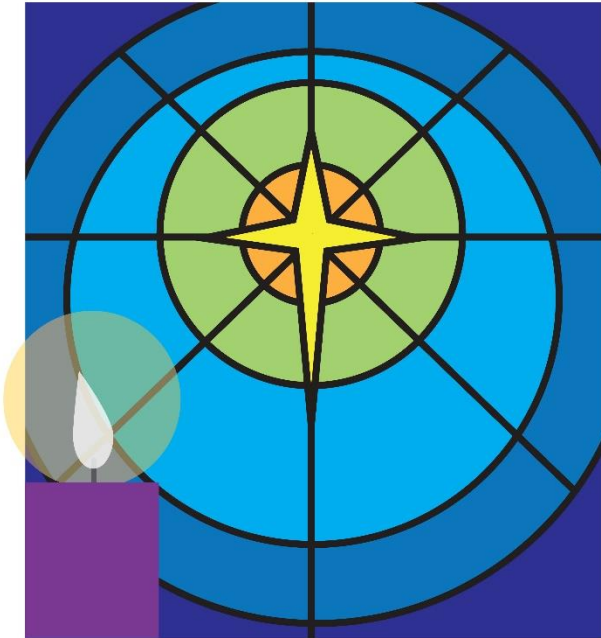


Faith Lutheran Church

December 2, 2018



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517)349-0620



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
..we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
..we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
..we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ
-



Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26)
We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.

Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ www.faithlutheranokemos.org
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ www.mittensynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ www.elca.org

Facebook

facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship
Sermons

Waiting with Hope

Today we begin the season of Advent, a season of expectation, watching, and waiting for the coming birth of Christ. Waiting is often the last thing we want to do. Waiting requires trust; it requires acknowledging our lack of control; it requires restraint and delayed satisfaction. Waiting is *hard*. We much prefer certainty, control, and immediacy over the uncertainty and vulnerability of waiting.

In the gospel text for today, Jesus speaks of a time of great uncertainty, when even the celestial bodies will be unmoored from their orbits. He speaks of people waiting in great fearfulness for what these signs might portend—and then he indicates that all the chaos and tumult are actually signs that the kingdom of God is near. What are we to make of such a statement?

When Jesus describes chaos as a sign of God's reign, it is not because God's reign brings destruction. Rather, it is a sign because God chooses to be born in the middle of the tumult and uncertainty that is this world. When all seems lost and like our waiting is hopeless, God's kingdom comes. When our lives seem wildly uncertain and when waiting seems unbearable, our need for a savior *will* be fulfilled in Christ. As we prayerfully anticipate the birth of Jesus in a world that is unstable and broken, Jesus assures us that we can wait with true hope, not uncertainty and fear. Hope because God's promises far outlast everything in heaven and on earth. Hope because Jesus' love encompasses even the biggest storm we may wait through. Hope because God's reign brings us a completeness that we can anticipate with joy. Hope because the kingdom of God will always be far more surprising than we can imagine.

Sunday, December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

Introduction to the day

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.

The ushers also have large print copies of today’s worship folder available.

If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.

There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.

Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

arr. Cherwien/Callahan

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls.

You know us through and through;

we confess our sins to you.

Remember not our sins;

remember us with your steadfast love.

Show us your ways;

teach us your paths;

and lead us in justice and truth,

for the sake of your goodness

in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.

Remember the gift of baptism:

your sin is washed away in the name of ✠ Jesus;

you belong to Christ;

you are anointed to serve.

Stand up and raise your heads!

The reign of God is near.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW #257

Vs. 1-4

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.



Candle Lighting Liturgy – Advent 1

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promises I have made.

To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls: In you, O God, we trust.

The one who is coming will show us the path of steadfast love and faithfulness.

Teach us your ways, O God of our salvation. We light this candle in the sure hope that God's promises endure.

We will live in the light of hope as we await the coming of the Lord.

Light One Candle

M.P.

