



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD)
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**Second Sunday In Advent [Filia Zion]: The Sunday of the
 Fig Tree--"The Lord Is Yet to Come Again" 10 December
 2017**

Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. [Romans 15.13]

WELCOME TO FAITH! GOD'S HOUSE, YOUR HOME! To the friends who know us and to the visitors who are with us for the first time, the pastor and members of Faith Lutheran extend you a sincere welcome. We pray that your faith will be strengthened by your worship with us. *We invite our guests to sign the guest book in the entry way and worship with us again.*

**ORDER OF SERVICE—THE ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE—hymnal pg. 5
 THE PREPARATION**

Pre-service prayers (hymnal pg. 4; 102-109; 118; 170)

The Lighting Of The Advent Candle
 Today we light the **second candle**, the **Bethlehem Candle**. This candle reminds us of God's promise to send the Savior to be born in Bethlehem.

Hymn #68 The Advent of Our King

At the final stanza, the congregation turns facing the processional cross

Invocation hymnal pg. 5
 Confession/ Absolution hymnal pg. 5-6

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD—Jesus comes with His word to enlighten us

Introit: (Isaiah 62.11b, 30. 30, 29; Psalm 80.1)

P: Daughter of Zion, **C: Behold Your salvation comes.**

P: The Lord will cause His majestic voice to be heard;

C: You shall have gladness of heart.

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, **C: You who lead Joseph like a flock!**

Gloria Patri pg. 6

Kyrie [Lord] pg. 7

Gloria in Excelsis [Glory in the Highest] **Omitted until Christmas**

Salutation/ Collect pg. 9

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, so that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen**

Epistle— Romans 15. 4-13 [EHV]

⁴Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. ⁵And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. ⁸For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. ⁹He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,
 and I will sing to your name.

¹⁰And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

¹¹And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
 and let all the peoples give him praise.

¹²And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,
 and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;
 on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gradual: (Psalm 50.2,3a, 5; Luke 21.26b, 27)

P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth.

C: Our God shall come.

P: Gather My saints together with Me,

**C: those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice. Hallelujah!
 Hallelujah!**

P: The powers of heaven will be shaken.

C: Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Hallelujah!

Triple Hallelujah pg. 10

Gospel: St. Luke 21. 25-36 [EHV] pg. 11

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, ²⁶people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”

²⁹He told them a parable. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. ³¹So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴“Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. ³⁵For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Apostles’ Creed pg. 12

Hymn #611 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

Sermon—Romans 15. 4-13

Advent’s Prayer

1. Hope
2. Joy and peace

[Silence for meditation]

Offertory pg. 12

Offering

Stewardship Thought: Romans 15:4 “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction.” God’s Word was given to us to bless

us. The Bible warns us of our sin and points us to Christ for our salvation. The Bible also instructs us as to how to live out our Christians lives – this is the “third use of the Law.” As Christians we should welcome this instruction in humble faith: we know that Christ has saved us, know we want to know how to live lives of faith that are pleasing to Him.

The Prayer Of The Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Heavenly Father, by speaking You created out of nothing the entire universe and the earth on which we dwell. All that You created was good, yet the first parents sinned and brought the world into corruption and decay. We give You thanks that Christ came into the world to save us from our sin. As we await His second coming, grant us faithful hearts that eagerly wait for His reappearing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, You cause Your majestic voice to be heard. Your Law is a hammer to our hearts, exposing our every misdeed. You know that we have failed to keep Your commandments in every way. We do not deserve Your mercies or any good thing. Yet, You sent Your Son — our Good Shepherd — to take away the sin of the world. Restore us, O God, and let Your face shine on us that we may be saved. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the world is filled with sin and trouble. The devil, the world and our own sinful nature try to deceive us and mislead us into false belief, despair and other great shame and vice. Guide us by Your Spirit, that we may escape these things and remain firm in the faith. Keep watch over us and strengthen us, that our hearts may not be weighed down with the cares of this life. Grant that we may receive the goal of our faith: the eternal salvation of our bodies and souls. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, as we heard in last week’s Gospel that Jesus rode into Jerusalem as Your people sang their hosannas, fill our hearts with that same joy as we anticipate Christ’s second advent, that we may straighten up and raise our heads, for our redemption is drawing near. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, Your Word has been sent forth into the world to the joy and edification of Your holy people. Grant that Your Word may encourage, comfort and strengthen all who hear it. Grant faith to those who do not know You, both here and abroad, that all peoples may sing to Your name

and extol Your goodness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, fill all who hear Your Word with all joy and peace in believing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of all, many in our midst have been afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties. Be merciful to those who are close to us, our loved ones and members of our church, that they may be granted health or strength to endure their afflictions. Help us all to see that when Christ returns in glory, He will make all things new; even our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, You have taught us to straighten up and raise our heads when we see the coming of the Son of Man. Even now, Your Son comes to us under the bread and wine in the Sacrament. Grant that all who commune today may receive the very body and true blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all their sins. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer pg. 14
The Collect for the Church pg. 14

