



**December 5, 2021**

## **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

### **Second Sunday in Advent**

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

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf  
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams  
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love  
Youth & Education Director .....Pam Williams  
Pastor's email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website:.....[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

### **Introduction to the day**

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

## **PRELUDE**

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”

arr. Robert Benson

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait,  
**in the presence of one another,**  
**we confess our sin before you.**  
**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**  
**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**  
**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**  
**We fear those different from ourselves.**  
**We forget that we are your children**  
**and turn away from your love.**  
**Forgive us, Blessed One,**  
**and assure us again of your saving grace.**  
**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
✝ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.  
**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## There's a Voice in the Wilderness



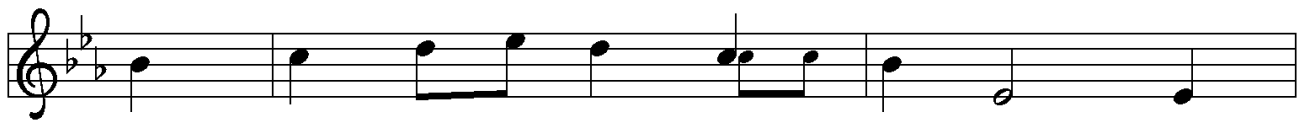
1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Second Sunday in Advent – Peace

**Leader 1:** In a world where so many experience violence,  
God lights a candle of *peace* in our hearts.

We wait together for a Savior,  
who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord:

**Leader 2:** *By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78-79*

*(We light the first and second Advent candle)*

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## 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.

Chords: C, C/E, F, G, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/B $\flat$ , A, A/C $\sharp$ , Dm, G<sup>7</sup>, G/B, C, C/E, F, G, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/B $\flat$ , A, A/C $\sharp$ , Dm, G<sup>7</sup>, F/C, C

Text and music: Bob McGee  
Text and music © 1976 C. A. Music



## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

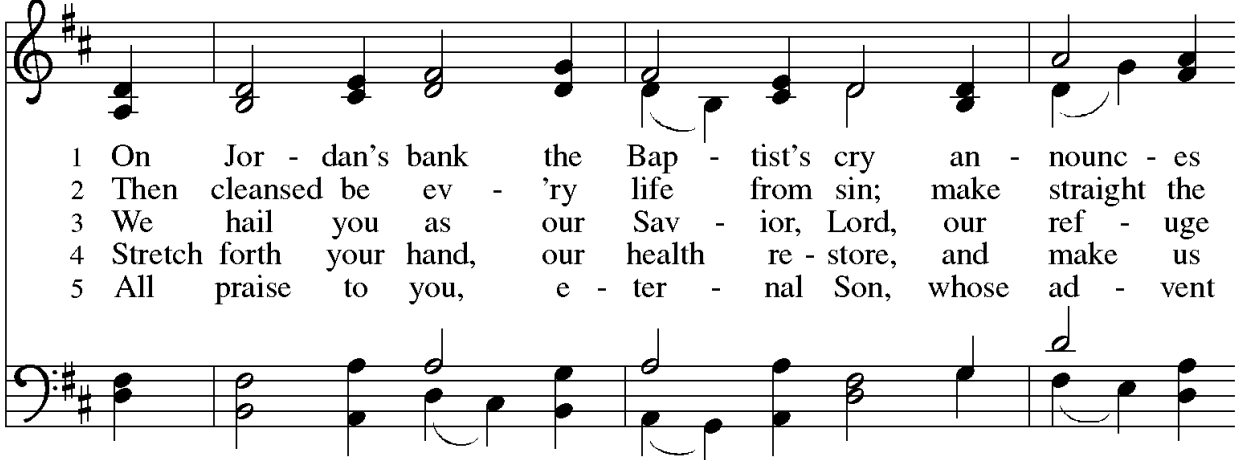
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Dr. John Schleicher**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

