



December 20th, 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 20th, 2023

Liturgy: Service of the Word, WS page 22

Speaker:

Pastor Matthew Ude

Organist:

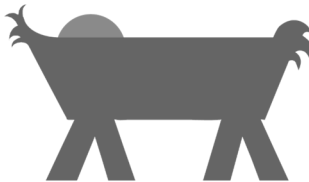
Lila Brown

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article IV, Paragraph 83

In Acts 10:43, Peter says, "To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." How could he say it any more plainly? We receive the forgiveness of sins, he says, through his name, that is, for his sake: therefore, not for the sake of our merits, our contrition, attrition, love, worship, or works. And he adds, "when we believe in him." Thus he requires faith. We cannot take hold of the name of Christ except by faith. In addition, he cites the consensus of all the prophets, which is really citing the authority of the church.



SERVICE OF THE WORD

#91:1-4 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

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

Romans 12:9-21 ⁹ *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.* ¹⁰ *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;* ¹¹ *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;* ¹² *rejoicing in hope, pa-*

tient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay^t," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head^t." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 10:34-39 ³⁴ "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ "For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law"; ³⁶ "and a man's enemies *will be* those of his *own* household^t." ³⁷ "He who loves father or

mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

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.

#74 Once He Came in Blessing

SERMON

Isaiah 9:1-7 Nevertheless the gloom *will not be* upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed *her*, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. ² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation *And* increased its joy^t; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. ⁵ For every warrior's sandal from the

noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning *and* fuel of fire. ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

THE REST OF PEACE

#98:1-3 Of the Father's Love Begotten

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

#558 All Praise to Thee, My God



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