

Christmas Day
December 25, 2024

Faith Lutheran Church

512-863-7332

Georgetown, TX 78628

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Ringing of the Bells*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (LSB, #367)

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. Refrain

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One. Refrain

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INVOCATION:

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INVITATORY: (Isaiah 9:6; Galatians 4:4-5; 1 Peter 1:18-19; John 1:29)

Pastor: Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given!

People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

Pastor: When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law

People: to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Pastor: You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

People: but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Pastor: Look, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!

People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

HYMN: “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” (LSB #375)

Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.

Jacob's star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.

From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.

Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: *(drawn from Galatians 4 and 1 John)*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Though deeply grateful, we are fully undeserving of the holy Gift given to us this day through the birth of the Savior.

People: What you say is right. We have broken God's righteous law in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We deserve from God neither mercy nor favor; our sinfulness should discredit us in His sight and disqualify us for heaven.

Pastor: Do not be afraid, my friends. God is rich in grace. His favor rests on you, for in the fullness of time He sent forth His Son, born in human flesh, to shed for sinners the blood that alone secures our redemption, removes from us all guilt, and opens heaven to us. Christ bore sin for us, suffered in full its condemnation, paid in full its wage of death, then rose victorious over it.

People: We are rescued from death by the death of Christ! His blood covers us and purifies us from sin.

Pastor: God in Christ has given you new and eternal life. For Jesus' sake He welcomes you into His kingdom. Jesus' manger is the Christian's hope, His cross the Christian's glory, and His crown the Christian's joy. These gifts are yours! They seal your salvation. As a servant of this gospel and with the authority the risen and soon returning Lord has bestowed on His Church I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: Almighty God, by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son You gladden our hearts and lift our spirits. Grant that we who today joyfully welcome Jesus as our Redeemer may winsomely introduce others to Him as Savior and greet Him fearlessly when He comes to be our Judge; through Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE CANTICLE: Cantate Domino (Psalm 98)

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song,
For He has done marvelous things.

His right hand and His holy arm
Have gotten Him the victory.

The Lord has made known His salvation;
His righteousness He has openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered His mercy and His truth toward the house of Israel:
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth.
Make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise.

Sing to the Lord with the harp
And the voice of a psalm.

With trumpets and the sound of the cornet
Make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea roar and the fulness thereof,
The world and they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands, let the hills be joyful together before the Lord;
For He comes to judge the earth:

With righteousness will He judge the world
And the people with equity.

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.

HYMN: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (LSB, #384)

Of the Father’s love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessèd,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

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THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”
The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted His people;
He has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared His holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

RESPONSORY: (Isaiah 9:6, with Alleluias)

*Lector: Alleluia! Alleluia! To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the
government will be on His shoulders.*

**People: and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace. Alleluia!**

EPISTLE READING: *Hebrews 1:1–12*

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, Whom He appointed the Heir of all things, through Whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,
“You are My Son,
today I have begotten You”?
Or again,

“I will be to Him a Father,
and He shall be to Me a Son”?

And again, when He brings the Firstborn into the world, He says,

“Let all God’s angels worship Him.”

Of the angels He says,

“He makes His angels winds,
and His ministers a flame of fire.”

But of the Son He says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, Your God, has anointed You

with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions.”

And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of Your hands;

they will perish, but You remain;

they will all wear out like a garment,

like a robe You will roll them up,

like a garment they will be changed.

But You are the same,

and Your years will have no end.”

RESPONSORY: (Colossians 3:15a; Psalm 98:1, with Alleluias)

Lector: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

People: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Alleluia!

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'") And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, Who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the explanation of the second article of the Apostles' Creed, from Luther's Small Catechism.

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives, and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: “No More Waiting” (John 1)

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus, Babe in the manger, Man on the cross, and King on the throne Your appearance brings joy and salvation. You lavish mercy on Your undeserving people, and we bow in wonder, for we neither merit Your notice nor can we earn Your favor. You save us, not because of who we are, but because of Who You are. In regal grace You share with us Your kingdom, and make us, like You, children of God. You act, and we receive the blessing of Your action. Forgive us for making Christmas less than the miracle of grace that it is; and daily renew in us the faith that hastens to Your manger and invites others to join in the celebration of Your coming.

