Fírst Lutheran Church Chambersburg, PA



Chrístmas Eve 2024 7:00 p.m.



Welcome to Christmas Eve at First Lutheran Church

It is truly a blessing to have this opportunity to worship together on this Holy Night as we welcome the Christ child into our hearts and lives.

If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider joining with us as we proclaim the Good News of God's love.

Our weekly worship is at 10:45 on Sunday mornings with Christian Education for all ages at 9:30.

Welcome packets for visitors are available in the entrances. Large print bulletins as well as hearing devices are available. Our ushers are happy to assist you as you worship, feel free to speak with them.

May this evening's celebration of Jesus' birth fill you with a rich measure of wisdom that overflows into your ministry in daily life.

> Merry Christmas, Pastor Jane Nicholson and the Staff of First Lutheran



Gathering

WELCOME

PRELUDE

SOLO

Silent Night

Please rise and face the rear sanctuary entrance.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable. **Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem. Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

The Magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations. Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.

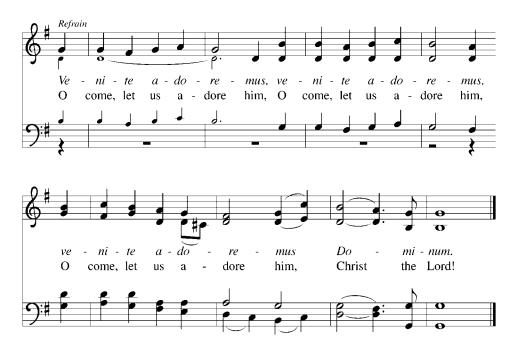
The angel said, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save people from their sins." With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Please face the cross in procession as you are able.

O Come, All Ye Faithful



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Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

GREETNG

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all. **And also with you.**





PRAYER OF THE DAY

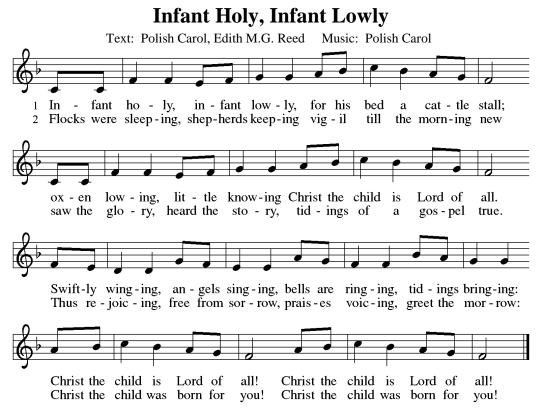
Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Oh, Come Little Children by: Anita Reith Stohs art by: Benrei Huang



FIRST READING

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able and turn facing the cross.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

Arranged by John Ferguson

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

Congregation: O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's race, King David's Son, our Lord and master, you have won. our hearts to serve you only! Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing; rule and might o'er all possessing!

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Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.



⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."





¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

Arranged by John Ferguson

Congregation: Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned, our voices gaily blending! For Christ goes with us all the way today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story! Great is he, the King of glory!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Please be seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are able.



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, receive our prayer.

Please be seated.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org or by scanning this QR code.



ANTHEM

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING HYMN "What Child Is This"

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

DIALOG

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

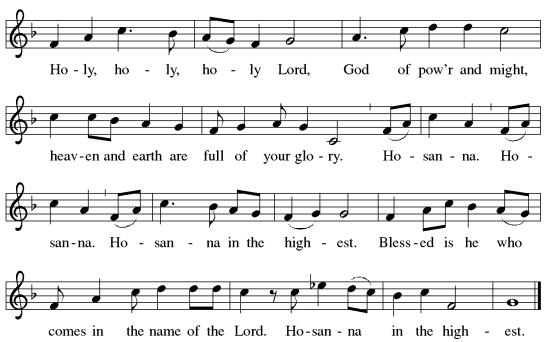
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

With all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:Blessed are you for the birth of creation.Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.Blessed are you for your promise to your people.Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, as you taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let our hearts receive our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

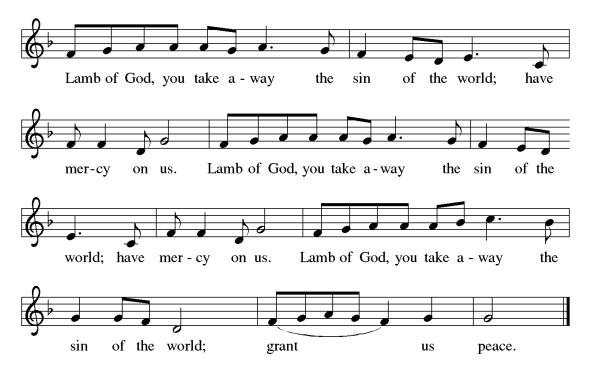
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's Table. To receive Holy Communion, please come down the center aisle, take a glass (the prefilled glasses contain grape juice), and gather at the altar. You may place the used cup in the receptacle at the end of the pew.

> Those not communing are invited to fold their hands as a sign to receive a spoken blessing.

> If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please indicate this to the ushers.

LAMB OF GOD



SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

The ushers will receive light from the Christ Candle and will light the candles of those seated on the center aisle. Each worshiper then lights the candle of their neighbor. **Please hold the lit candles upright and tilt only the unlit candle.**

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

BLESSING

May the grace from God's own heart, the peace from the + Child in the manger, and the strength from the Spirit of life bless you today and forever. **Amen.**

Please turn to face the cross during our final hymn.





Pastor Pastoral Assistant Director of Church Music Parish Administrator Treasurer Financial Secretary Custodian 43 West Washington Street Chambersburg Pa 17201 www.felcc.org FELCCoffice@gmail.com 717–264-2015

The Rev. Jane Nicholson The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer Freda J. Dorand, Deacon Cheryl Christman Sally Herritt Carol McCoy Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We welcome visitors this morning.

Please pick up a visitor's packet. They are located at the top of the steps.

at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

Our Mission

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus, burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

Sunday Schedule

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m. Worship at 10:45 a.m. also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus, and to worship with us.