



Changed by LOVE that Compels Us

A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

The First Sunday of Advent

11:15 am More Modern Worship

November 28, 2021

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP TODAY

May your worship be blest as you hear the Word of God and respond.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Charlotte, Michigan

WELCOME

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church. May God's word and Spirit touch your heart, mind, and life this morning to give you renewal, peace, and joy.

As we come to worship today, we want to reflect the wonderful one and only true God Who makes us His through the means of grace, giving us the gift of eternal life. Not only does He save us from eternal destruction, He is working in us continually through His word and Spirit to grow our faith and guide our lives.

Before we worship, let's pray that God would fill the spirits of all who worship, renewing us, enlightening us, and giving us zeal. Please pray also that anyone who does not yet trust God's promise of salvation through Jesus and trust Jesus as his/her Savior would do so today.

ADVENT

. . . the season of coming . . .

The season of advent prepares us for the celebration of Christmas. In a sense, at Christmas we celebrate a birthday or anniversary of Jesus' first coming when He was born into this world as the divine and human child. As we confess in the Apostles Creed: I believe "in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary." To this day Jesus is divine and human.

In this season we also reflect on His other comings into our lives:

- His coming into us individually to rescue us from our punishment
- His daily coming in His word and sacrament and through the Spirit to grow us spiritually and mature us
- His coming at the end of this age to take us with Him to God's presence forever.

"CONNECTION FORM" AND PRAYER REQUESTS

(a blue insert in your bulletin)

We are asking that every individual or family complete a "Connection Form" and put it into the offering basket. Please also share your prayer requests.

CHILDCARE

If you need a place to take a child during the worship, you may certainly take your child to the room behind the windows at the back of the sanctuary.

There is a speaker so that you can see and hear the service.

PLEASE PRAY

Please pray for yourself and fellow worshipers and worship leaders.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please help the children worship.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

THE INVOCATION AND BLESSING

Pastor: We have come together today to worship the Sovereign God –
the true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Who has mercifully and graciously made us His people
through the sacrificial death of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Pastor: The Lord be with you as we worship.

People: And also with you.

A PSALM OF PRAISE FOR THE GOD OF SALVATION – Psalm 98

Pastor: Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

**All: The LORD has made His salvation known . . .
and revealed His righteousness to the nations.
He has remembered His love and His faithfulness
to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Pastor: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD.

**All: Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.**

Pastor: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.

**All: Let them sing before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness . . .
and the peoples with equity.**

Pastor: All glory be to the one true God.

**All: 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**

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES

OUR CONFESSION OF SINS AND OF FAITH

Pastor: The Bible tells us: "We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ... By one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." (Hebrews 10:10, 14)
This good news from God encourages us to confess our sinfulness and sin. Let us go to God with sincere hearts and confess our sins to God, seeking forgiveness because Jesus is our rescuer.

**All: Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered. (Psalm 32:1)**

Pastor: Blessed is he . . . whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them. (Psalm 146:5-6)

**All: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner,
confess to You all my sins and iniquities . . .
with which I have ever offended You . . .
and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever.
But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them,
and I pray You of Your boundless mercy . . .
and for the sake of the holy, innocent,
bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
to be gracious and merciful to me,
a poor sinful being. Amen**

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S GRACE

OUR RESPONSE IN SONG - "God with Us"

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

OUR PRAYERS AS A CONGREGATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses . . .
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory . . .
forever and ever. Amen**

DELIVER US FROM EVIL

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING – Malachi 3:1-3 (ESV)

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.”

Pastor: This is God’s word through Malachi the prophet.

THE EPISTLE READING – Romans 13:8-11 (ESV)

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

Pastor: This is God’s word through the apostle Paul.

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE GOSPEL READING – Luke 21:25-33 (ESV)

Jesus said: “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

Pastor: This is the word of God from Jesus,

Who is worthy of adoration and praise. Therefore we pray . . .
**All: Praise to You, Jesus! Enable us to live in faith by Your truth.
Protect us from the evil one, Satan, and all his allies in this world.
Make us holy in every aspect of our lives . . .
and enable us to live for Your glory . . .
until we live with You in perfect holiness in eternity. Amen**

A SONG OF INVITATION AND PRAISE - "Praise Chorus"
(from "O Come, All Ye Faithful")

THE MESSAGE

"The Debt of Love"

Romans 13:8-11
(the epistle reading)

Notes

A PRAYER FOR OUR TRUST IN GOD'S WORD

THY WILL BE DONE FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH – The Nicene Creed (adapted)

Pastor: Since you have now heard the word of God, I ask you to affirm your faith.
Do you believe in the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

All: I do believe in the Triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe that God is the almighty creator?

All: I believe that He is the maker of all things, visible and invisible.

Pastor: Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

**All: I believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God,
Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
. . . and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary . . .
and was made man; and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures . .
and ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of the Father;
and He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Spirit of God and His work in you?

**All: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of Life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and Son together is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke by the prophets.**

Pastor: Do you believe that the Holy Spirit has brought you
into the holy Christian church?

**All: I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OUR SONG OF PRAISE – “How Great Is Our God”

THINE IS THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER

OUR GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

As people who have been forgiven and given God's Spirit,
we are privileged to respond to His grace and Lordship
by returning to Him a portion of what He has given to us.

Please also put your “Participation Form” into the offering basket.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

OUR EXPRESSION OF FAITH AND PRAISE IN SONG - "Your Great Name"

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: (the blessing)

All: **Amen**

*Private Prayer
Announcements*

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THANKS FOR WORSHIPING

We are thankful you worshiped at First Lutheran today.
We pray that your participation has renewed your spirit and enlightened you.
If you are a guest or visitor, a special welcome to you. God go with you.

A PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I confess that I am a sinner.
I have been a sinner since my conception. I have a sinful nature.
I have not loved You whole-heartedly even though You loved me enough
to rescue me from eternal death. I have not pursued knowing
You whole-heartedly even though Your word is the source of truth and life.

Holy God, take away my sin as You have promised through the death and
righteous life of Jesus, my Savior. Help me learn. Help me grow spiritually.
Help me love Your word. Help me pray. Fill me with Your Spirit that
I may overflow with righteousness and zeal. Lord, I want to live my life
passionately for You. I pray in the name of Jesus, my Savior. Amen

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

SM Pastor Mark Gawura and SM Pastor Dan Longden
Traci Backus – Leader of the Worship Music Team

Credits

The portions of the Bible printed in the service folder are from the New International Version,
copyrighted by Zondervan Publishing House. They are used with permission.
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A PRAYER

O Lord, our God, You are worthy of all praise and honor. Your perfectness . . .
in everything – Your holiness – and Your awesome mercy, grace, compassion,
and love fill us with awe and reverence.

Faithful Lord, we seek Your help for this congregation, its mission and its people.
Fill us with desire to serve You with everything we are and have.
Raise up hundreds to expand the ministry . . . of loving, serving, caring,
encouraging, teaching, and sharing Your love and good news.
Make us generous in our use of everything we are and have. Amen