

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. BOX 69 WARD, TX 78960

Sunday, December 27, 2020

First Sunday After Christmas

GUESTS AND VISITORS: Welcome to Holy Cross and to today's worship service. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you have an interest in joining Holy Cross, please speak with Pastor or one of our Elders.

The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ, Our Lord

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son," born of the woman, *"to redeem those who were under the law"* (Gal. 4:4–5). Therefore, *"according to the Law of Moses,"* Mary and Joseph *"brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord"* (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, *"waiting for the consolation of Israel"* (Luke 2:25). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. *"At that very hour,"* old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and *"began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem"* (Luke 2:38). The Lord causes *"righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations"* (Is. 61:11). We also *"greatly rejoice in the LORD,"* because this child has clothed us *"with the garments of salvation,"* covered us *"with the robe of righteousness"* and called us *"by a new name"* (Is. 61:10; 62:2).

Prelude - Selected

The Ringing of the Church Bell

Words of Welcome

Entrance Hymn: *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"* *Hymn 136*

1. Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ, the new-born King.
2. Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light:
Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ the new-born King.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ the new-born King.

4. Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending In His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ the new-born King. Amen.

[please stand]

Opening Sentences

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P: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C: **♪ And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.**

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: **♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Hallelujah!**

The Invitatory and Venite

Hymnal Pg. 33ff.

P: Oh, come, let us worship the Lord:

C: **♪ For He is our Maker.**

**♪ Oh come, let us sing unto the Lord:
let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving:
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God:
and a great King above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth:
the strength of the hills is His also.
The sea is His, and He made it:
and His hands formed the dry land.
Oh, come, let us worship and bow down:
let us kneel before the Lorde, our Maker.**

**For He is our God:
and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Psalm 98:1-4, antiphon, Isaiah 52:10

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

[be seated]

Hymn:

“Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men”

Hymn 105

1. Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,
Before His highest throne; Today He opens heav'n again
And gives us His own Son, And gives us His own Son.
2. He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an Infant small, And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.
3. He veils in flesh His pow'r divine
A servant's form to take; In want and lowliness must pine
Who heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.
4. He nestles at His mother's breast,
Receives her tender care, Whom angels hail with joy most blest,
King David's royal Heir, King David's royal Heir.
5. 'Tis He who in these latter days
From Judah's tribe should come, By whom the Father would upraise
The Church, His Christendom, The Church, His Christendom.

6. A wondrous change which He does make!
He takes our flesh and blood, And He conceals for sinners' sake
His majesty of God, His majesty of God.
7. He serves that I a lord may be;
A great exchange indeed! Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need, To help me in my need?
8. He opens us again the door
Of Paradise today; The angel guards the gate no more,
To God our thanks we pay, To God our thanks we pay. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (ESV)

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Epistle Reading: Galatians 4:4-7(ESV)

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

[we stand]

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C:  Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!

[please be seated]

Hymn:

“Oh Lord, We Welcome Thee”

Hymn 93

1. O Lord, we welcome Thee, Our hearts for joy are leaping,
Thou, Jesus, dearest Child, Thy precious promise keeping,
Art come from heav'n to earth To be our Brother dear;
Thou, gracious Son of God, Wilt banish all our fear.

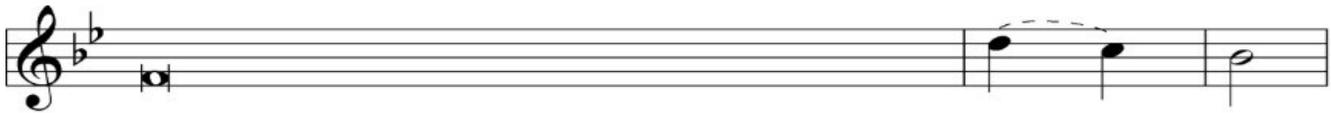
2. The mighty Son of God, His majesty concealing,
Dwells with our fallen race To give us balm and healing.
The everlasting God Descends from realms above,
Becomes a winsome Child, Reveals His Father's love.
3. Ah, sweet and gentle name! It echoes far are sounding,
It pierces hearts of stone And tells of love abounding.
O Jesus, dearest Child, On Thee will we rely,
And, calling on Thy name, We die not when we die.
4. To Thee alone we cling, For Thee all else forsaking;
On Thee alone we build Tho' heav'n and earth be quaking.
To Thee alone we live, In Thee alone we die;
O Jesus, dearest Lord, With Thee we reign on high. Amen.