Benediction pg. 14

Hymn #64 Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes

The congregation faces the processional cross as it leaves

Silent Prayer

Worship Continues With The Service of the Sacrament where Jesus comes to nourish us with His Body and Blood

I always sin, therefore I always go to Communion. –St. Ambrose

[De sacramentis, IV, 6, 28]

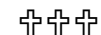
TELL THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

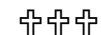
Tuesday—Bible Study (Revelation) 6 pm
Thursday—Bible Study 9.30 am
Sunday—Coffee Hour/ Christmas Cookie Exchange after service
24 December— Advent 4 **Morning Service** 11 am ;

Christmas Eve Service 7 pm [Bring your poinsettia to beautify chancel and bring it back home with you]

Please pray for: Virginia Butler, Dan and Jean Fraser, Jonna Holden, Arthur Scott, Karen Weiner; Mary Ellen Carl.



PRAYER OF COMMUNICANTS: O Lord, You ordained mysteries in our holy religion to exercise our faith and raise our profoundest adorations of Your divine majesty. You did not ordain them to encourage a bold arrogance in us to search into the depths of Your incomprehensible nature. Your presence in the elements of the bread and wine, by the influences of Your Spirit, and by the application of Your merits to the soul of the truly penitent, shall be sufficient for me to adore Your love, to revere Your Sacrament, and to come to Your table. O blessed Jesus, I beg the assistance of Your grace, and a happy communion between You and my soul. Amen. [Johann Gerhard, 1582-1637]



RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: At Faith we offer Holy Communion to members in a separate brief service following morning services of Matins, Morning Prayer or Morning Service. Striving to confess and practice all that God has taught us in His Word, we offer the Blessed Sacrament to our own members and members of other congregations in fellowship with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as we express our unity of faith on the basis of all of God's Word [1 Cor. 10.16-17].

PRAYER: O almighty and everlasting God, by Your dear Son You have promised us forgiveness of our sins and deliverance from eternal death. We pray that by Your Holy Spirit You will daily strengthen our faith in Your grace through Christ, and establish in us the certain hope that we shall not die, but peacefully sleep, and be raised on the Last Day to eternal life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Epistle: Romans 15. 4-13 The person who rejoices in the present salvation in Christ and has peace with God is the person who also confidently hopes for the completion of salvation—the future glory. And to the degree that joy and peace increase, hope also strengthens. Of course only in the power of the Holy Spirit do Christians hold fast to their hope in the midst of the many adversities of this age which test faith and which still stand in the way of their glorification. And so the apostle desires and prays for the Christians, just as they themselves should also pray, that the God of hope, Who gives and works hope, would make them joyful and peaceful in faith so that in the power of God and His Spirit they, full of hope and rightly confident, may look forward to and go to meet the blessed goal to which they were appointed. [Stoekhardt]

Gospel: Luke 21. 25-36 Every bodily sickness in a man reminds him of his mortality and exhorts him to set his house in order. In the same way, the signs in the heavens and on earth that mankind has witnessed through the centuries have been a repeated warning that the last hour is soon to strike. God has sounded these warnings with the unmistakable clarity of a trumpet call, and yet people profess to be secure and unconcerned, as if to say, "My Lord won't come for a long time." From such false security may the Lord, by His grace, preserve us! [Walther]

