

FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Conceived by the Holy Spirit

CHRISTMAS EVE (EARLY)
VESPERS

WELCOME!

If you are visiting us for the first time, welcome! Please see Pastor Hendrix after the service for a special Christmas gift.

WE LOVE LETTING KIDS BE WITH JESUS

Children learn the faith by watching those around them. Our service is for kids too. If we can help you in any way, let us know.

RESTROOMS & NURSERY

Restrooms are located downstairs for your convenience. We also offer a nursery wired with audio. If you need any further assistance, please feel free to ask an usher.

MASKS

If your conscience allows, and you are medically able to do so, we ask that you please wear a mask while inside. In all things, “Let us excuse [our neighbor], speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.” (8th Commandment, Explanation)

SERVICE NOTES

This is the sign of God’s love toward us, that He sent His only begotten Son into the world (1 Jn 4:7–16). By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin conceived and bore a Son, whose name was Immanuel (Is 7:10–14). This child is God-with-us, God for us, God on our side. The Son of God came down and shared fully in our humanity in order to rescue us and lift us up out of our fallen state. He is called Jesus, the One who saves His people from their sins (Mt 1:18–25). He was born among us, that we might live through Him.

SERVING TODAY

Preacher:	Rev. Jeff Hendrix
Organist:	Caroline Rehborg
Altar Guild:	Lloyd & Ruth Klahn

(** indicates, please stand)

**** CONFESSION**

P Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

C **Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful | 133 v. 1, 3

**1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come... ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain:


**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

(Refrain)


VERSICLES

pg. 120

P  O Lord, open my lips.



C And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

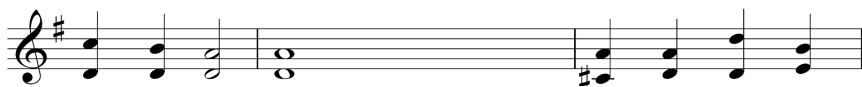
P  Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



C Make haste to help me, O Lord.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the



Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er



Shall be: for - ev - er - more. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia!

PSALM 110:1-4



- P** ¹The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit `at My right hand, /
Till I make Your enemies `Your *footstool*.”
- ²The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength `out of Zion. /
Rule in the midst of `Your enemies!
- ³Your people shall `be volunteers /
In the day `of Your power;
In the beauties of holiness, from the womb `of the morning, /
You have the `dew of Your youth.
- ⁴The Lord has sworn And `will not relent, /
“You are a priest forever According to the order of `Melchizedek.”
- C** **Glory be to the Father `and to the Son /**
and to `the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the be`ginning, is now, /
and ever shall be, forever`more. A-men.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 7:10-14

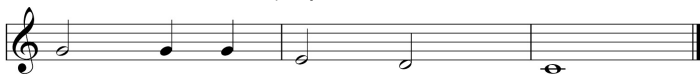
¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz again. He said, ¹¹“Ask for a sign from the Lord your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.”

¹²But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the Lord.”

¹³So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

P  O Lord, have mercy upon us.



C Thanks be to You, O Lord!

RESPONSORY

What Child Is This? | 145 vv. 1-2

**1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**


EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-16

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

¹²No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love has been brought to its goal in us. ¹³This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. ¹⁶We also have come to know and trust the love that God has for us.

P  O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C  **Thanks be to You, O Lord!**

RESPONSORY

Away in A Manger | 119 vv. 1, 3

**1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

**** CHRISTMAS EVE GOSPEL**

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”

²⁴When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, ²⁵but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

P  O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C  **Thanks be to You, O Lord!**

OFFICE HYMN

All My Heart Sings and Rejoices | **115** *(select verses)*



1. All my heart sings and re - joic - es As I hear Far and near
3. Shall we still dread God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave
4. Should He who Him - self im - part - ed Aught with - hold From the fold,
5. If our bless - ed Lord and Mak - er Hat - ed men, Would He then



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. Christ is born! their choirs are sing - ing
His most cher - ished Trea - sure? To re - deem us, He hath giv - en
Leave us bro - ken - heart - ed? Should the Son of God not love us,
Be of flesh par - tak - er? If He in our woe de - light - ed,



Till the air Ev - ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.
Who, to cheer Suf - frers here, Left His throne a - bove us?
Would He bear All the care Of our race be - night - ed?

7. Hark! A voice from yonder manger.
Soft and sweet, Doth entreat:
“Flee from woe and danger.
Brethren, from all ills that grieve you
You are freed; All you need!
I will surely give you.”

9. Ye whose anguish knew no measure,
Weep no more; See the door
To celestial pleasure.
Cling to Him, for He will guide you
Where no cross, Pain, or loss
Can again betide you.

10. Hither come, ye heavy-hearted,
Who for sin, Deep within,
Long and sore have smarted.
For the poisoned wounds you're feeling
Help is near, One is here
Mighty for their healing.

Frohlich soll mein Herze springen
P. Gerhardt, 1607-76
Tr. C. Winkworth, 1827-78, *alt.*

FROHLICH SOLL MEIN HERZE SPRINGEN
J. Crüger, 1598-1662

SERMON (Matthew 1:18-25)

**** CANTICLE HYMN: GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** [*Glory to God in the Highest (Luke 2:14)*] | **35 v. 1**

1. All glory be to God on high,
Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended.
God showeth His good will to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again;
O thank Him for His goodness!

