



*December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

*Faith Lutheran Church*

# WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please sign the guest register in the entry  
as you leave the church today.

## TODAY'S SERVICE

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Liturgy: Service of the Word, WS page 22

**Speaker:**

Pastor Matthew Ude

**Organist:**

Lila Brown

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# PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

*Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article IV, Paragraph 80*

Since Christ is set forth to be the propitiator, through whom the Father is reconciled to us, we cannot appease God's wrath by setting forth our own works. For it is only by faith that Christ is accepted as the mediator. By faith alone, therefore, we obtain the forgiveness of sins when we comfort our hearts with trust in the mercy promised for Christ's sake. Thus Paul says in Rom. 5:2, "Through him we have obtained access" to the Father, and he adds, "through faith." In this way we are reconciled to the Father and receive the forgiveness of sins when we are comforted by trust in the mercy promised for Christ's sake.



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

#95:4-7 Savior of the Nations, Come (MFH 40)

## INVOCATION

p In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## CONFESSION OF SINS

p God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

c If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin.

p If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

c If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

p Let us pray.

all **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen**

p Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

c **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**

## RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

p Let us pray . . . Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by the light of Your Holy Word, we may be drawn to Jesus and lay our lives before Him in worship, receiving from Him the gift of perfect peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## THE WORD

**Psalm 80:1-19** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell *between* the cherubim, shine forth! <sup>2</sup> Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, Stir up Your strength, And come *and* save us! <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved! <sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts, How long will You be angry Against the prayer of Your people? <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears, And given them tears to drink in great measure. <sup>6</sup> You have made us a strife to our neighbors, And our enemies laugh among themselves. <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved! <sup>8</sup> You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it. <sup>9</sup> You prepared *room* for it, And caused it to take deep root, And it filled the land. <sup>10</sup> The hills were covered with its shadow, And the mighty cedars with its boughs. <sup>11</sup> She sent out her boughs to the Sea, And her branches to the River. <sup>12</sup> Why have You broken down her hedges, So that all who pass by the way pluck her *fruit*? <sup>13</sup> The boar out of the woods uproots it, And the wild beast of the field devours it. <sup>14</sup> Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; Look down from

heaven and see, And visit this vine <sup>15</sup> And the vineyard which Your right hand has planted, And the branch *that* You made strong for Yourself. <sup>16</sup> *It is burned with fire, it is cut down; They perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.* <sup>17</sup> Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man *whom* You made strong for Yourself. <sup>18</sup> Then we will not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. <sup>19</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!

**1 Timothy 6:6-12** <sup>6</sup> Now godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is certain*<sup>t</sup> we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup> And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. <sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. <sup>11</sup> But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also



called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

## 1ST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me.

God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil.

God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

# #711 See in Yonder Manger Low

## SERMON

**Matthew 2:1-12** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found

*Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."* <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

## THE POINT OF PEACE

## #127:1-4 As With Gladness Men of Old (MFH 54)

### OFFERING - PRAYER

p O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, in whose name we join to pray:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

all 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.

## THE BENEDICTION

p The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen

**#647 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

## Sermon Worksheet

What do you need to make a point? Why?

What are the benefits of gifts?

What are the dangers of gifts?

How does the point of a star reflect the nature of Jesus?

What warning does our epistle lesson give us?

What miracle happens after the catch of fish?

Contrast the Magi and Herod.

Contrast Jesus and Herod.

Where do we find peace?





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