



December 13th, 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 13th, 2023

Liturgy: Service of the Word, WS page 22

Speaker:

Pastor Matthew Ude

Organist:

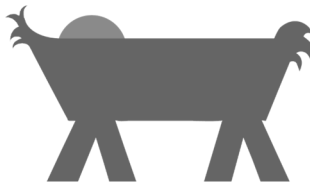
Lila Brown

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article IV, Paragraph 82

It is certain that sins are forgiven because of Christ, the propitiator, according to Rom. 3:25, "Whom God put forward as an expiation," and Paul adds, "to be received by faith." So this propitiator benefits us when by faith we receive the mercy promised in him and set it against the wrath and judgment of God. There is a similar statement in Heb. 4:14-16, "Since then we have a great high priest, let us then with confidence draw near." By bidding us draw near to God with trust not in our merits but in Christ, the high priest, this statement requires faith.



SERVICE OF THE WORD

#707 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

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.**

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 healed of our brokenness, rejoicing in Him who alone is our 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 85:1-9 LORD, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. ² You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. Selah ³ You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger. ⁴ Restore us, O God of our salvation, And cause Your anger toward us to cease. ⁵ Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? ⁶ Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? ⁷ Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant us Your salvation. ⁸ I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly. ⁹ Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land.

John 14:25-31 ²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. ²⁶ "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ²⁷ "Peace I leave with you, My peace I

give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. ²⁸ "You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. ²⁹ "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. ³⁰ "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. ³¹ "But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

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 cloth-

ing 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.

#73:1,4,5 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

SERMON

Ephesians 2:12-18 ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of

separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

THE ARMS OF PEACE

#61 Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

OFFERING - PRAYER

p O Lord, our dwelling place and our peace, You have compassion on our weakness. Put far from us all worry and fearfulness that, having confessed our sins and commending ourselves to Your gracious mercy, we may, when night shall come, commit

ourselves, our work, and all we love into Your keeping, receiving from You the gift of quiet sleep; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

#554:1,2,5,6 Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

N1529 State Road 73 Markesan, WI 53946

www.MarkesanLutheran.org

CHURCH & SCHOOL DIRECTORY

PASTOR MATTHEW UDE

pastor@markesanlutheran.com

(920) 398-0260

JESSICA KRUEGER

Grades 6-8

(920) 369-8113

SCHOOL OFFICE

principal@markesanlutheran.com

(920) 398-3171

REBECCA LILLO

Grades 3-5

(262) 271-6129

ANN SPRENGELER

Grades K-2

(920) 295-2667

ALISON BROWN

Pre-School

(920) 229-9854

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