

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**December 17, 2023**

**Faith Lutheran Church**

**Parrish, FL 34219**

**941-776-1395**

**faithlutheranfl.com**

**Rev. Patrick Pooch**

**Opening Hymn**            *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

*p. 338*

**Invocation, Confession and Absolution**

*LSB 151*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF GRACE**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

+ INTROIT + *Psalm 85 :8-9, 12-13; antiphon: Ps 85 :7*

Pastor: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

**Cong.: and grant us your salvation.**

Pastor: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

**Cong.: for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

Pastor: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

**Cong.: that glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Yes, the Lord will give what is good,

**Cong.: and our land will yield its increase.**

Pastor: Righteousness will go before him.

**Cong.: and make his footsteps away.**

**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.**

+ KYRIE +

LSB 152

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Cong.: LORD, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the LORD.

**Cong.: LORD, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the LORD.

**Cong.: LORD, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the LORD.

**Cong.: LORD, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious LORD.

**Cong.: Amen.**

+ SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY +

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

**Cong.: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Cong.: Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Cong.: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Cong.: Thanks be to God.**

+ALLELUIA & VERSE+ (sung)

p. 156

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life.*

*Alleluia, alleluia*

+ HOLY GOSPEL +

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Cong.: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>19</sup>And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not

the Christ.”<sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”<sup>22</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”<sup>23</sup> He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight<sup>[a]</sup> the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”<sup>24</sup> (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)<sup>25</sup> They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”<sup>26</sup> John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,<sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”<sup>28</sup> These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Cong.: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SERMON HYMN:**      *“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”*

*p. 345*

## **SERMON**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

*p. 159*

**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,  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**LSB 159**

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

### **CREATE IN ME**

*p. 192*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and up-hold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

**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 debts  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory,  
forever. Amen**

**COLLECT**

**P** Lord God, we humbly confess to You that we deserve Your fatherly chastisement for our sins; yet we earnestly implore You, for Your name's sake, to spare us in this time of disaster. Restrain all harmful powers and help Your suffering people that Your Word may be declared faithfully and without hindrance and that we, amending our sinful lives, may walk in safety and peace according to Your holy commandments; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

*LSB 166*

**P** 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.

**C Amen.**

**THE CLOSING HYMN**

*“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”*

**p. 347**



**Rev. Patrick Poock  
Organist: Ken Rogner**

## **Happy Birthday**

Linda Snyder 18<sup>th</sup>

Joe Barber 19<sup>th</sup>

Jeff Sattanno 20<sup>th</sup>

Rev. John Tuttle 21<sup>st</sup>

## **Happy Anniversary**

17 Jim & Terry Jones (40 yrs)

22 Rev. John & Sandra Tuttle (50 yrs)

## **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES AT FAITH:**

### **Sunday, December 17**

8:00 am Divine service

9:15 am Bible Study/Sunday School

10:30 am Divine Service

11:30 am Coffee Bites

### **Wednesday, December 20**

3:30 pm Bible Study

5:00 pm Divine Service

6:15 pm Light Meal

6:30 pm Bible Study

### **Thursday, December 21**

6:00 pm Bell Choir

### **Friday, December 22**

7:00 pm SCC Lighthouse Bible Study

### **Looking Ahead:**

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Service 8:00 am and 10:30 am**

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day Service 10:30 am**

**Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> No Divine Service or Bible Study**