

Prepare Ye, the Way of the Lord



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

309 Fourth Street Northeast
Valley City, North Dakota

Interim Pastor: Jamie Desai

Ministers in Daily Life: People of God at Faith

Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023

9:30am worship service

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME!

It is good to encounter Christ together. At Faith Lutheran we rise up to:

Worship Christ, Welcome All, and Serve Others because of Jesus.

A special welcome to visitors and guests! May God bless our time together as we celebrate Christ's presence in the bread and wine, the Word of God, and the community we share. Please fill out a welcome card if you have changes: address, phone number, prayer request. Break off the bottom half to place in the offering plate; keep the top as a bookmark and a reminder of worship times.

*Indicates those who are able, please stand. (ELW - Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal)

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come to celebrate Advent with Jesus.

I have come to join Jesus for Advent.

Let us begin preparing for the coming of the Christ child.

I will prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

Prepare for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

Come, O come Emmanuel.

*ADVENT SONG **“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”** vs 1,2 ELW 240
(Lighting of the Advent Candle)

*ADVENT LITANY

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Two candles shine as light peeks through the cracks and God's dream overflows.

Vision awakens in us, a spark to brighten the way.

Radiant flash and feeble flame break through; a long time coming yet unexpected. Watching and waiting, we prepare him room,

Christ is coming to make all things new, and we are opening to the Light.

*ADVENT SONG **“Prepare the Royal Highway”** vs 1,2 ELW 264

*CONFESSION OF SIN Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and

unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SONG OF MERCY

“What Child Is This” vs 1,3

ELW 296

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW 270

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS (PB- Pew Bible)

Isaiah 40:1-11 (PB pg. 740 - Old Testament)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (please read responsively)

2 Peter 3:8-15a (PB pg. 257 - New Testament)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

Prepare ye the way of the Lord

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The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

Mark 1:1-8 (PB pg. 35 - New Testament)

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

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Desai

*HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Feast of Love”

ELW 487

*UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA CREED

see screen

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE—Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY **“Let All Things Now Living”** vs 1 ELW 881

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*GREAT THANKSGIVING ELW pg. 129

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**(singing) Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION ELW pg. 130

*THE LORD’S PRAYER ELW pg. 134

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION - We welcome all the baptized to the meal celebrating the new life we have in Christ Jesus. Come forward as the ushers direct. Please take a cup for communion from the center boxes as you come forward. Start at the middle and fill to the sides. Gluten-free wafers are available. Young children will receive a grape and a blessing. Place your empty cups in the boxes. If you wish to refrain from communion, God knows your heart.

Communion Hymns: **“One Bread, One Body”** ELW 496

“Away in a Manger” ELW 278

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” ELW 247

“You Are My All in All” (chorus) see screen

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG **“Joy to the World”** vs 1,2,4 ELW 267

*DISMISSAL Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Okay we will!**