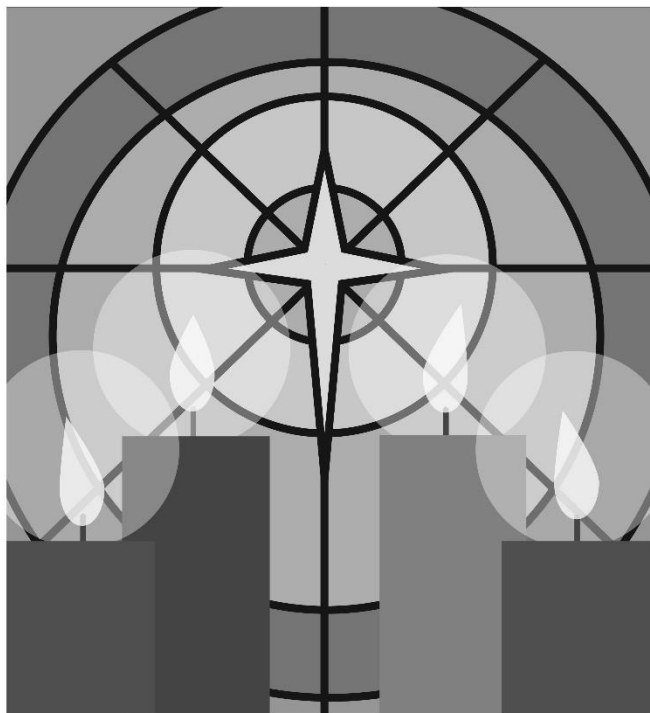




# Faith Lutheran Church

2576 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester, NY 14625 | (585)381-3970 | [faithpenfield.org](http://faithpenfield.org)



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**December 21, 2025 + 8:30 am**

# Notes To Assist Our Worship

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**Welcome** – We are glad you chose to worship here today! We hope you discover the presence of God here and that together we can grow as friends of Christ and one another.

**Standing and Sitting** – If standing, sitting, and kneeling is too much for you, please remain seated (or standing at the communion rail) during those parts of the service. God is coming to you with His Gospel gifts. Our standing, sitting, and kneeling are simply our responses to God based on our health and ability.

**Nursery** – Faith Lutheran Church has a staffed nursery available for you to use on Sundays for children age 3 and younger. Please ask an usher if you need assistance in finding the nursery.

**Hearing Impaired** – Do you have a hearing impairment that makes it difficult to enjoy worship as much as you would like? Faith has a “hearing loop” for those with hearing aids with that feature. We also offer hearing impaired FM receivers for those wishing to use one. Please see one of our sound technicians for assistance.

**Notes on Communion** – If you need gluten-free wafers, they are located on a stand in front of the baptismal font to be picked up on your way to the communion rail. If you need a non-alcoholic option, white grape juice is in the center of the communion tray.

**Our Hymnals** – *LSB* refers to the *Lutheran Service Book*, which is the burgundy hard covered book in the pew rack. *WOV* refers to *With One Voice*, the smaller blue soft cover book.

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 + 8:30am

## PRELUDE

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Mark Hayes  
(Elizabeth Balentine, piano)

## WELCOME

## \*GREETING ONE ANOTHER

## \*ENTRANCE HYMN

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL *LSB 357*  
vv. 1, 4, 5, 7

## \*INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, brings us love.

**C: Love is something we desire, but can seldom seem to find.  
Christ, fully divine and fully human, reveals God's love to us.**

P: Love is something rarely understood or experienced. Yet  
Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, shares His perfect love  
with us.

