

# Faith Lutheran Church

December 23, 2018



**FOURTH SUNDAY**  
OF  
*Advent*

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# 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](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)

### Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

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

## **The Magnifying Life**

Mary sings, “My soul magnifies the Lord” (Luke 1:46). The word that is often translated “soul” can also be translated as “self” or “life.” My self, the particularities of my being, magnify the Lord, she sings. My life, she says, has become like a magnifying glass with which you can see up close the details of God. This is true. God has chosen Mary because her life is like a telescope through which we can look to encounter the divine.

Mary is poor. Mary is female. Mary is young. Mary is powerless by worldly standards. Mary is found to be pregnant outside of marriage, an unacceptable state in her community, and spends several months of her pregnancy with Elizabeth and Zechariah, away from her home. Mary is lowly and vulnerable. We might not expect that God would choose someone so seemingly unremarkable to manifest God’s work. Yet the particularities of Mary’s specific life and soul and self are a magnifying glass with which we can better see God’s activity in the world.

If you think that your own daily life is unremarkable, think again. You were created singularly by God. Adopted into the family of Christ through baptism, you are uniquely claimed and named to live out God’s call for you in the world. As with Mary, the particularities of your identity, challenges, gifts, and strengths also work like a magnifying glass, showing up close the liberating presence of God. Your day-to-day life indeed magnifies the Lord! In what particularities of your life and the lives of people around you do you notice God at work? In what elements of your relationships, community, work, recreation, or spiritual practice do you encounter the divine? Let us each take note, and then sing with Mary, “My soul does indeed magnify the Lord.”

# Sunday, December 23, 2018

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### **Introduction to the day**

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

*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**

"Carol of the Bells"

(Leontovych)

"Hallelujah Chorus"

(Handel)

Flutes of Faith

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## GATHERING

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*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.**

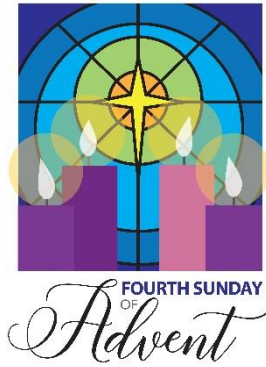
### GATHERING SONG

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*ELW #256*

## **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 4**

The Mighty One has done great things! Holy is God's Name! The  
Light of the World is coming.

**With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

God's mercy endures from generation to generation for those who  
are in awe of God.

**The proud, the rich, the mighty no longer have power over us.**

The lowly are lifted up, and the hungry are satisfied.

**We see the light of God shining over the land.**

# 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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

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## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a**

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

A reading from Micah.

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

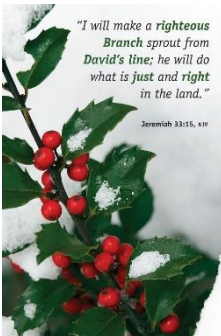
<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the  
LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**PSALM:**

*Canticle of Turning*

***ELW #723***



## SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-45 [46-55]**

*We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### SERMON

Readers Theater based on the gospel passage

Readers:

Narrator: Elaine Harrison

Angel: Chris Lewis

Mary: Emily Brown

Commentator: Pastor Ellen

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

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

***ELW #251***

## **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**

With confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray  
for the church, the world, and all of God's 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:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we  
pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

# PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

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# MEAL

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

# OFFERING

“Holy is His Name”

(Talbot)

Chancel Choir

Linda Hirt and Gwynne Kadrofske, flute

# OFFERING RESPONSE

Emmanuel

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

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

God with us, re - vealed in us;

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.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Flutes of Faith

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*He Came Down*

*ELW #253*

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.**

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## SENDING

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*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

*Joy to the World*

***ELW #267***

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Johann Pachelbel



Faith Lutheran will be welcoming new members  
on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to  
become a member please contact Pastor Ellen or  
Katie Love

[prellen@faithluthernokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithluthernokemos.org)

[klove@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org)



# Christmas Eve Service Times

## 4 p.m. & 10 p.m.

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.**

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### December 16, 2018 Attendance: 133

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Serving Faith	December 23	December 24 <sup>th</sup> 4/10 p.m.
Acolyte	open	open/open
Altar Care	Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers, Brielle Bowers	
Communion Assistants	open	open/open
	Jack Dingledine	Melinda Schultz/Warren Heilman
	Mike Eschelbach	Kim O'Brien/Doug Hirt
Greeters	Jeff & Melinda Schultz	Barricklow/Dingledine
Readers	Jack Dingledine	Melinda Schultz/Warren Heilman
Lay Assistant	Mike Eschelbach	Kim O'Brien/Doug Hirt
Ushers	Jim & Peggy Crum	Schoepf/Crum
Nursery	Marquart's	Coe/no nursery

### Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> :

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Linda & Lee Gerard in celebration of family, friends and our church.