



Welcome
We are thankful you have joined us today!

Hymn

The King Shall Come | **348**

Entrance Psalm

[Psalm 146:1-10]

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my
being.**

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man,
in whom there is no salvation.

**When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;

the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

**The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Please stand.

Confession & Absolution

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** [Matt 28:19b; 18:20]

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **But if we
confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse
us from all unrighteousness.** [1 John 1:8-9]

Quiet time for self-examination and confession.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve your present and eternal
punishment. 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.**

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
therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of
the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 (Setting 1)

*The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the
lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead
are raised, and the poor have good news
brought to them.*

Matthew 11:5

We should diligently mark these words of Christ
and his kingdom, and should let them peal
among us, namely, that Christ has such a
kingdom and is such a king that he wills to
help poor, wretched people in body and soul.
We should realize that without him not all the
world with all its might and means can help.
For never before has there been such a doctor
with such skill that he could make the lepers
clean, and cause the blind to see. Just as there
was never before a preacher who could preach
good news to the poor, that is, who could
turn and invite to himself the sad, wretched,
and affrighted souls and relieve them, give
them comfort, and fill with joy their fearful
hearts, which before were weighted down in
heaviness and sorrow. The good and happy
news is that Christ has paid for our sin, and
through his suffering has redeemed us from
eternal death. It is his kingdom and his
ministry to preach the gospel to the poor; this
is his purpose. To the great and holy he cannot
come. They do not wish to be counted sinners,
and therefore do not need his good news.

—Martin Luther, *Sermon for Third Sunday in Advent*,
1544

Lord, Have Mercy

[Mark 10:47, Setting I]

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the
Church of God, and for the unity of all,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship
and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

[1 Timothy 4:22]

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray...*[silence for individual prayer]* Lord, we beseech
You, give ear to our prayers, and enlighten the darkness of
our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and
forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Readings from God's Word

The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!"

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."

when the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of
water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing
shall flee away. [Isaiah 35:1-10]

Time for reflection.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

The Epistle Reading is from James:

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the
Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit
of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the
early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish
your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not
grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may
not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.
As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the
prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we
consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have
heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the
purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and
merciful. [James 5:7-11]

Time for reflection.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Choir-Behold the Tiny Baby

Please stand to greet the Holy Gospel reading twice singing:



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:



Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the
Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him,
"Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for
another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John
what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the
lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the
dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached
to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by
me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds
concerning John: "What did you go out into the
wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then
did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing?
Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.
What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell
you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is
written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will
prepare your way before you.' Truly, I say to you, among
those born of women there has arisen no one greater than
John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of
heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist

until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. [Matthew 11:2-15]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

Children's Talk

[Mark 10:14-16; Matt 19:14; Luke 18:16-17]

The children are invited forward for a message led by Pastor Fitch.

Hymn Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending | 336

Sermon

Our Confession of Faith

Please stand to confess the Apostles' Creed printed on the inside back cover of the hymnal.

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

...let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Those for whom we pray are listed on the Life at Faith insert.

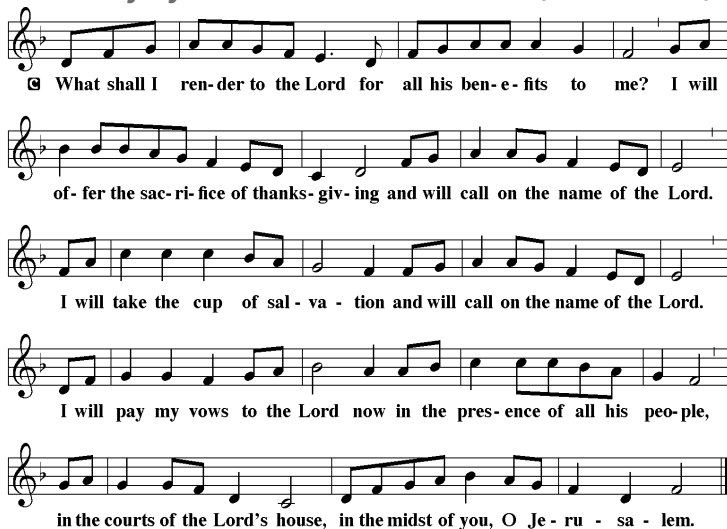
Gathering of the Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay



Offertory Hymn

[Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19]



Please stand.

Sacrament of the Altar

[2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136]

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

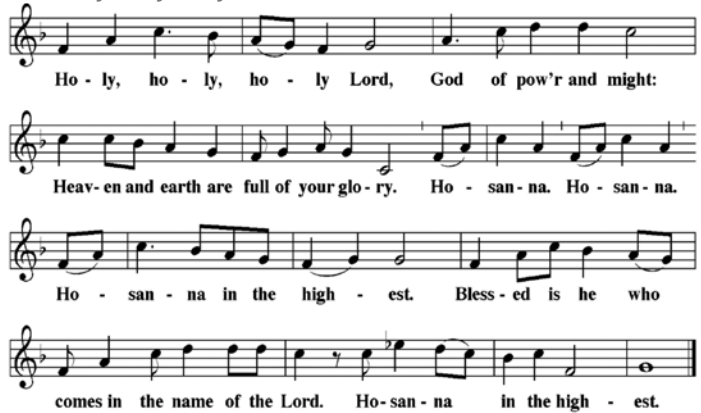
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in

glory. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

The Holy, Holy, Holy

[Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]



The Words of Our Lord

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 + 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 you; this is my + blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

[Matt 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25]

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

[1 Cor 11:26; Rev 22:20]

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

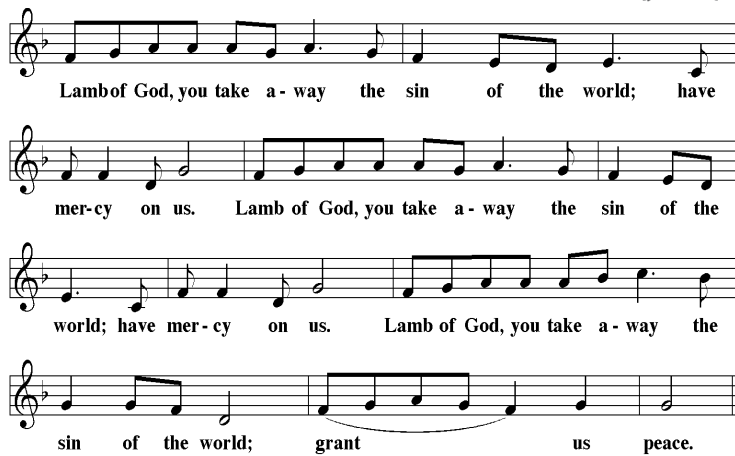
and the power and the glory

forever and ever. Amen. [Matt 6:9-13]

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

Lamb of God

[John 1:29]



Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution of Holy Communion/Hymns

The Lord's Supper is a meal for disciples of Jesus who have been baptized and taught (as our Lord says in Matthew 28). Those who have confessed their sins, acknowledge Jesus as their Savior from sin, believe that with the bread and the wine Christ truly gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, desire to commit themselves to Him in loving obedience, and share the faith confessed at this altar, are welcome to participate. If you have any doubts or questions about the gift of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you consult with the pastor or an elder. Children are invited to come to the altar with their parents to receive a blessing.

Hymns

Prepare the Royal Highway | **343**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | **334**

When all have communed, please stand.

Post Communion Song



Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please stand.

Benediction

[Numbers 6:24-26]

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and give you + peace.

Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | **515**

Passing of the Lord's peace

Postlude

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Faith Lutheran Church, Preschool & Extended Childcare

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

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