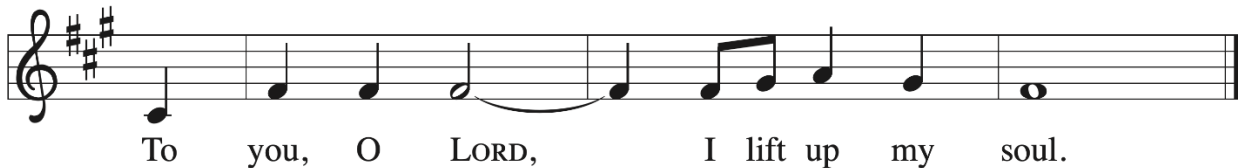
A Reading from Jeremiah.

L: ¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 25:1-10



Psalm 25:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

L: ¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous. ⁴ Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

R

L: ⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

R

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD. ⁸ You are

gracious and up-right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way. ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way. ¹⁰ All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

R

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

Amen.

WE STAND

Gospel Acclamation

We sing together

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

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

Sermon

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

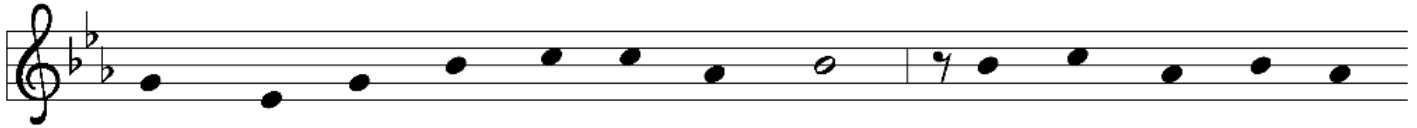
WE STAND

Hymn of the Day

Creator of The Stars and Night

ELW 245

*We sing together
(Next page)*



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Apostles' Creed

P: Together, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

WE SIT

Prayers of Intercession

P: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

L: God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. We especially pray for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and all vulnerable children of God. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you silently or aloud. *(Pause)* In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of memory on this World AIDS Day, we give you thanks for all who have died from HIV and AIDS *(especially those we name before you now silently or aloud)*. *(Pause)* Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: 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.

Amen.

WE STAND

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Feel free to greet your neighbors with a word of peace.

WE SIT

Offertory



The offering is collected at this time. You also can give online by scanning the QR Code printed here or via the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com. We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.

Offertory Anthem

Arise, Shine For Your Light Has Come
Voices of Faith

Pote, Allen

WE STAND



We sing together

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy *We sing together*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

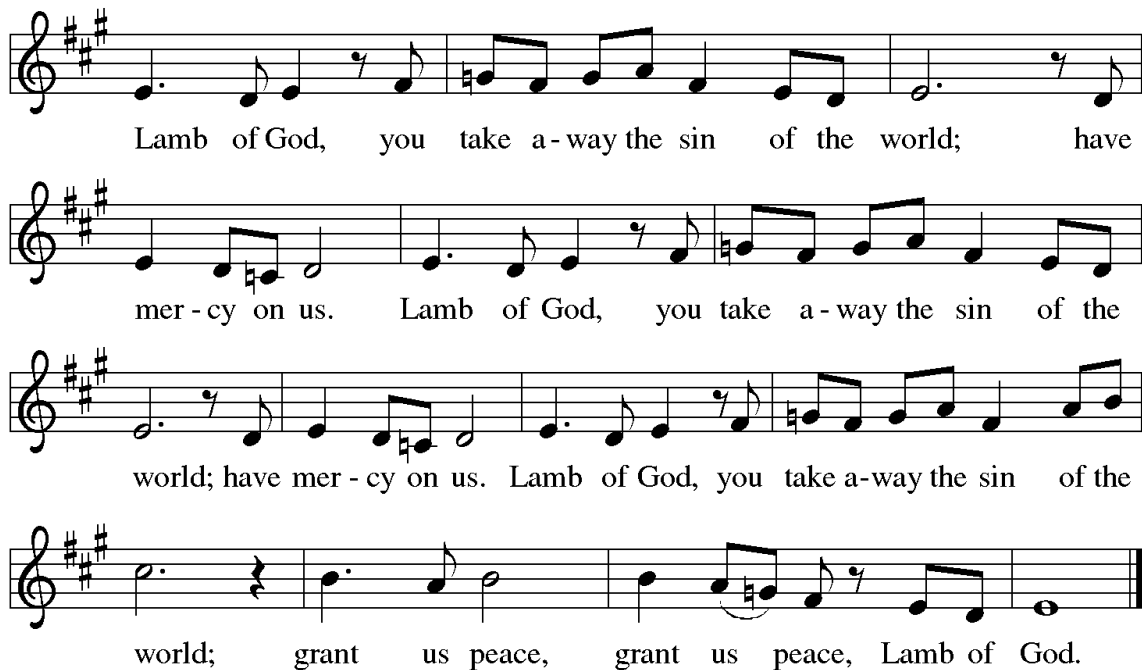
Invitation to Communion

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion Song

We sing together

(Next page)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

Communion Anthem

Ave Verum

Mozart, W.A.