**C: Love is something freely given by a God who is love,  
shown to us through Jesus, who came to dwell among us.**

P: Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, loved us enough to  
become one of us, bringing heaven's love to earth.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, fill our  
hearts with Your love. Amen.**

## \*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins to God our Heavenly Father,  
Most merciful God,

**We confess that we have sinned against You in thought,  
word, and deed. We have trusted our own understanding  
instead of Your Word. We have assumed we knew what You  
needed and have tried to shape You into our plans. We have  
forgotten the ways You have provided for us and walked with  
us. For the sake of Your Son, forgive us, renew us, and build  
us into Your people once again.**

Hear the good news of this Advent promise: “The Lord Himself will establish a house for you.” And He has through Jesus Christ, whom the Father has sent to be the Savior of the world. Because of His cross and resurrection, your sins are forgiven. Christ has come near, dwells with you, loves you, and He reigns over you and all things in His everlasting Kingdom. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Responses Spoken

The Lord be with you,

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together,

**Gracious Lord, You promised David that You would build an everlasting house, and You fulfilled that promise by sending Jesus, the Son of David, to be our King forever. Build us up in faith, and make Your home among us through Your Word and Spirit. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior and King. Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**      2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

7 Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.”

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges 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 you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I

will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

<sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE LESSON**

1 John 4:13-16

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **\*ALLELUIA VERSE**

*LSB 157*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **\*HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 1:26-38

*LSB 157*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from 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. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might

be. <sup>30</sup> And 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 bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to 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> And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**   LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING   *LSB 359*

## **MESSAGE**

Pastor Peter

## **\*A CONFESSION OF FAITH - THE NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits**

at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

#### **Sick/Hospitalized:**

- **Jim Soanes**, brother of Sandie Freitag, hospitalized after a fall and head injury
- **Barb Riethmeier**, hospitalized at Highland with foot infection
- **Tony Verdino**, father-in-law of the son of Ed & Marcia Freeman, diagnosed with cancer
- **Maryann Maschoff**, health challenges
- **New Born Grandson of Joseph Siracuse**, friend of Carrie Resch, who is battling leukemia at Golisano
- **Steve Gallaher**, friend of Carrie Resch, who suffered a stroke the day after Thanksgiving and is hospitalized at Strong
- **David Clark**, cousin of Jolynn Keller, recovering from multiple bypass surgery

#### **Thanksgiving:**

- **For the 12/21/25 Baptism of Bodie Austin Lazzaro**, son of Austin & Rebecca (Wood) Lazzaro, grandson of Mark & Liz Wood

#### **Other:**

- **Linda**, dear friend of Sandra Banning, facing challenges

#### **Called to Glory:**

- **Patricia Luf** (12/8/25), aunt of Russ Hignett
- **Duane Schepler** (12/9/25), cousin of Amanda Gerlach, following a brief illness
- **Kathy Mauldin** (12/15/25), neighbor of Bruce & Rhea Oaks

## GATHERING OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

### MUSICAL OFFERING *Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)*

Bergthold, Cash

(Kim Ebbecke, Soloist)

Light of the World, Treasure of Heaven,  
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky.  
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness,  
Shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.

Light of the World, from the beginning  
The tragedies of time were no match for your love.  
From great heights of glory, You saw my story.  
God, you entered in and became one of us.

#### Chorus

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah.  
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done!  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.

Light of the World, crown in a manger,  
Born for the cross, to suffer, to save.  
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer.  
We are the richer by the price that He paid. *Chorus*

Light of the World soon will be coming.  
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own.  
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory.  
And there He shall reign forevermore. *Chorus*

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The Kingdom Music. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by  
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### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

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. Amen**



**+SACRAMENT +**

**\*PREFACE**

*LSB 160*

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 Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good...evermore praising You and saying:

**\*SANCTUS**

*LSB 161*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*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.**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## **\*AGNUS DEI**

*LSB 163*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace.**

## **FAITH COMMUNION STATEMENT**

Holy Communion is a gift from God and an expression of our unity in the Christian faith. We invite and welcome to the Lord's Table those who joyfully affirm the following:

+ I believe that I am a sinner and I repent of my sins.

+ I believe that in eating this bread and drinking this wine, I am receiving the Lord's true body and blood.

+ I believe that my sins are forgiven in this sacrament and I will strive to amend my life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

+ I have been baptized.