Sermon

“Seeing Jesus”

The Receipt of Gifts and Offerings

The Te Deum Laudamus



1 We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of - - - Sab - a - oth!
3 The noble army of martyrs - - - praise Thee;



1 All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father ev - er - last - ing.
2 Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glo - ry.
3 the holy Church throughout all the world doth ac - knowl - edge Thee.



1 To Thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the - powers there - in;
2 The glorious company of the Apostles - - praise Thee;
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Thine adorable true and only Son,
4 Thou art the King of Glory, - - - O Christ.



1 To Thee cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the - proph - ets praise Thee;
3 also the Holy - - - Ghost, the Com - fort - er.
4 Thou art the everlasting Son - of the Fa - ther.



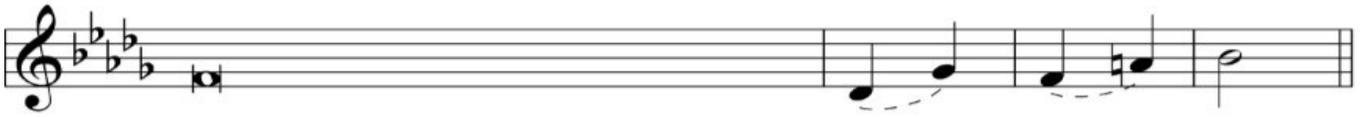
5 When Thou tookest upon Thee to de - - liv - er man,
6 Thou sittest at the right - - - - hand of God
7 We therefore pray Thee, help Thy - - serv - ants,



5 Thou didst humble Thyself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 In the glory - - - - of the Fa - ther.
7 whom Thou hast redeem-ed - - with Thy pre-cious blood.



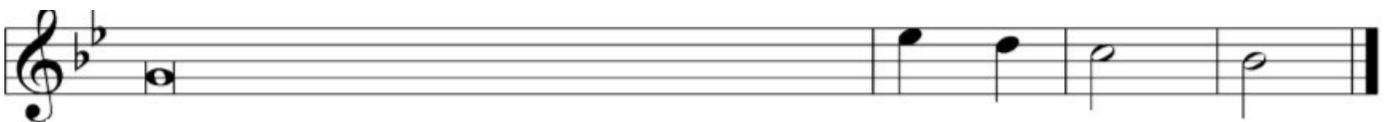
5 When Thou hadst overcome the - - - sharp-ness of death.
6 We believe that - - - - Thou shalt come
7 Make them to be number-ed - - - with Thy saints



5 Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all be - live - ers.
6 to - - - - be - our Judge.
7 in glory - - - - ever - last - ing.



8 Day by day we - - - - magni - fy Thee.
9 O Lord, let Thy mercy be upon us, as our trust is in Thee.



8 And we worship thy name ever - - - world with - out end
9 O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

The Prayers of the Day

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Eternal Lord God, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs. Hear us, Father, as we call to You in His name. Give us grace to rejoice in Christ's blessed incarnation, and grant us a glad new year. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood on earth is named, bless the families of all Christians with Your promises. Give parents diligence and delight in their work, and grant Your favor on all children, that they may grow in strength and wisdom. Bless all widows, orphans and broken families also with Your mercy, and give them joy in the redemption You have won for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O worthy Judge, from You proceeds the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Give wisdom to those who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may serve faithfully in their tasks, according to Your good pleasure, for the benefit of our people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, receive our prayers for those who suffer from loneliness. Comfort them with the sure and certain knowledge that they will never be forsaken by You. Give them family and friends within the household of faith with whom they can find loving companionship. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Lord, help the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers including Shirley, Helen, Ruby, Linda, Zachary, Mark, Bernice, Kaden, all those fighting COVID, those in our hearts and on our continued prayer list. Surround them with Your love in Christ and, according to Your gracious will, heal them. Comfort all those who mourn and are grieving the loss of loved ones, and fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kyrie

pg. 39

♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The 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.

