

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14, 2025

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship.*

*Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love, and in our "Christmas Light Show." We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*



Living Faith Lutheran Church

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **INVOCATION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

### **CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW: PART I**

*Tangled Up*

### **GATHERING HYMN**

**ELW 715**

*Christ Be Our Light*

### **CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW: PART II**

*Unprepared*

### **LITANY FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Written by Rev. Julia Seymour, ELCA*

*Response (x6):*

**The Lord cares for the stranger, the orphan, and widow.**

**The Lord frustrates the way of the wicked.**

God of all tenderness and joy, we give you thanks for the wonder of your creation, seen and unseen, that works together for the flourishing of life. Sustain us with the Holy Spirit that we may become ever more fully the people you have made us to be, filled with joy and kindness for Christ's own sake. **Amen.**

### **ADVENT HYMN**

**ELW 262 – 3x**

*Wait for the Lord*

### **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**

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly

and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,

the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.”  
<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 146:5-10**

*Please read the psalm responsively.*

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**  
<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to those who hunger.  
The Lord sets the captive free.  
<sup>8</sup> **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup> The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan

and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> [Siblings], do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, [siblings], take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW: PARTS III-V**

*Light Up the Night*

*A Star Is Born*

*The True Light of Christmas*

**GOSPEL: John 1:1-5, 9-14**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW: PART VI**

*Take the Light*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*This Little Light of Mine*

**ELW 677**

**THE APOSTLES' 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

God of grace, hear our prayer.

## PEACE

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

## MEAL

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

## OFFERING

ELW 253

*He Came Down*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. 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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

... We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

**ELW 815 & 257**

### **BLESSING**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
**God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **BENEDICTION**

### **SENDING SONG**

**ELW 267**

*Joy to the World*

### **SENDING**

**Go in peace. Christ is the true light.  
Thanks be to God.**

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### **Thank you, worship leaders!**

Greeter/Usher: Tim Kass  
Accompanist: Gail Kass  
Readers: Kari Kopperud & Jean Zietlow  
Communion Assistant: Kopperud Family  
Livestream: Angela Catton  
Bulletin Printers: Mark & Angela Catton

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