

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

Rev. Patrick Poock



The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David “lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,” he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” (Apostles’ Creed). That holy child, the incarnate “Son of the Most High,” receives “the throne of his father David” and begins to reign “over the house of Jacob forever” (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is “the mystery that was kept secret for long ages” but is now “made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God” in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

THE DIVINE SERVICE is celebrated each **Sunday** at **8:00 am** and **10:30 am** and **Wednesday** at **5:00 pm**. **Bible Class** is held on **Sunday** at **9:15 am** and **Wednesday** at **3:30 pm** and **6:30 pm**.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH is a Christological, Scriptural, Confessional and Liturgical member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. We believe that God has called us to believe, teach and confess that Christ was crucified for our sins and we receive salvation by faith, which is a gift of God through His grace given to us in our baptism, as is revealed in the Holy Bible which is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. In response to His gift of salvation we eagerly desire to do good works out of thanksgiving and praise to the Triune God.

COMMUNION STATEMENT

Because we take the Word of God seriously and we love our visitors, **we ask that if you are not a member of Faith Lutheran or another LCMS church, please refrain from taking communion until you have talked with Pastor Poock.** In the meantime, we would love to have you participate by coming forward and receiving a blessing.

Communion offers the immense blessing of forgiveness of our sins. However, it can be taken to one's judgment if not properly understood. 1 Cor 11:27,29 says, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the LORD in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the LORD...For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."

We teach that a person receives the real Body and the real Blood of Jesus Christ "in, with and under the bread and wine." It is not symbolic or merely a spiritual presence.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

We rejoice to have you with us today. The liturgy is found in the Lutheran Service Book in the rack in front of you. You may place this bulletin in the back of your hymnal to help you follow along with the order of service. The Propers for the day are printed within the bulletin. Please read the message in this bulletin concerning reception of Holy Communion at our church.

OPENING HYMN *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"* **p. 549**

+ INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND ABSOLUTION + **LSB 151**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong.: Amen.

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

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

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Cong.: 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.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in the stead and by the command of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong.: Amen.

+ **INTROIT** +

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: IS 45:8a,b

Pastor: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

Cong.: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Cong.: In them he has set a tent for the sun,

Pastor: which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber

Cong.: and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Pastor: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them

Cong.: and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

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

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³ And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” ⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges^[a] of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’” ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince^[b] over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me.^[a] Your throne shall be established forever.’”

Cong.: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 16: 25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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 +

Luke 1:26-38

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

Cong.: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed^[a] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of

David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"^[b] ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"^[c]³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[d] will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant^[e] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Cong.: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN:*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

p. 357

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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LSB 159

Pastor: Lord in Your mercy.

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: ...through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong.: Amen.

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.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LSB 160

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

Cong.: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Cong.: We lift them up to the LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the LORD our God.

Cong.: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

+ THE PROPER PREFACE +

LSB 160

+ THE SANCTUS +

LSB 161

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!*

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER + (spoken)

LSB 162

**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**

+THE WORDS OF OUR LORD +

+ PAX DOMINI +

LSB 163

Pastor: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

Cong.: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

“Lamb of God”

p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“In Thee is Gladness”

p. 818

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

p. 356

“The Infant Priest Was Holy Born”

p. 624

“A Great and Mighty Wonder

p. 383

+ POST COMMUNION CANTICLE +

“Nunc Dimittis”

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,

For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou has prepared before the face of all people,

A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

LSB 166

+THE BENEDICTION+

LSB 166

Cong.: Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

p. 387

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Cong.: Thanks be to God.



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

Happy Birthday

24 Betty Spies Elliott

25 Caleb Poock

26 DeWitt Gorman, Meta Green & Bob
Wyman

27 Margaret Greenslade, Sherry Jonovec &
Linda Wiedenmeyer

28 Ken Spirduso & Zane Elliott

29 Rev. Patrick Poock, Alex Boettcher &
Carol Eichent

Happy Anniversary

27 Daniel & Ruth Pope (73 yrs)

29 Jason & Alexandra Laser (20 yrs)

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES AT FAITH:

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am Divine service

9:15 am Bible Study/Sunday School

10:30 am Divine Service

11:30 am Coffee Bites

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25

10:30 am Divine Service

Wednesday, December 27

No Divine Service or Bible Study

Looking Ahead:

December 31st

Only one Divine Service at 10:30 am

9:15 am Bible Study/Sunday School

10:30 am Divine Service

11:30 am Coffee Bites