WE STAND

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com. | Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000587. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.

Welcome, Visitors!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by signing our guestbook and/or filling out a Visitor Card located on the table near the entrance. Kindly give the card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum** meets between worship services in the conference room. Next week, participants will study Lesson 5, "They Were Not Wandering", in Volume 12, "Walking with God".
- **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at **8:30 a.m. each Tuesday. During month of December, please meet at Skilletts, 8635 S Tamiami Trail.**
- **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible study** meets at **9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the library** to focus on "Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength."
- **The Prayer Group** meets at **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the chapel** to pray for all in need, our community, nation and world, and to share Holy Communion. Can't attend in person? Join via Zoom: Meeting ID 871 4720 3661. Passcode 041291.

Happening TODAY!!!

Please **JOIN US** for a very special additional service **TODAY, December 1st at 5 p.m.** to commemorate **World AIDS Day**. Diversity Voices of Sarasota will share several moving musical offerings. Please join us as we pause to remember and worship.

Bereavement Group Meets Wednesdays

Bereavement Group will meet at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesdays in the chapel. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you.

You Can Help Needy through Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Pastor Eric often speaks with people about aid they require. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund allows him to assist financially, when appropriate. **The need currently is great so, if you can, please consider a donation to the fund so those in need can**

receive assistance. You can give through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com, or by designating a check or cash contribution. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Is Important! Please Volunteer!

Coffee hour needs additional volunteers. All you have to do is provide and put out snacks, and clean up afterward. Faith can cover the cost of the snacks if you would like to volunteer but don't have resources to purchase them. **Sign up on the sheet beside the coffee pot in fellowship hall.**

Members of Evangelism Ministry Team Experience 30 Day Prayer Devotional

Guided by the book “Pray and Go”, by Thom Rainer, members of Faith Evangelism Ministry Team will spend the month of November reaching our church family and the greater community in prayer. The book – copies of which are paid for by a grant from the Faith Mission Endowment Fund – is an easy-to-use tool that empowers church members to focus outward and learn how to pray regularly.

During their 30-day experience, evangelism team members will meet together to share thoughts and experiences. Through Faith Friday Update emails, they also will share information about what they are learning about the power of prayer and how it prepares them to “make disciples”

A “Pray and Go” experience likely will be offered to All Faith Lutheran worshippers beginning in early 2025. Call Lauren at 941-529-6879 if you have any questions.

Experiencing the Joy of Generosity! The Joy of Receiving God’s Blessings

A spiritual gift is a God-given ability for service that God wants us to use the minister to others.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10)

Worship to Go Needs Your Help!!

Worship to Go needs additional helpers! You can participate at:

- **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10th**, at Elance Senior Living (Barclay), 3260 Lake Pointe Blvd. Volunteers will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Faith chapel and will carpool to the facility.
- **1:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16th**, at Sarabella Senior Living, 5650 Gantt Road. Volunteers will meet at 12:45 p.m. in the Faith chapel and will carpool to the facility.
- **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17th**, at Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore. Volunteers will meet at 12:45 p.m. in the chapel and will carpool to the facility.

To join in, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055. No experience necessary!

Need a Ride to Church?

Faith will pay for Uber or Lyft to bring you or others to worship or other events. Contact Pastor Eric to make arrangements, 716-352-0055.

Donate Altar Flowers in Honor or in Memory

- Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or to glorify God. The cost is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with “altar flowers” in the memo line. Check the altar flowers donation board in fellowship hall to see if your desired date is available. If not, choose an alternate date. **The next open dates are 12/29, 1/05, 1/12.** When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication appear in the bulletin on your selected Sunday. To make a dedication:
- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with payment, and place it in the offering plate. Indicate your wish to keep or donate the flowers on the donation board in fellowship hall.
- By mail, send payment with a note indicating your desired date and dedication, and if you want to keep the flowers or donate them.
- By email or phone, contact the church office with your desired date and dedication, and whether you want to keep or donate the flowers. Pay through the Altar Flowers option on the Online Giving page of the Faith website, faithlutheransrq.com.

