

“HE WILL BE  
**GREAT**  
AND WILL  
BE CALLED  
THE SON OF THE  
**MOST HIGH.**”

LUKE 1:32



# WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today.  
Please sign the guest register in the entry  
as you leave the church today.

## TODAY'S SERVICE

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

**Liturgy: Common Service**

**Speaker:** Pastor Matthew Ude

**Organist:** Ann Sprengeler

*Liturgy: Common Service* from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House

# PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

## *Psalm 89:1-5*

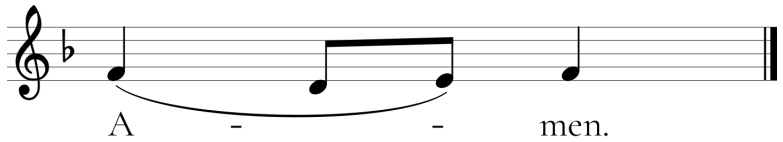
I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations. <sup>2</sup> For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens." <sup>3</sup> "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: <sup>4</sup> 'Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.'" Selah <sup>5</sup> And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## #710 Once in Royal David's City

### INVOCATION

p In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



### CONFESSION OF SINS

p Beloved of God: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

all Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is

evil and failed to do what is good. for this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have mer -  
 cy on us, Lord, have mer - cy on us.

p God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A - - - men.

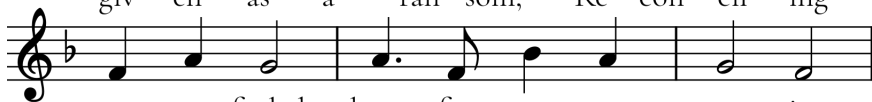
p In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



1. Joy has dawned up - on the world,  
 2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky  
 3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb,  
 4. Son of A - dam, Son of Heav'n,



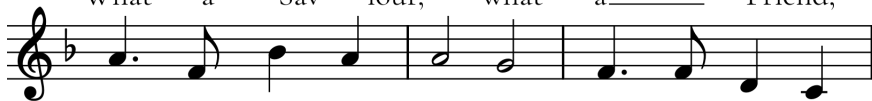
prom-ised from cre - a - tion: God's sal - va - tion  
 with the songs of an - gels, as the might - y  
 gaz - ing at the glo - ry; Gifts of men from  
 giv - en as a ran - som; Re - con - cil - ing



now un - furled, hope for ev - ery na - tion.  
 Prince of Life shel - ters in a sta - ble.  
 dis - tant lands pro - phes - y a sto - ry.  
 God and man Christ our might - y Champ-ion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove,  
 Hands that set each star in \_\_\_\_\_ place.  
 Gold, a King is born to - day;  
 What a Sav - iour, what a \_\_\_\_\_ Friend,



not with scenes of glo - ry, but a hum - ble  
 shaped the earth in dark - ness, cling now to a  
 In - cense, God is with us; Myrrh, His death will  
 what a glo - rious mys - t'ry: Once a babe in



gift of love: \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, born of Ma - ry.  
 moth - er's breast \_\_\_\_\_ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.  
 make a way and by His blood He'll win us.  
 Beth - le - hem, \_\_\_\_\_ now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Glo - - - ri - a

inex-cel-sis De-o; Glo - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

p The Lord be with you.

And al - so with you.

p Let us pray . . . Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A - - - men.

## THE WORD

**2 Samuel 7:1-16** Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, <sup>2</sup> that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." <sup>3</sup> Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that *is* in your heart, for the LORD *is* with you." <sup>4</sup> But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> "For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup> "Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'" <sup>8</sup> "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. <sup>9</sup>



"And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who *are* on the earth. <sup>10</sup> "Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, <sup>11</sup> "since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house<sup>t</sup>. <sup>12</sup> "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. <sup>15</sup> "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you<sup>t</sup>. Your throne shall be established forever.""

**Romans 16:25-27** <sup>25</sup> Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began <sup>26</sup> but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith-- <sup>27</sup> to God, alone wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

p Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!



## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

## #76 A Great and Mighty Wonder

### SERMON

**Luke 1:26-38** <sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw *him*<sup>r</sup>, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall

call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born<sup>r</sup> will be called the Son of God.* <sup>36</sup> "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> "For with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## THE PROMISE IS GIVEN

The promise is announced

The promise is believed

The promise is obeyed

(ws page 18)



Create in me a clean heart, O God,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.



Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and



take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to



me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -



hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

## #59:1-3 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

### Offering #788:1

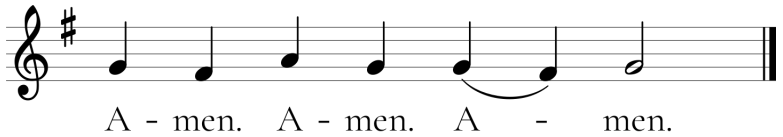
Lord, You love the cheerful giver who with open heart and hand blesses freely, as a river that refreshes all the land. Grant us, then, the grace of giving with a spirit large and true that our life and all our living we may consecrate to You.

### Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

all 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.

# THE BENEDICTION

p The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



## #62 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday, December 24**

9am Worship Service

10:15am Christmas Eve Practice

6:30pm Christmas Eve Program

**Monday, December 25**

10am Christmas Day

**Tuesday, December 26**

9am Fixing Pre-School Room

**Sunday, December 31**

9am Communion Service

7pm New Year's Eve

8pm New Year's Eve Party

## FRUITS OF FAITH

Sunday Service – 91

Wednesday Service – 28

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24, 6:30pm Christmas Eve

December 25, 10am Christmas Day

December 26, Tile the Preschool room

December 31, 7pm New Year's Eve

January 2, School begins again

## USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Benjamin Lillo, Blaine Kempenar,

Mike Dumke

## USHERS FOR JANUARY

Jeff Jones, Gary Brown,

David Draeger, Wayne Draeger

## COUNTERS

**This Week Team # 1**

David Draeger, Wayne Draeger

**Next Week Team # 2**

Jim Hanneman, Lloyd Schmidt

## PRAYER LIST

**The family of Julien Slefo**, grandson of Ken Walker. Julien Alexander Slefo, age 28 of LaCrosse formerly of Markesan, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

**Russ Denson** is in the hospital at Baraboo. He had surgery on his foot on Tuesday and is recovering well.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Everyone is invited to the Faith New Year's Eve party after the New Year's Eve's service on December 31st. There will be games and snacks.



## THANKS

Faith Lutheran extends a grateful thankyou to the following:

**Drexel** for donating the new flooring for the preschool room.

**Dan Thiem and Bill Herbst** for their work in the classroom.

**Bryan Pulsifer** for volunteering his expertise and time to fix the playground equipment.

Everyone who participated in caroling and the supper that followed.

Everyone who helped pay for and arrange the flowers at the front of the church.

Everyone who supplied candy and snacks for the Christmas eve bags.

Everyone who helped decorate the church.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIAL

The bottom bookshelf in the office contains various pieces of past Sunday school materials. If anyone wants any of this, please take it home. After January we will be getting rid of anything that is left.

## TILE IN PRESCHOOL ROOM

On December 26 Dan Thiem is going to tear out the carpet in the preschool room and replace it with "tile." He is asking for volunteers to help.

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 61:10– 62:3

Psalm 111

Galatians 4:4–7

Luke 2:22–40

## CALL NEWS

Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran of Saginaw, MI, has returned the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.

Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC has returned the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

Jennifer Wiese, teacher at Luther Memorial School in Fond du Lac, WI is resigning at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

## Sermon Worksheet - Luke 1:26-38

Why was Mary “blessed?”

Why was Mary confused at the angel’s greeting?

How is the promise received?

What does the name Jesus mean?

To whom is the gift given?

What evidence does God give Mary?

What evidence has He given us?

What evidence did He give the Pharisees?

What was Mary's response to the promise?

What cost did Paul pay?

What costs did Mary pay?

Why was she willing to accept this promise despite the cost?



# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

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