



Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members
and visitors in Jesus' name**

First Sunday of Advent

5 p.m., November 30, 2025



The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

***Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church
Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others***

7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | www.faithlutheransrq.com

All who are baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.

Minister
Assisting Minister
Director of Music

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Deacon Scott Rice
Andi Zdrava

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

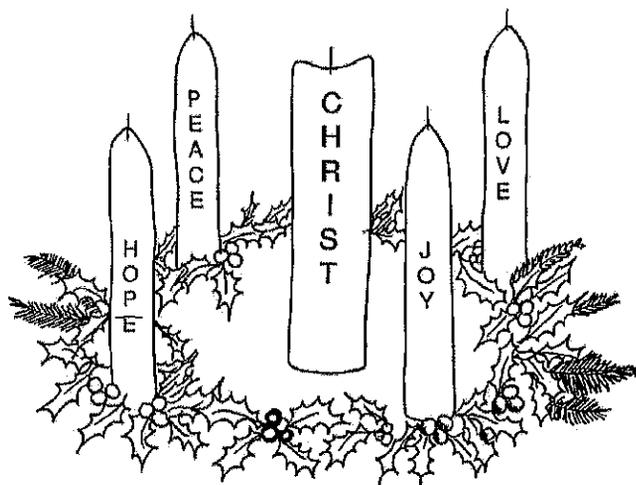
First Verse



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!



WE STAND

SONG: O Come to the Altar

Verse

Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling.
Have you come to the end of yourself?
do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling.

Chorus

O come to,
the altar,
the Father's arms are open wide,
forgiveness,
was bought with,
the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Verse 2

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes,
come today there's no reason to wait,
Jesus is calling.
Bring your sorrows and trade them for
joy,
from the ashes a new life is born,
Jesus is calling.

Chorus x 2

O come to,
the altar,
the Father's arms are open wide,
forgiveness,
was bought with,
the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Bridge x 2

Oh what a Saviour,
isn't He wonderful,
sing hallelujah Christ is risen,
bow down before Him,
for He is Lord of all,
sing hallelujah Christ is risen.

Chorus x 2

O come to,
the altar,
the Father's arms are open wide,
forgiveness,
was bought with,
the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Music & Lyrics by: Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade
Joye

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
(pause for reflection)

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

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.

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.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

SONG: Here I Am To Worship

Verse 1

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus

So here I am to worship.
Here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that You're my God,
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

Verse 2

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

Chorus

So here I am to worship.
Here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that You're my God,
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

(continued on next page)

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Chorus

So here I am to worship.
Here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that You're my God,
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

L: ¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L: Word of God, word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 122

L: We read Psalm 122 responsively.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

C: **I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."**

L: ¹I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

C: **I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."**

L: ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸ For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

C: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

WE STAND

SONG: In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song,
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe,
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.
Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4

No guilt in life, no fear in death - This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
Til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

ELW 436

We sing together

See Next Page

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

L: God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you silently or aloud. *(Pause)* Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of memory on this World AIDS Day, we give you thanks for all who have died from HIV and AIDS *(especially those we name before you now silently or aloud)*. *(Pause)* Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

WE STAND

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Feel free to greet your neighbors with a word of peace.

WE SIT

OFFERTORY



There is an offering plate at the entrance of the sanctuary. You also can give online by scanning the QR Code printed here or via the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com. We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.

WE STAND

SONG: This I Believe (*The Creed*)

Verse 1

Our Father everlasting,
The all-creating One,
God Almighty, through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son, Jesus our Savior.

Chorus 1

I believe in God our Father.
I believe in Christ the Son.
I believe in the Holy Spirit.
Our God is three in One.
I believe in the resurrection,
That we will rise again,
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

Verse 2

Our judge and our defender suffered and crucified,
Forgiveness is in You.
Descended into darkness,
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high.

Chorus 2

I believe in life eternal.
I believe in the virgin birth.
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church.
I believe in the resurrection
when Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

Ben Fielding, Matt Crocker CCLI Song #7018338 © 2014 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia
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OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

WE SIT

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

WE STAND

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SONG: Goodness of God

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest nights
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Bridge x 2

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Chorus x 2

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

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BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.