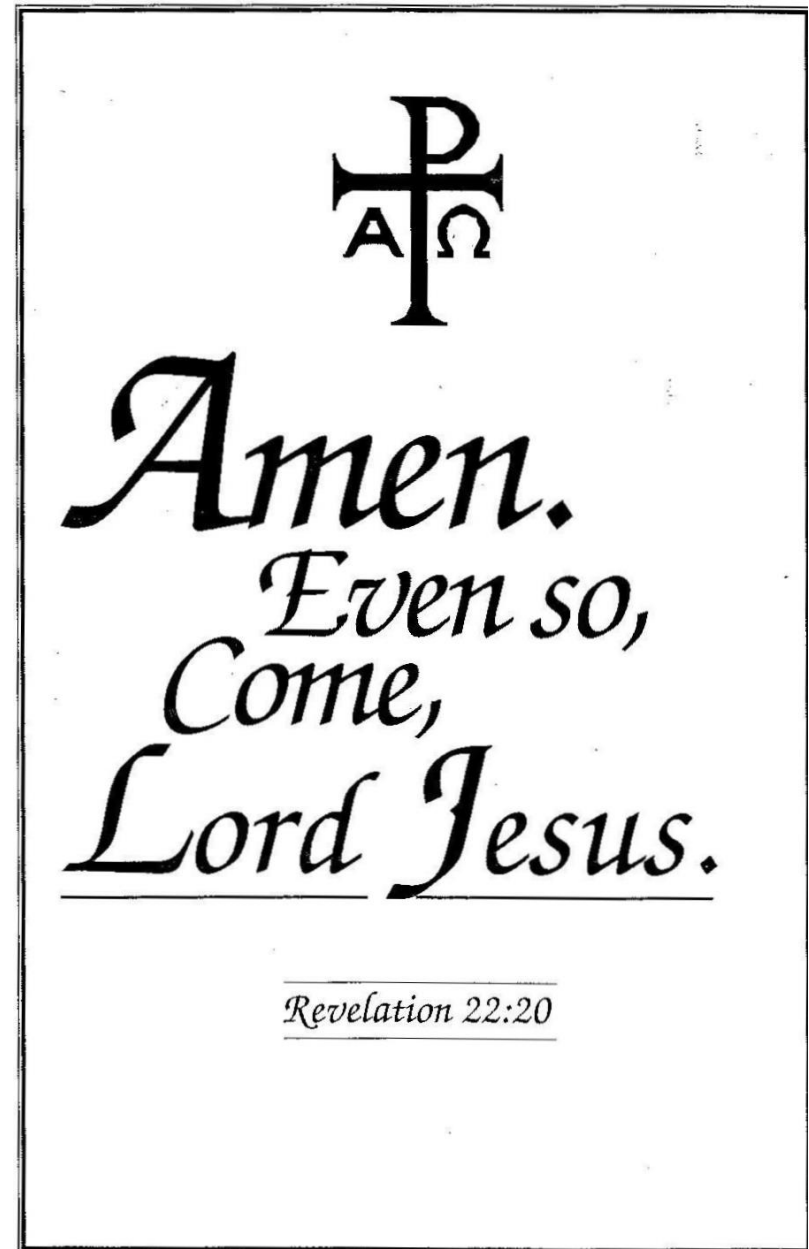
Luther notes on the Gospel: It should be a pleasant sight to us when these signs appear, for thereby God comforts us and indicates that He is about to punish the world and finally redeem us from all misfortune and misery. In view of this, we should not only expect the Blessed Day with joy but also really long, sigh, and cry for it to the Lord Christ and say: You have promised this Day as our redemption from all evil; let it come now, this very hour, if it is so to be, and put an end to this misery.

True is the proverb and better than everything they have hitherto taught about remorse: never to sin again is repentance at its best; and a new life is the best repentance. (3870)

But the sinners who confess their sins, and are repentant, who wish they had not so angered God, who find all their concern and sorrow in the fact that they have offended God and have not kept His commandments and, therefore, pray for grace—these sinners shall find grace. (2158)

PRAYERS: Lord God, heavenly Father, by Your Son You have revealed to us that heaven and earth will pass away, that our bodies will rise again, and that all of us will be placed before the Judgment. We pray that by Your Holy Spirit You would keep us in Your Word and the true faith. Graciously protect us from sin and preserve us in every temptation, so that our hearts are not burdened with gluttony and drunkenness and with worries about this life, but that we may always be awake praying and awaiting the return of Your Son in the certain hope of Your grace, and be eternally saved by Him. Amen.

Awaken us, dear Lord God, so that when Your Son comes to us we are ready to receive Him with joy and serve You with a pure heart. Amen.



O God, You gladden us with the yearly anticipation of our redemption. Grant that we who now joyfully receive Your only-begotten Son as our Redeemer may also behold Him without fear when He comes as Judge. Amen.