Mark Patterson (ASCAP)

With purpose (♩ = 88)

2

1 Light one can - dle for hope,
 2 Light one can - dle for peace,
 3 Light one can - dle for joy,
 4 Light one can - dle for love,

5
 hope that the whole world needs.
 peace that the whole world needs.
 joy that the whole world needs.
 love that the whole world needs.

7
 Light one can - dle for hope,
 Light one can - dle for peace,
 Light one can - dle for joy,
 Light one can - dle for love,

9
 hope that the Sav - ior will bring;
 peace that the Sav - ior will bring;
 joy that the Sav - ior will bring;
 love that the Sav - ior will bring;

12
 hope that the Sav - ior will bring.
 peace that the Sav - ior will bring.
 joy that the Sav - ior will bring.
 love that the Sav - ior will bring.

2

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

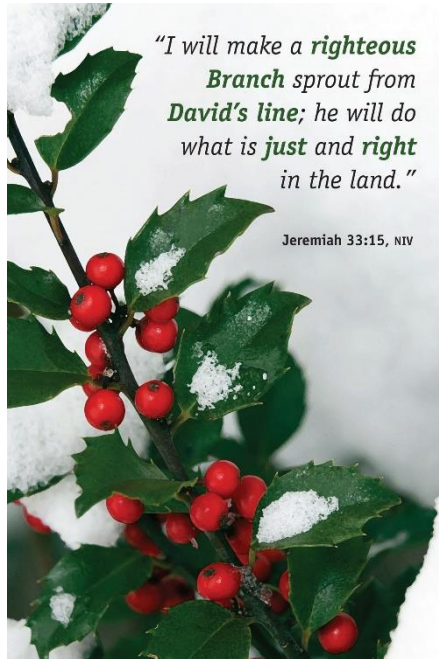
In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW #438

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

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church,
the world, and all of creation.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers,
and the assembly responds:*

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you
these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

“Lo, How a Rose/The Rose”

(Johnson)

Chancel Choir

John Borton, soloist

OFFERING RESPONSE

Emmanuel

C C/E F G G⁷ C C/B_b

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

A A/C# Dm G⁷ G/B C

his name is called Em - man - u - el;

C/E F G G⁷ C C/B_b

God with us, re - vealed in us;

A A/C# Dm G⁷ F/C C

his name is called Em - man - u - el.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the
justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with
the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

What Feast of Love

ELW #487

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

At the Name of Jesus



At the name of Je - sus, at the name of Je - sus.



1 Ev-'ry knee shall bow in the heav-ens and earth, and ev-'ry
2 Ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je-sus Christ . . . is Lord, . . . to the



tongue con-fess that Je - sus is Lord, he is Lord!
glo-ry of God, to the glo - ry of God, the . . Fa - ther.

Refrain

Text: Philippians 2:10–11, adapt. Richard Webb
Music: AT THE NAME, Richard Webb

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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts
until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Soon and Very Soon

ELW #439

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Soon and Very Soon”

arr. Jack Schrader



Siblings in Christ, welcome to worship! May your time in the Lord be rich and blessed.

Pastor	Ellen Schoepf	prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Secretary	Katie Love	klove@faithlutheranokemos.org
High School Director		Katie Love
Trinity/Middle School Director		Maddie Wosinski
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

November 25, 2018 Attendance: 85

Serving Faith	December 2	December 9
Acolyte	Lily O'Brien	open
Altar Care	Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers, Brielle Bowers	
Communion Assistants	Lily O'Brien	open
	Heidi Nussdorfer	Brian Ransom
	Rich Weingartner	Maddie Wosinski
Greeters	Mike Eschelbach	Marla Holle
Readers	Heidi Nussdorfer	Brian Ransom
Lay Assistant	Rich Weingartner	Maddie Wosinski
Ushers	Jim & Peggy Crum	Jim & Peggy Crum
Nursery	Lori Webb	O'Briens

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, December 2:

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Walter, Brenda, Katy, Austin, and Ciara in celebration of Becca's birthday.