



Welcome to worship!

Worship today features our Children's Christmas Program, as our youngest members share the joyful message of the Nativity story.

First Lutheran Church

Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 8am - 4pm

651-345-5003 • info@firstlc.org • firstlc.org

Pastors: Paul Miller, Kary Jonas

Coordinator of Children's Ministry: Sara Thompson

Music Administrator and Organist: Kerstin Suby

Congregational Administrator: Jennifer White

Custodian: Loren Prigge

Prelude

The Rocking Carol
Joy to the World

arr. by Anna Laura Page
arr. by Martha S. Kelsey

GATHERING

Welcome/Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony - Third Candle

Song *Hope is a Star* (Choir begins, then Congregation sings.)

Choir: Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Savior is born. Love is a flame that burns in our hearts. Jesus has come and will never depart.



When God is a child there's joy in our song, The last shall be



first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall



be a - fraid, none shall be a - fraid.

Congregation:

P. In this season of Advent, we remember that Christ's coming will bring great joy. For those who are suffering and in need

C. Christ will bring us great joy.

P. For those who have experienced personal loss

C. Christ will bring us great joy.

P. For those who battle daily with inner demons

C. Christ will bring us great joy.

P. For those who endure deep disappointment

C. Christ will bring us great joy.

Candle Lighting & Prayer

Song *Hope Is a Star* (Congregations sings lyrics above)

Prayer

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in your timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

L: Word of God, word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146: 5-10

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

⁸ **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹ The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Gospel Acclamation *Prepare the Royal Highway* #264 v.1

Gospel Reading **Matthew 11:2-6**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Christmas Program *Christmas in the Barn*

Preschool-1st Grade Songs

Away in a Manger

Jesus Loves

Silent Night

2nd-6th Grade Songs

Angels We Have Heard on High

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Away in a Manger

We Three Kings

Joy to the World

Closing Hymn of Christmas Program *Joy to the World* #267

A special Thank You to Sara Thompson, Claire Bouma, Kerstin Suby, Marie Miller, Amy Henderson, and all the Sunday School and KFC volunteers who helped with the Children's Christmas Program this year!

Prayers of Intercession

P: God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Peace

Offering / Offertory

Go Tell It on the Mountain

arr. by John Carter

Offering Response

We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS #905 v.1

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving p. 152

Sanctus p. 153

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer p. 154

Lamb of God p. 154

Communion

All who desire to receive the body and blood of Christ are welcome at the table.

Communion Hymns

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord #286

He Came Down #253

Once in Royal David's City #269

SENDING

Blessing & Benediction

Sending Hymn *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* #242

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Keep awake

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

arr. by Aaron David Miller

This Week at FLC:

Dec. 14 - Worship, 9am (Children's Christmas Program)

Dec. 15 - Cub Scouts, 6:30pm; Troop 94, 7pm

Dec. 16 - Ecumenical Service at Care Center;
Book of Ruth Bible Study, 6:30pm

Dec. 17 - Bible Study, 8:30am; Care Center Service, 10am, KFC 3pm;
Bells, 5:15pm; Confirmation, 6pm; Worship, 6:30pm; Senior Choir, 7pm

Dec. 18 - Church Council Meeting, 6:30pm

Dec 19 -

Dec. 20 - Iglesia Rehearsal, 3-5pm

Dec. 21 - Worship, 9am, No Sunday School; Sea Scouts, 6:30pm

Weekly Bible Study Pastor Paul or Pastor Kary lead a weekly Bible Study at 8:30am on Wednesdays. The topic follows the lectionary and is often a deeper dive discussing the gospel lesson from the previous Sunday. All are welcome to join us any Wednesday throughout the year.

ELCA Good Gifts Tree is up near the nursery. You can buy a life sustaining gift for families and villages throughout the world in their honor of a loved one. Donate a flock of chicks, goat, piglet, honeybees, or a cow. Give a village clean water, an irrigation system, or medical supplies. View all Good Gifts in their catalog and make a donation. Indicate "Good Gifts" and what you'd like to buy on your check or electronic giving to First Lutheran. We'll send in one large contribution to ELCA World Hunger.

Mitten Tree Thank you all who took a mitten and have returned the wrapped gifts! Please drop off the wrapped gift(s) with the green mitten at church as soon as possible or no later than **Wednesday, Dec. 17**. The Mitten Tree is in partnership with the Lake City Kiwanis Toy Project.

Keep in prayer: LeAnn Fuchs (niece of Arlene Johnson), Carl Kozlowski, Wayne & Monica Schmidt (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Cheryl Goudy (Sue Benson's sister), Kathy Walstrom (daughter of Eloise Blattner), Patricia A. McMahon (cousin of Dale Nibbe), Lucy Youngren (great-niece of Mavis Hawkins), Cheryl Luettinger, Jan Olson.

Thank you to those who shared their time and talents this morning:

Lectors: Klara Schmidt

Greeters: Bennett Kittelson & Family

Acolyte: Lucas Roberson

Lighting of Advent Candles: Lilly Miller

Communion Assistants: Savannah Klein, Reid Meyer, & Ariana Talbert

Ushers: Bill Otto, Carter Keim, & Miranda Koehler

Altar: Susan Dailey & Karen Heise

Sound/Video: Heath Oeltjen, Cheryl Luettinger, Julie Deschneau, Randy Zanto

Coffee: LuAnn Otto & Marlys Johnson