The Salutation

pg. 40

P: The Lord be with you.

C:  And with thy Spirit.

The Collect for Grace

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who has safely brought us to beginning of this day, defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C:  Amen

The Benedicamus and Benediction

pg. 40

P: Bless we the Lord.

C:  Thanks be to God.

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

C:  Amen.

Closing Hymn:

“Once He Came in Blessing”

Hymn 74

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Once He came in blessing,
All our ills redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us,
Hope and freedom gave us. | 3. Thus, if thou hast known Him,
Not ashamed to own Him,
But wilt trust Him boldly
Nor dost love Him coldly,
He will then receive thee,
Heal thee, and forgive thee. |
| 2. Still He comes within us;
Still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us;
Would to Truth convert us
From our foolish errors
Ere He comes in terrors. | 4. He who thus endureth
Bright reward secureth.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us;
Let us here confess Thee
Till in heav'n we bless Thee. Amen. |

Postlude

Outreach Thought

Luke 2:22-40: When we receive good news, it can be hard for us to keep quiet about it. Whether it's a promotion, an engagement announcement, or acing a big test – we just have to tell the news! How did Anna respond to the news of the Messiah? She gave thanks to God and spoke of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. May the Good News of Jesus Christ lead us to give thanks to God and to boldly speak of Him to the people God puts in our lives. They may be just as eager and awaiting the news as Anna was.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO Bible Class will be held this morning. We'll resume our study of the Old Testament book of Malachi on January 3rd.

The Church Office will be open this week Monday thru noon on Thursday. Pastor Beck will be out of the office all week. If you need Pastoral assistance, please call the church office or an elder.

Installation of 2021 church officers and board members will take place next Sunday January 3rd, during our morning worship service. All elected officers and board members are asked to be here.

An Ushers meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, January 14th, at 7:00 in the sanctuary. ALL ushers are asked to be here.

The January - March Portals of Prayer are available on the usher stand as you leave this morning.

Attendance Last Sunday

Divine Service: 103 Bible Class: 35

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Merry Christmas!!

Faith Lutheran High School wishes you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We pray God would shower blessings upon you this holiday season and in the year ahead! Thank you for being a blessing to FLHS!

Christmas Hours

Faith will be out of school from December 19-January 4. During that time, we will have limited office hours to allow our staff the opportunity to spend time with their families. We will reopen with regular hours starting January 5. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Nikki Kueck at (501) 940-6259.

Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

End of Year Giving

In Proverbs 2:6, God's Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ's wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. The Board of Directors encourages faithful giving during this time to further the ministry and mission of FLHS. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

Raffle Items

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

Thank you!

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!



Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Hulda Anna Graf's birthday on December 29th by her daughter, Janet Gilmer



Those requesting our prayers today:

Shirley Varner, scheduled for hand surgery on Wednesday

Helen Kaiser, recovering from surgery for a broken hip following a fall

Ruby Bohot, in Monument Hill for therapy

Linda Lehmann, recovering from surgery

Zachary Pietsch, recovering from back surgery

Mark Noack, dad of Ryan Noack, thankful for positive test results

Bernice Guettler, mom of Roland Guettler, recovering at home

Kaden Hernandez, friend of Scarlett Landry, hospitalized following a car accident that also claimed the life of his little brother

For the family of Cynthia Segura, friend of Wendy Wagner, who passed away on December 19th following a battle with COVID

All those on our continued prayer list

All those fighting COVID

Our sympathy to Mary Ann Pietsch and James Schramm and their families on the death of their sister, Annie Mae Fick, on December 17th.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

December 27, 2020

Rev. Dustin Beck
Mr. Jonathan Kueck
Mrs. Carol Schramm
Mr. Shea Kasper
Dennis Pietsch, J.C. Schramm, Brian Varner
Abbi Noack

Pastor
Lector
Organist
Audio/Video System
Elders on Duty
Acolyte

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TODAY	9:00 a.m. Divine Service No Bible Class or Sunday School today
THURSDAY	12:00 p.m. Church Office Close 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship w/communion
FRIDAY	Church Office Closed
Next Sunday	<i>Epiphany Observed / Installation of Church Officers</i> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/Holy Communion 10:15 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School