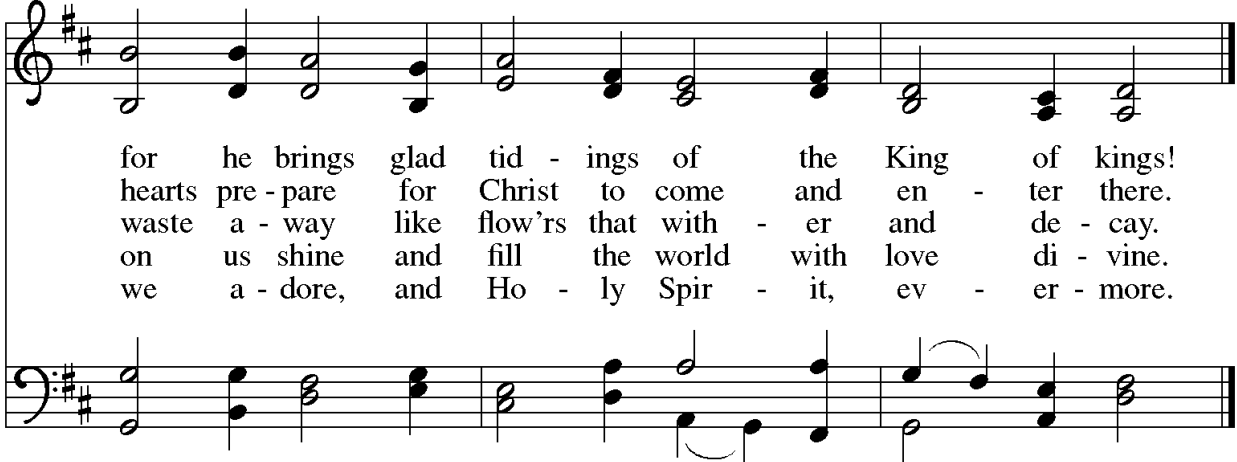
## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*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:*

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect.

Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## 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, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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. **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**

Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

## **COMMUNION**

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

Amen.

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.**

## **BLESSING**

The God of hope  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**



## SENDING SONG

### Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

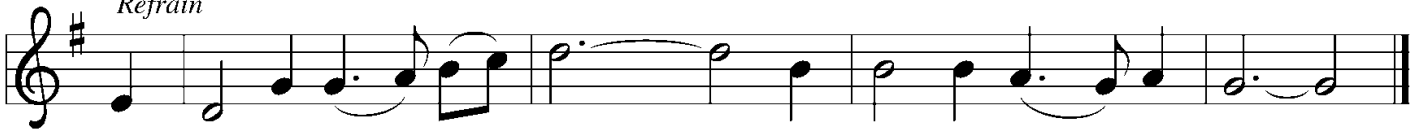


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

# POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

arr. Paul Manz

## Year to Date January – October 31

Income	\$ 217,472
Expenses	<u>\$ 237,900</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (20,428)

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### 11/21/21

Loose Cash	\$ 60.00
Loose Checks	\$ 20.00
General Fund	\$ 625.00
Youth	\$ 455.00
Parish House	\$ 574.87
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 80.10</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,814.97
Simply Giving	
General	\$ 3,235.00
Building	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,074.97</b>

### 11/28/21

General Fund	\$ 441.10
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 2,991.10
Simply Giving	
General	\$ 900.00
Pantry	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 950.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,941.10</b>

For a quick overview of giving options, please visit the Faith Lutheran Church website and look for the giving button in the top right corner.  
[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)

# Advent Season News

## NEW GATHERING INFORMATION IN PRESENT COVID-19 CONTEXT:

Covid-19 is raging around us, and the hospitals are overwhelmed with patients. As we work to continue to love our neighbor as we are called to do, we are temporarily going back to ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY! We will livestream our worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM. Hopefully, this will only last a few weeks. We need to be flexible regarding these plans as the current Covid climate is burgeoning and evolving.

We still hope to gather in-person for Christmas Eve. However, at this point in time, we cannot be certain of this possibility. We will continue to monitor everything and update you as we move through December. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ellen.

## Christmas Eve Services

This year, we will offer two Christmas Eve services.

One at 4:00 P.M. and one at 10:00 P.M.

To aid with social distancing, we have removed some of the chairs from the Sanctuary. Due to the limited seating capacity, we are asking people to sign up for the Christmas Eve service they will be attending. We will be limiting capacity to no more than 125 people per service.

Please use this following link to sign up:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-eve-service-tickets-198944226537>

If you are unable to sign up using the link, please contact Katie at [klove@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org) or 517-349-0620.

