

[THE SECOND WEDNESDAY IN]

# Advent

---

DECEMBER 11, 2013

Faith Lutheran Church builds up the body of Christ by making disciples, offering new beginnings and new life through the Gospel of Christ.

- Fellowship to build up one another in love
- Assemble regularly for worship and sacraments
- Intercede in prayer on behalf of one another
- Teach the truth of God's Word
- Help people in our community and beyond by witnessing, inviting, and serving



**FAITH**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*New beginnings. New life.*

DECEMBER 11, 2013

## The 2nd Wednesday in Advent

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GREET ONE ANOTHER and SHARE THE PEACE

### OPENING VERSICLES

[P] This is the day which the Lord has made;

**[C] Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

[P] From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**[C] The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

[P] Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

**[C] Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

[P] Prepare the way of the Lord.

**[C] Make His paths straight.**

[P] Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down  
righteousness.

**[C] Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**

[P] From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**[C] The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**[All] 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.**

### OPENING HYMN #361 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

1        O little town of Bethlehem,  
          How still we see thee lie!  
          Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
          The silent stars go by;  
          Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
          The everlasting light.  
          The hopes and fears of all the years  
          Are met in thee tonight.

[P] The second candle on the Advent wreath is the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation. Jesus was born in an ordinary little town, in a stable full of animals. He comes to us also in ordinary places, among ordinary people. And just as God set His star above Bethlehem that night, He also fills our seemingly ordinary lives with His light.

[Advent candles are lit while the congregation sings]

3           How silently, how silently  
          The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
          So God imparts to human hearts  
          The blessings of His heav'n.  
          No ear may hear His coming;  
          But in this world of sin,  
          Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
          The dear Christ enters in.

[P] The fifth chapter of Micah says:

**[C] "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.**

[P] "Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

**[C] "And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.**

[P] "And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth."

4           O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
          Descend to us, we pray;  
          Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
          Be born in us today.  
          We hear the Christmas angels  
          The great glad tidings tell;  
          O come to us, abide with us,  
          Our Lord Immanuel!

[P] Let us pray:

**[All] O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, come and save your people. Amen.**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Genesis 3:15*

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

#### **EPISTLE** *1 Peter 1:13–25*

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy,

for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

#### **HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 1:18–23*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

#### **RESPONSORY**

[P] Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**[C] This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

[P] He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**[C] This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

[P] Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**[C] This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**[C]** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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,  
and the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**SERMON HYMN #354** *Arise, O Christian People*

**SERMON** *Being Prepared*

## OFFERING

### PRAYER

**[P]** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**[C]** Lord, have mercy.

**[P]** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C]** Lord, have mercy.

**[P]** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C]** Lord, have mercy.

**[P]** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C]** Lord, have mercy.

**[P]** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

[P] Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives on reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**[All] Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** [spoken together]

**[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.

## **BLESSING**

[P] Let us bless the Lord.

**[C] Thanks be to God.**

[P] The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless and preserve you.

**[C] Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #387** *Joy to the World*

[silent prayer]



---

**Pastor Kurtis Bueltmann**

office 217-762-9235  
cell 920-299-6912

**Pastor's regular office hours:**

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Monday    | 9:00 – 11:00 am |
| Tuesday   | 1:00 – 3:00 pm  |
| Wednesday | 1:00 – 3:00 pm  |
| Thursday  | 9:00 – 11:00 am |

*Occasionally other pastoral duties may interfere with the regular office hours.  
Please call pastor's cell phone if there is ever a need.*