



**Third Sunday of Advent  
Faith Lutheran Church  
December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**The Reverend Margaret Brack, Presiding  
Nancy Robbins, Music and Choir Director**

<b>Volunteers for the day</b>				
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Assisting Minister</i>	<i>Readers</i>
<b><i>Fowlkes Family</i></b>	<b><i>Olive Fowlkes</i></b>	<b><i>Yamakawa Family</i></b>	<b><i>Katie Fowlkes</i></b>	<b><i>Edie Hooke</i></b>

**Welcome Visitors!** We are glad that you have joined us in worship today. Please sign our Guest Book in the lobby after worship if you have not already done so. If you have any questions, please contact one of our Worship Leaders. We will be happy to help.

\* Please stand as you are able

Prelude, Announcements, and Prayer Requests

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*We remember God's love and forgiveness in Christ*

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**C: Amen.**

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

God of mercy,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts**

P: God of might,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Third Sunday of Advent

P: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C: Amen

Hymn      WOV 630      Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah      v.3

\*Gathering Hymn      WOV 633      Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn  
v.1-4

\*Kyrie

*Refrain*

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.

*Last time*

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> 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 <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## Second Reading

## Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



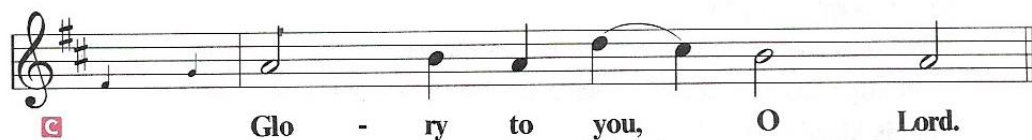
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

\*P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

C:



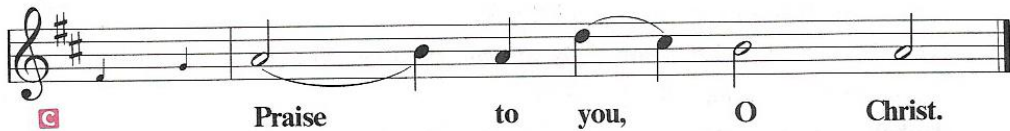
**\*Gospel**

**Luke 3:7-18**

<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> 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.” <sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.” <sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

\*P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



Sermon      “Rejoice! God is Able”      *Pastor Margaret Brack*

Hymn of the Day    LBW 32      Fling Wide the Door      v.1 & 4

**\*Nicene Creed**

P: *With the whole church, let us confess our faith:*

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Response after "Lord, in your mercy"*

**C: Receive our prayer**

## \*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you**

## Choir Anthem

## Abide, O Dearest Jesus

## \*Offertory



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.



## \*Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

## ✠MEAL ✠

*When we celebrate communion we remember that Jesus died for us and we experience his love and forgiveness. As we eat the bread and wine Christ is present with us.*



## \*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.


**P:** 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:



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.

**P:** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

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

**C: 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 Communion**

P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table



**\*P:** For those unable to be present to receive Holy Communion, let us pray:

**C: Although I am not present physically in the church, I pray that I may receive the Body and Blood of Christ spiritually and be fed in the fullness of worship. Amen.**

### **\*Communion Blessing**

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

C: Amen.

### \*Song After Communion



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

### \*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray,

C: 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

P: God of endings and beginnings,  
 God in the darkness and the light,  
 God, our hope for the journey,  
 †bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

**\*Sending Hymn**                      **LBW 552**    **In Thee is Gladness**                      **v.1-2**

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel..

C: Thanks be to God!

*Please keep Danielle; Zack, Caitlin, Kim, and the Reed Family; Berni & Jim Greene; PopPop Phil; Anne & Rich; Austin; Michelle; Ryan; Linda and Richard Riehl; Wendy; Bill and Connie; Edie and family, Kathy Malone; Pastor Harry and Carol Wolpert; Scott and Jaimie; Richie (Pr. Carol's Son for deployment); Brian Mitchell and Family; Richard Mitchell and Family; The Dunkleburger Family.*

<i>Next Week's Volunteers</i>				
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Assisting Minister</i>	<i>Reader</i>
<b><i>Yamakawa Family</i></b>	<b><i>Jonathan Yamakawa</i></b>	<b><i>Edie Hooke</i></b>	<b><i>Cindy Mitchell</i></b>	<b><i>Edie Hooke</i></b>

## Faith calendar

December 15 At 4pm	<b>Munch &amp; Wrap: Cookie exchange and Wrapping and Fellowship activity with St. Alban's Parish: bring a plate for exchanging: get a cookie for every cookie you bring.</b>
December 21 at 3pm	<b>Blue Christmas Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church 6457 Quantico Road, Quantico.</b>
December 22 at 6pm	<b>Messiah sing along at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Salisbury.</b>
December 24	<b>Christmas Eve Services. 4:00 pm at Faith 10:00 pm Carol sing at St. Alban's 10:30pm at St. Alban's</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>9:15 am Carols with Pastor Margaret and Jim at St. Alban's 9:30 am Christmas Day service at St. Alban's</b>
December 29	<b>Lessons and Carols at 10am at St. Alban's. No service at Faith.</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month	<b>We will have a regular bible study time starting at 1pm. If we don't have coffee hour after service, we will begin immediately after service. Dates scheduled for Bible studies for 2025: January 12<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup>, our final bible study will be on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b>