

Faith Lutheran Church - Worship and Communion

December 15, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

To join with video, go to our website and follow the video link
(www.faithlutheranreno.org) or find us on youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/@faithlutheran-reno>



HE WILL
BAPTIZE YOU
WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

LUKE 3:16

Welcome! We are a family of faith and so glad you are here! Our worship this month turns to Setting 12 in “All Creation Sings.” It is all printed here in the bulletin.

Children's Bulletins are available in the narthex (entrance area), providing activities on today's scripture readings. Please enjoy.

God is present in **Holy Communion** and welcomes all who are hungry. You are welcome to the table. Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing. Let an usher know if you would like communion at your seat.

Our **Candle Lighting station** (built by Louis Ling - Thank you!) is available during worship. If you are moved to light a candle to represent your prayer for someone or something or for thanksgiving or sorrows of your own heart, you may light a candle. All are especially welcome during communion as we sing and commune and pray.

In Worship today: Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in all of life, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent, as we picture, in faith, our God singing over all of us.



*Flowers today are given by Becky Sharp
in honor of her grandson Harry's birthday.*

Serving Today: Greeter, Kathy W / Acolyte, Welmerink Family / Reader, Judi H / Asst Minister, Cindy T / Cantor, Sam W / Ushers, Tom L & Annette W / Altar Guild, Kathy W & Sharon S / Tech Support, The FLC Tech Team / Counters, Davyann S & Linda Z

-GATHERING-

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moment of centering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world,
reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
 in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
 By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God
 through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN*People, Look East****ELW #248****GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.**KYRIE**

- 1st time through is Cantor, 2nd time through is Congregation



ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING***Behold These New Things, verses 1&2***

*Our walk with you, our journey's path, our life we share, our history,
 reveal your voice in wilderness through change and joy and mystery.
 Redeemed by your love, you've called us by name,
 you've gathered us in, your grace we proclaim.*

*And yet, when threat or fear of change appear on our horizon,
 we often doubt, forget our past: the lighted way, what God has done.
 The path that sprang forth, our guide in the sea,
 the star in the east, by grace we were freed.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY**-WORD-****FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,
 for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.

**With joy you | will draw water
 from the wells | of salvation.**

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;
 make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this
 name | is exalted.

Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;

let this be known in | all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - 1st time through is Cantor, 2nd time through is Congregation



HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Could it be that God is Singing

from "Voices Together" hymnal, #42

1 Could it be that God is sing - ing and these notes are my re -
 2 Have you car - ried heav - y si - lence, have you let old sor - rows
 3 Hal - le - lu - jah for my Je - sus, for his life's sur - pris - ing

ply to the God - light warm with - in me, join - ing
 win, or pro - claimed psalms of for - give - ness, but not
 course! May I, too, live bold re - sist - ance to in -

earth and sea and sky? Sure - ly mer - cy has a
 of - fered them with - in? Oh, the Spir - it, she was
 jus - tice, hate, and force. Sure - ly peace, it has a

ca - dence— I can feel it in my soul! Sure-ly
sing - ing, e - ven when we could not hear her a -
ca - dence, ask - ing all of what we bring! And if

jus - tice builds a cho - rus, mak - ing all God's chil - dren whole!
bun - dant streams of liv - ing, wait - ing for us to come near.
mu - sic is God breath - ing, take a ho - ly breath and sing!

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

- MEAL -

OFFERING

In all things, O God, you are our way, our truth, and our life.
Reveal through us your life-giving work.

PRESENTATION HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING, PREFACE, and SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

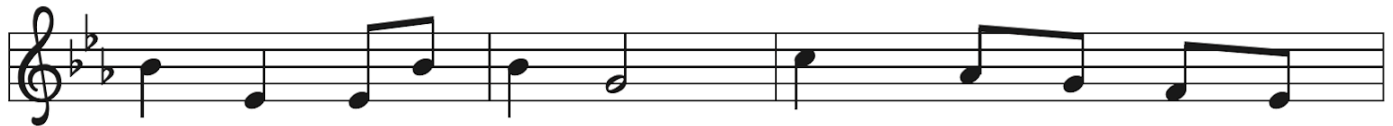
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

...and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION**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.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE**COMMUNION AND HYMNS****AGNUS DEI****ELW pg. 154**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**ELW #752**

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Wait for the Lord**ELW #262**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**-SENDING-****BLESSING****SENDING HYMN*****Awake, Awake, And Greet the New Morn******ELW #242****DISMISSAL****A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

** denotes a favorite hymn of the congregation*

- Activities at Faith -

- **Winter Newsletter is Out!** - (in your email, or in the Narthex)
 - **Faith Lutheran Christmas Concert - Today 3pm!** Bring a friend, a neighbor, all to enjoy music from our players! A free will offering will be taken for Outreach!
 - **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** service is at 4pm on Tuesday, Dec. 24th.
 - **Advent Soup Supper** - Join us for the final supper and evening prayer for Advent. Wed, Dec 18th, soup supper @ 5:30pm and evening prayer/songs @ 6pm
 - **Pick up an Advent Devotional in the Narthex today.** There for the taking!
 - **Sunday Adult Forum** - off today, in preparation for the Concert
 - **Kids' Place** - Today @ 10:50am - 11:50am - Advent and Music!
-

-Shared Harvest in December-

In December we need only **14 jars of Peanut Butter, 30 cans of Fruit** and **Disposable Razors** in unlimited quantities. Thank you for your generous donations!
Packing is Sunday, Dec 22nd, 1pm @ Faith Lutheran.

On the theme of our songs, our concerts, and God singing over us, consider this snippet of a poem. Mary Ann Evans, who wrote under the pen name George Eliot in 19th Century England, wrote a poem called "A Choir Invisible."

In it, she's saying — "I've heard the good news and now I'm begging for my life and my soul to be an integrated teller of this story."

The poem closes like this:

*So May I Be the sweet presence of a good diffus'd,
And in diffusion ever more intense!
So shall I join the choir invisible
Whose music is the gladness of the world.*

Come to Worship. Go to Serve. Embrace the Community.

www.faithlutheranreno.org

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

	Dec 2024						
Task	1	8	15	22	C'MAS EVE 24	29	
Greeter	Betty T	Richard S	Kathy W	Linda Z		Richard S	
Acolyte	Pesis'	O'Reillys	Welmerinks	Pesis'	Welmerinks	O'Reillys	
Reader	Pam S	Davyann S	Judi H	Jean C	Cindy T	Wes G	
Asst. Minister	Judi H	Todd M	Cindy T	Sharon S	Louis L	Erica W	
Cantor	Todd M	Wes G	Sam W	Sharon S	Louis L	None	
Usher	Zach W & Matthew R	Lukas B & Dorothy B	Tom L & Annette W	Debbie H & Matthew R	Debbie H &	Lukas B & Zach W	
Altar Guild	Trish D & Eileen W	Betty T & Annette W	Kathy W & Sharon S	Trish D & Annette W		Betty T & Annette W	
Tech Support	The FLC Tech Team!						
Piano/Organ	Heinz Denoyo						
Accomp. Musician	Olivia Knock, Cellist						
Counters	Davyann S & Linda Z	Davyann S & Linda Z	Davyann S & Linda Z	Davyann S & Linda Z		Sigrun C & Theresa W	
Coffee after Worship	COOKIE PALOOZA!						

Thank you for your hearts of service!