



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Fourth 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 DirectorPam Williams
Pastor's email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
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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 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 holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

PRELUDE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

(arr. Susan Geschke)

Faith Bells

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.

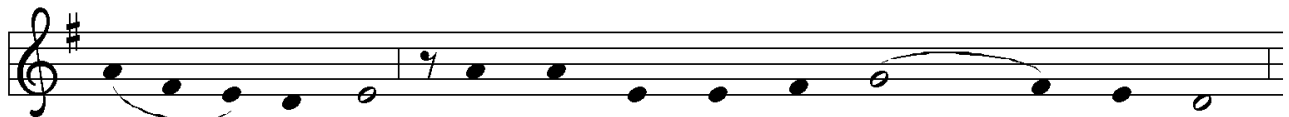
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



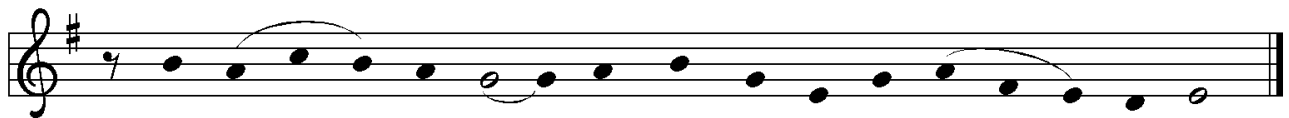
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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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 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.

Fourth Sunday in Advent – Joy

Leader 1: In a world where so many are sorrowful,
God lights a candle of **joy** in our hearts.

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

Hear the word of the Lord:

Leader 2: *The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
the Gentiles will hope in him. Romans 15:12*

(We light all four Advent candles)

GATHERING OF THE NOISY OFFERING

The Pantry Ministry is becoming vital to the greater community and, consequently, our supply cupboards are becoming bare. So, we will be taking a Noisy Offering on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month to help replenish food and personal care items in these pantries.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Emmanuel

C C/E F G G⁷ C C/B \flat
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

A A/C \sharp Dm G⁷ G/B C
his name is called Em - man - u - el;

C/E F G G⁷ C C/B \flat
God with us, re - vealed in us;

A A/C \sharp Dm G⁷ F/C C
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are 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.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted

Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according 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.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38

Leader An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

Segue immediately to The Magnificat

The Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

All



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to



weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more. D.C.

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.**

OFFERING

"Holy Is His Name"

(John Michael Talbot, arr. Perkins and Modlin)

Chancel Choir

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.**

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.

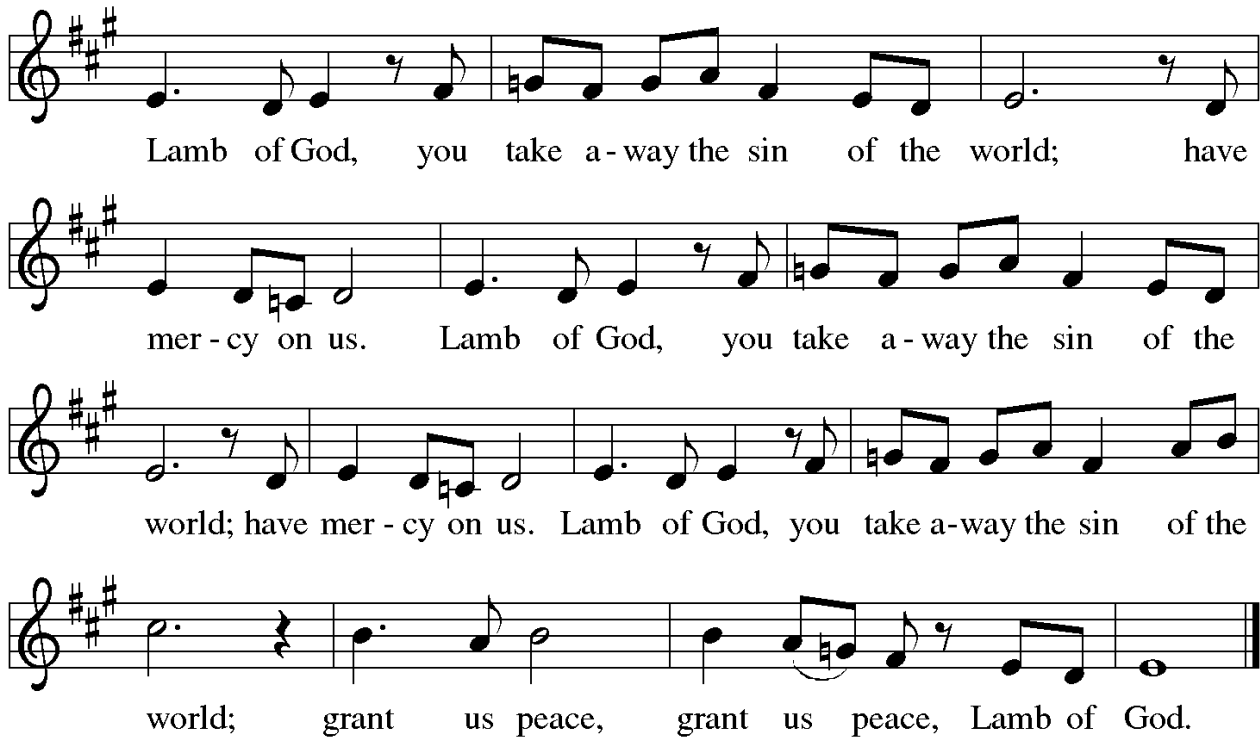
Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION

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

Amen.

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, Lamb of God.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Lo, How A Rose”

arr. Mary Beth Bennett

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

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

arr. Paul Manz

Year to Date January – October 31

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

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

12/5/21

General Fund	\$ 3,000.00
Youth	\$ 15.00
Memorials	
Consumers Energy Rebate	
	\$ 7,107.76
Staff Appreciation	\$ 100.00
World Hunger	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$10,272.76
Simply Giving	
General	\$ 3,715.00
Building	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total	\$14,012.76

12/12/21

General Fund	\$ 2,350.00
Staff Appreciation	\$ 200.00
Caring Committee	\$ 550.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
World Hunger	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,200.00
Simply Giving	
General	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,800.00

Advent Season News

Dear Friends,

We continue to monitor the spread of Covid-19 in our community. Levels at the present time are higher than they have been throughout the entire pandemic, and hospitals are overwhelmed. Covid is everywhere. We encourage everyone of you to GET VACCINATED, GET BOOSTED, and WEAR MASKS WHEN YOU GO OUT! These actions are truly necessary to mitigate the virus and keep you out of the hospital.

As we continue to monitor statistics in our community, our hope for worship this month is to:

Gather in-person on **Sunday, December 19**

Gather in-person for **Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM & 10:00 PM Services. You will need to sign up through the

Eventbrite link that has been included below to indicate which service you will attend.

We know there will be Covid breakouts as a result of Christmas gatherings. Therefore, our services on December 26 and January 2 will be ONLINE ONLY. Our Synod is providing congregations with online services for those Sundays, and we have decided to participate in the Synod's offering. We will reassess community spread after this point to determine whether or not we will be able to worship in-person by January 9.

Please note: When we do gather in-person, MASKS ARE REQUIRED, SOCIAL DISTANCING IS REQUIRED, and we encourage you to be vaccinated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We will keep you updated throughout the next week regarding final decisions.

I continue to pray that all of you have a Blessed Christmas.

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 or 517-349-0620.