Son of the carpenter, familiar with sawdust and sweat, You know the struggles of life and the sorrows of death. You were born not to ease and elegance but to servanthood and sacrifice. You were born to die—to die for sinners! We are holy before God because You took our unholiness. We are declared innocent because You were declared guilty. We inherit the heaven that is rightly Yours because You suffered the hell that was rightly ours. From cradle to cross to crypt You endured affliction and rejection, ridicule and temptation. How can we thank You for love so intense and so perfect? Make us not only the objects of Your love but also its mirrors, reflecting the rays of its pardoning light into every life darkened by sin and death.

Eternal Word, now made flesh in Christ, of Your pure grace we have seen Your glory, and we dare neither hoard this vision nor be silent about it. Use us, rather, as agents of Your compassion and channels of Your mercy. Send us to all in need as proclaimers of Your peace and bringers of Your good tidings. Strengthen and purify our witness to Your life, death, resurrection, and imminent return that all the ends of the earth may see You and rejoice to exclaim with us, “Behold, your salvation comes!”

Lowly Infant, Mighty Monarch, in the days of Caesar Augustus Your parents obeyed the law and registered to be taxed. In these days and all the days yet to come endow Your people, we beseech You, with respect for the leaders You raise to positions of responsibility. Keep us always prayerful on their behalf. Guide and direct President Biden, President-elect Trump, Vice-president Harris, Vice-president-elect Vance, Governor Abbott, Judge Gravell, Mayor Schroeder, and all public servants with

determination to govern according to the counsel of Your holy Word that peace may flourish on the earth and that the gospel may pass unhindered across all borders.

Sweet Jesus, tender and humble yet strong and majestic, envelope in Your loving embrace all who awaken this Christmas morning to lives of fear and sorrow, pain and loss. As You know it to be good and right use us as agents of Your mercy to treat the sick, pacify the troubled, console the bereaved, encourage the timid, safeguard the endangered, and protect the persecuted. Above all, we ask You to work Your miracle of conversion in the hearts of all unbelievers. Accompany the preaching of Your Word with power, that all the world may see beneath the manger's disguise the very gate of Paradise, and delight through You to enter where forever are sung the songs of joy.

Into Your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who has taught us to pray:

THE 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.

PREFACE:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing:

**Hosanna to the living Lord!
Hosanna to th'Incarnate Word!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King,
Let earth, let heav'n, hosanna sing.**

(Melody: Von Himmel Hoch)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His 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 cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper will be distributed at the altar rail. Please follow the ushers' directions.

DISTRIBUTION SONG: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (LSB, #621)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born" (LSB, # 624) Melody:
Von Himmel Hoch

The infant Priest was holy born
For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He,
Anointed from eternity.

This great High Priest in human flesh
Was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;
His hand removed impurity.

The holy Lamb undaunted came
To God's own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes,
This Priest became a sacrifice.

But death would not the victor be
Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place
Within the veil, before God's face.

The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.

The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.

With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (LSB, #366)

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

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COMMON DISMISSAL:

Pastor: Now may this true body and blood our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in faith unto life everlasting.

People: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYERS:

Pastor: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!

People: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!

Pastor: O God the Father, the Glory of Christmas lies in a manger. You made Your Son to be like us—weak, small, and subject to death—so that we may live with Him and forever enjoy the bliss of heaven. You humbled Jesus and honored us; You exiled Him and exalted us; You abandoned Him and adopted us. The miracle of Your grace confounds us even as it delights us.

People: We marvel at Your love and sing to You a hymn of praise.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Savior and Brother, You took our guilt into Yourself and exchanged it for Your innocence when You allowed Yourself to be crucified in our place and executed for our transgressions. By the power and grace of God, and according to His eternal will, Your manger became a cross that emptied into a tomb that opened to eternal life for us and all believers.

People: We marvel at Your love and sing to You a hymn of praise.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, Bearer of Light and Giver of Life, by the preaching of the gospel You call sinners to faith in Christ and inspire us to serve one another in His name. You reside in the hearts of all Jesus' disciples and fill them with grateful joy. Use us as You will for the blessing of others, and, by the Christmas miracle, make Your will our delight.

People: We marvel at Your love and sing to You a hymn of praise.

Pastor: Great Trinity beyond comprehension:

People: accept our joyful worship and graciously grant that all on earth who today celebrate Jesus' birth on earth may rejoice forever with Him in heaven; for You live and reign, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS:

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

BENEDICTION: (Numbers 6:24-26)

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Let All Together Praise Our God" (LSB, #389)

Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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DISMISSAL:

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Liturgist: Rev. Walt Pohland

Proclaimer & Organist: Rev. Dr. Jim Marriott