If you have questions or specific requests about who or what organization should receive flowers that you purchased and choose to donate, contact Joan Hirsch, 941-726-7885.

Adult Forum

Adult Forum meets during the first and second services on Sundays until 12/15 – conference room. Featuring Volume 12 – 7 Lessons – “Walking with God”. This week's is Lesson 5 "They Were Not Wandering".

Dedicate a Christmas Poinsettia to Adorn the Sanctuary

Help adorn the sanctuary for Christmas while honoring a loved one or special occasion by dedicating one or more poinsettias. You will be welcome to take your plant(s) home after the Christmas Eve service. The cost is \$20 per plant (due to storm damage, prices have increased). **Orders and dedications are due by Dec. 7.** Special red-bordered giving envelopes for Christmas poinsettias are available in the narthex and pews. Or you can pay and record your dedication through the **Christmas Poinsettia option on the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com.**

Zumba Class

Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center (gym). All fitness levels are welcome! It is free for congregation members and a voluntary donation from non-members is appreciated. Join in the FUN!!!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – 4 p.m & 7 p.m.

Christmas Day – 10 a.m.

Special Music for all Services

Chose Generosity – Adopt a Lutheran Services Client

Please consider adopting one (or more) of the 50 clients we have been assigned by Lutheran Services Florida to make someone's Christmas just a little bit nicer. Look for the table set up in the narthex to make your selection. Be sure to sign your name next to whomever you choose. All gifts are due back by **DECEMBER 16** and should be WRAPPED and LABELED.

Book Club

Faith book club will be taking a reading break for the holidays and will not meet in November. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving. We will next meet in December for a holiday luncheon at **Apollonia in the Landings shopping center on Monday, December 9 at 12 noon**. We resume our reading discussions on Monday, January 27 with the book *The Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner. If you would like to join us please contact Janet Petersen at luvstitches55@gmail.com

Hope Seeds / Mary Club

After enjoying an informative luncheon and presentation by Maxine Busbaugh regarding the purpose and goals of Hope Seeds the members of Mary Circle created seed packages for turnips. These packets have the potential to provide food for thousands of people all over the world. We all had an interesting and fun time. Watch for more exciting news about this ministry coming to Faith and is open to all.

In December, Mary Circle will be lunching out at **Tripletail, located in Landings Shopping Center on 41. Tues., Dec. 10th at noon**. Look for signup sheet in the church narthex. All are welcome!

If you have any questions please email Janet Petersen at luvstitches55@gmail.com or Donna Pappalardo at donna326@aol.com.

FLC New Member Q&A – Stop and say HELLO

To be held during Coffee Hour on Sun., Dec. 1st

If you are interested in becoming about membership please join us!

Receiving New Members

We will be receiving new members on Sun., Dec. 8th
during the 10:15 service.

Mid-Week Soup Supper & Taize Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 4th, 11th, 18th

Supper @ 5 p.m.

Worship @ 6 p.m.

There is a sign up sheet in narthex, please list what date if you plan to bring soup.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

We will be caroling together on **Sunday, December 22nd**. We will gather after the 10:15 service to visit shut-ins and nursing homes to share the spirit of Christmas with those that cannot get out by themselves. It will be a fun and festive time!

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for a **Festive Musical Celebration as we install Andi Zdrava** as our Director of Music. There will be a special performance by Yurii Padkouskiy and Andi will play the piano. **Saturday, December 14th at 4 p.m.**

Misson Endowment Committee wishes to share a message with you during the Thanksgiving season of gratitude.

We are passionate about opportunities to grow new ministries and further develop our faith into actionable steps of support and expansion. We remain ready and willing, eager to see our church family and broader community feel the love of Christ in our work. We are updating our brochure, which will be available for you in the next couple of weeks. There will also be some placed on the narthex table when they are finished as well. Today, we celebrate you, as we cannot grow without our loving congregation. Your gifts, of any amount, give us a means to have a perpetual fund that extends beyond us and our lifetime in support of ministry at Faith Lutheran Church. Our Committee members, including Patty McKee, Denise Kirkeeng, Marlene Radesk, Terry Copper, Pastor John Spittal, Karen Kolschowsky, Pastor Eric, and myself are all available to talk with you about any potential grant ideas or ways for you to contribute your valuable treasures with this fund. Again, thank you deeply for your generosity, support and ideas of ways to deepen our faith and spreading of God's love.

BLOOD DONOR THANK YOU FLC!

“On behalf of many patients who will benefit from the blood donations made by members of this organization, the Blood Center thanks Faith Lutheran Church for giving the Gift of Life. We registered 14 donors! Every single donation can help to save up to 3 lives! Thank you!”