+ I have been prepared for Holy Communion through instruction.

(For those with dietary restrictions, please see "Notes" on page 1.)

## **\*RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

**JESUS! NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE  
SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME**

*LSB 900*

*LSB 332*

## **\*POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

May the God who comes to you in hope,

who surrounds you with His peace,

who fills your heart with joy,

and who loves you with an everlasting love,

bless you and keep you in the light of His salvation.

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

**Amen.**

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

**PEOPLE, LOOK EAST**

*WOV 626*

## **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace and serve the Lord with your lives.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

Altar Guild: Robin Wagstrom-Arnone, Nancy Alvut, Betty Porter

Acolyte/Crucifer: **TBA**

Eucharist Assistants: Betty Porter, Peggy Osenbach

Pews: Jackie Welk

Greeters: Hans & Jeanne Kurzik

Lay Reader: Paula Reitz

Live Stream: McKayla Nolan

Sound: Bob Helm

Ushers: Ed Freeman, Mark Saresky, Kristine Parmele, Margo  
Natemeier, Jeff Bartocci

**Christmas Eve 3pm**

Altar Guild: Nancy Alvut, Betty Porter, Holly Grub, Robin  
Wagstrom-Arnone, Laurie Ebbecke, Sue Hutchings

Acolyte/Crucifer: Abby Wood, Skylar Jones

Greeters: Angela Sanzotta & Nora Frank

Lay Reader: Jeff Kurzrock

Live Stream: Jason Gerlach

Sound: Michael Balentine, Mark Wood

Ushers: Bill & Marguerite McKee, Mari-Beth Schembri, Amanda  
Ebbecke, Bill & Sara Love

**Christmas Eve 5:30pm**

Altar Guild: Nancy Alvut, Betty Porter, Holly Grub, Robin  
Wagstrom-Arnone, Laurie Ebbecke, Sue Hutchings

Acolyte/Crucifer: **TBA**

Greeter: **TBA**

Bell Choir Director: Paul VanHorn

Instrumentalists: Piano: Terry Allen, Saxophone: Paul VanHorn

Lay Reader: Emory Ford

Live Stream: McKayla Nolan

Sound: Michael Balentine

Ushers: Karen Nitschke, David & Patricia Lapresi, Mark Saresky,  
Kristine Parmele

### **Christmas Eve 7:30pm**

Altar Guild: Nancy Alvut, Betty Porter, Holly Grub, Robin  
Wagstrom-Arnone, Laurie Ebbecke, Sue Hutchings

Acolyte/Crucifer: **TBA**

Eucharist Assistants: Betty Porter, **TBA**

Pews: Bob Freitag

Greeters: **TBA**

Instrumentalists: Piano: Terry Allen, Saxophone: Paul VanHorn

Lay Reader: Fred Mason

Sound: Michael Balentine

Ushers: Geoff Kaeuper, Steve VanDerMallie, David Pape, Fred  
Mason, Margo Natemeier

### **Christmas Day 10am**

Altar Guild: Nancy Alvut

Acolyte/Crucifer: Declan Burke

Eucharist Assistants: Betty Porter, Sharon Finkbeiner

Pews: Bill McKee

Lay Reader: Karen Nitschke

Live Stream: McKayla Nolan

Sound: Bob Helm

Ushers: Geoff Kaeuper, Beth D'Ambrosio, Karen Nitschke, Kathy  
McCarthy, Steve VanDerMallie

### **Volunteers for 12/28 – Combined Worship @ 9:30am**

Altar Guild: Barbara Baisch, Charlene Fernaays

Acolyte/Crucifer: **TBA**

Greeters: **TBA**

Lay Reader: Fred Mason

Live Stream: Jason Gerlach

Sound: Bob Helm

Ushers: Fred Mason, Pat & David Lapresi, Karen Nitschke



## **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

2576 Browncroft Blvd, Rochester NY  
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### **PASTORAL AND EDUCATION**

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## **FAITH CHILD CARE & NURSERY SCHOOL**

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