** KYRIE

pg. 116



C Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.



Christ have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

** LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 117



C Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, Hal-low-ed be Thy name,



Thy king-dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-en.



Give us this day our dai-ly bread; And for-give us our tres-pass-es,



as we for-give those who tres-pass a- gainst us;



And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, But de-liv-er us from e-vil.



For Thine is the king-dom and the pow'r and the glo-ry




for-ev-er and ev-er.




A - - - men.

PRAYER

P  O Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that of Your great goodness and mercy You allowed Your only-begotten Son to become incarnate that we might be redeemed from sin and everlasting death, and we beseech You, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that we may evermore give You heartfelt thanks for Your grace and may be comforted by His birth in all time of tribulation and temptation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C  **Amen.**

P  Let us bless the Lord.



C **Thanks be to God.**

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



C **Amen.**

HYMNS by CANDLE LIGHT

*Using the light from the Christ Candle, the ushers will light the candles of those in the center.
From there, please light each candle in succession in your pew.*

Keep your candle lit until both hymns are sung and the service ends.

HYMN

Silent Night | 140 vv. 1, 3

1. Silent night! Holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright,
 Round yon Virgin mother and Child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace...

3. Silent night! Holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth...

HYMN

O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is | 161 (select verses printed)



1. O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is
 7. Thou Christ - ian heart, Who - e'er thou art,
 8. Re - memb - er thou What glo - ry now



My par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.
 Be of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee.
 The Lord pre - pared thee for all earth - ly sad - ness.



For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word
 For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild,
 The an - gel host Can ne - ver boast



Made flesh for us— here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.
 Joins thee to Him— how great - ly God must love thee!
 Of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.

9. There dost thou see In front of thee
 Thy flesh and blood which steer the clouds of heaven?
 What then can rise To steal this prize,
 And leave thy soul by fear and sorrow driven?

10. Thy mind so weak Will seldom seek
 Its comfort in the midst of sin and danger.
 So turn thine eyes Down from the skies
 And find thy comfort in a lowly manger.



(hymn continues on the next page)

**11. Though plagues thou bear, Do not despair!
Thy Brother will not spurn thy grief and sighing.
His heart is meek And loves the weak,
Nor can He see our suff'ring without crying.**

**14. To say no more, He is the Door
To all the joys true life could ever offer.
He soon will send A blessed end
To all that faithful Christians here must suffer.**

**15. The world may hold Her wealth and gold;
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true Treasure.
To Him hold fast Until at last
A crown be thine and honor in full measure.**

O Jesu Christ, dein Kripplein ist

P. Gerhardt, 1607-76

V. 1, 7, 8, 15 Tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941

V. 9-11, 14 Tr. M. Preus, 2010

O JESU CHRIST, DEIN KRIPPLEIN IST

J. Crüger, 1598-1662

You may extinguish your candles and be seated.

Faith Lutheran Church

143 Washington Street, Oregon, WI

FaithLutheranOregon.com | Pastor@FaithLutheranOregon.com

Pastor Jeff Hendrix

Office: 608-835-3554 | Pastor's Cell: 608-405-9522



CHRISTMAS *at* FAITH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Vespers | 6:30pm – Dec. 24.

An evening service of preparation for Christmas, with singing and prayer, centered around Matthew's Christmas account. This service is more reflective than Christmas morning and has historically been seen as the "warm-up" to the next morning's service.

Midnight Mass | 11:00pm – Dec. 24.

A different service than 6:30pm vespers. This service will be a smaller gathering, candle-lit, and include the Lord's Supper, or Christ's Mass, as well as many familiar Christmas hymns. We hear Luke's Gospel at this service.

Christ's Mass Divine Service | 9:00am – Christmas Morning, Dec. 25.

Don't forget the Mass in Christmas. Christ is born for us today in His Word and Sacraments. This joyous service is complete with the celebration of the incarnate Christ in Holy Communion. The Christmas account in the Gospel of John gives us our theme for today.

First Sunday in Christmas – Feast of St. John | 9:00am, Dec. 27.

The apostle and evangelist who wrote that Christ is the Light of the World is commemorated on this day. The oldest of the apostles comforts us in our last days.

Second Sunday in Christmas | 9:00am, Jan. 3

A true comfort for anyone who has lost a child. Herod's slaying of the children in search of the young child Jesus meant that those children were the first to be martyred for the sake of Jesus. Yet, the fact that Jesus came as an infant shows that He has come to suffer for and redeem even little children.

12th Day of Christmas Party | 4:00-5:30pm, Jan. 5

Join us for a party with wassail, drinks, treats, and singing as we celebrate the final night of Christmas. Held OUTSIDE around a bonfire this year at the Parsonage. Contact Pastor for address.

Feast of Epiphany Evening Service | 6:30pm, Jan. 6

Epiphany, the celebration of the wise men visiting the young boy Jesus, is always January 6. Come worship the christ child as the wise men did.