Christmas Concert at FLC

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Voices of Faith will be performing a Christmas Concert on
Saturday, Dec. 21st at 1 p.m.

Worship Services

Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. in person.
Live streamed and recorded at
www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service.

Sunday, Nov. 24

Online views	163
8 a.m. in person	34
10:15 a.m. in person	115

Next Sunday, Dec. 8

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

Luke 1:68-79

*In the tender compassion of our God the
dawn from on high shall break upon
us. (Lk. 1:78)*

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

*A harvest of righteousness on the day of
Jesus Christ*

Luke 3:1-6

Prepare the way of the Lor

Contact officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com:

- If you or someone you know would appreciate a communion, hospital or home visit; to be contacted; or to receive a card in the mail.
- To add or remove a name from the Prayer List.

This Week at Faith

Monday, Dec. 2

6 p.m. Zumba Class, community center

Tuesday, Dec. 3

8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Breakfast,
Skillet's. 8635 S. Tamiami Trail

9:30 a.m. G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study,
library

6:00 Diversity Voices of Sarasota, choir
room & gym

Wednesday, Dec. 4

10:30 a.m. Prayer Support Group, chapel

3:15 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

5 p.m. Midweek Soup Supper & Taize

Worship

6:30 p.m. Voices of Faith Choir Practice, choir
room

Thursday, Dec. 5

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall

1 p.m. Stitch 'n Chatter, fellowship hall

4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall

5 p.m. Food Pantry

Friday, Dec. 6

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

Saturday, Dec. 7

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room

Prayer List

Alan
Dick Allender, cousin of Gerri Copper
Pastor Steve Anderson, friend of Jan Phillips
Chuck & Tani Banta
Barbara Brannan, mother of Kim McDonald
Arthur Brucato, friend of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Dee Burlingame
Judy Carlsen
Evelyn Conlon
Merle Cusmano
Doug Dahlquist, dad of Hannah Boyd
Jeanine Davis (nee Molella), granddaughter of
Karen & John White
Eloise Dettmer
Ryan Donahue, friend of Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia
Beth & Mary Farmer
Andrea Gamboa
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles
Patricia Head, mother of Wayne Head
Sonja Hickling, mother of Kelly Ashlock
Becky Hilton Heeps, friend of Lisa Olsen
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of Anita & Jon Wooton
Bob Hurdle, friend of Gerry & Karen Kolschowski &
Gerri & Terry Copper
Jesus & Rita Jimenez
Alf Kirkeeng
Leonard Kotwitz, brother of Janet Falk
Lillian Lapenckas
Kevin Lasko
Chick Lehmann, husband of Suzie Lehmann
Ruth Levy, sister of Joan Hirsch
Diane Lewis, sister-in-law of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Pat Longo & Ronnie Mojo, friends of Susan Wakefield
Kimberly MacDonald & Barbara, self and mother
Julie & Eli Maresch, niece & grandnephew
of Patty McKee
Paul & Debbie Maresch, brother & sister-in-law
of Patty McKee
Dennis McCaughey, friend of Lois Weaverling
Kim McDonald

Judi Melander
Alison Nommay, friend of Karla Lewis
& Michael Leonhardt
Terry O'Connell, friend of Marlene Radesk
Meghan Ortega, niece of Lisa & Pastor Eric Olsen
Judy Osborn, sister of Peggy Ragan
Sue Ostrom
Pastor Terry Parker, friend of Max &
Pastor Marianne Powrie
Fran Perkins
Jean Peters, friend of Faye Adkin
Carl Petersen
Richard Keith Radcliffe, brother of
Gail Radcliffe Brown
Annabel Ryan
Robin Ryder, daughter of Floyd Ryder &
sister of Gail Murphy
Lorna Sawyers-Sucra, friend of
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins
Kathy Schilio
Becky Sciranko, niece of Alice Rush
Joan Searles
Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller
Shirley Schimke
Pastor John Spittal
Pamela Spry, mother of Hannah Boyd
Dr. Heather Stark, friend of Cliff Hornsby
Mark Stengel
Ed & Gail Straight, friends of Nancy Dandino
Tess Stransky, daughter, granddaughter, & cousin of
Lynn Clancy
Leigh Tarantino, friend of Marlene
Radesk
David Turnbull, husband of Patricia White
Brittany Wanko & her premature newborn
infants, Olivia Mae & Emmet Walter
Friends & Family of Paul Wick
Dr. Patty White
Jon Wooton
Celeste & John Yee, daughter and father of Marlene
Radesk