



WAIT UPON THE LORD WITH FAITH

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worship and Communion 10:00am

*We welcome all people into grace through
faith as we belong, behave and believe in
Jesus Christ.*



Welcome to Worship: Some of us will dance in rejoicing. Some of us will limp in, broken and weak. However we are, it doesn't matter. God set the table ahead of time with a seat uniquely prepared for everyone at the Lord's table this worship day. Amen. Author: Rev. Mark Tidsworth, 2021.

If you are a visitor to First Lutheran, we invite you to fill out the tear off card on the back of the service folder and place it in the offering plate.

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday

November 28, 2021

Holy Communion 10am

Prelude

Christ, Be Our Light
Bernadette Farrell

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

All Amen

Pastor Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
Please kneel as able.

Pastor God for whom we wait,

All in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

Pastor God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

All Amen.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
yet a King, born to reign in us for - e - ver,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
fi - cient me - rit, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830;
harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906



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HYFRYDOL
www.hymnary.org/text/come_thou_long_expected_jesus_born_to

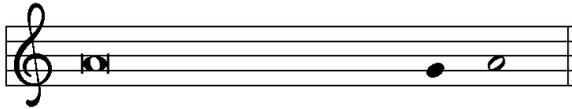
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Greeting

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

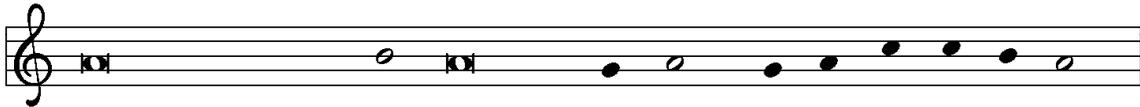
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



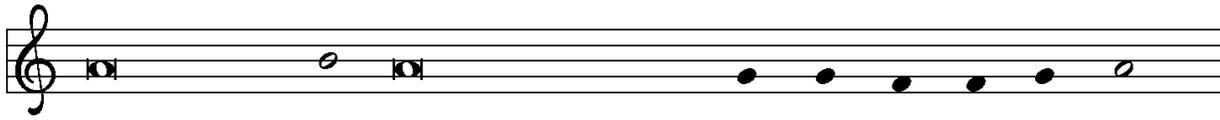
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

George and Billie Vasquez

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

Children's Message

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

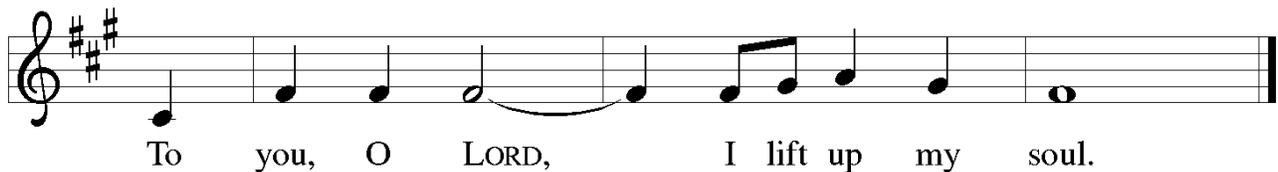
¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Lector Word of God, word of life.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 25



Cantor ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous. ⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. **Antiphon**

Cantor ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. ⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. **Antiphon**



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus: Je - sus brings peace.

Pastor The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 21st chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



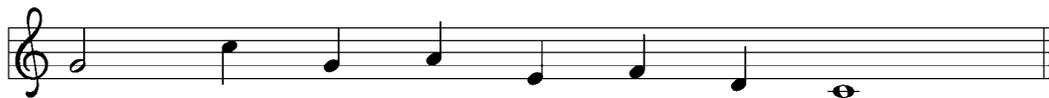
thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite

Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai

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³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Pastor The gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Rev. Paul Appel

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

ELW#436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Creed

Asst With the whole church,
we join in professing the Christian Faith.

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Asst In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Asst God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

All We wait upon you Lord.

Asst God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

All We wait upon you Lord.

Asst God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

All We wait upon you Lord.

Asst God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. We pray for those who are ill in mind, body or spirit including Theresa, Earl, Kay, those on our sustaining prayer list and those we name now... . Hear us, O God.

All We wait upon you Lord.

Asst God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

All We wait upon you Lord.

Asst God of abiding, grant comfort and peace to our ministry partners. We pray for Bishops Eaton and Rinehart, the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, and our partners in Peru, the Central African Republic and our Maasai friends in Tanzania. Hear us, O God.

All We wait upon you Lord.

Asst God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

All We wait upon you Lord.

Pastor God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

All Amen.

Passing the Peace

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you always.

All And also with you.

Please greet others with a wave to maintain social distancing.

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Goenyong Lee

Offering Prayer

Asst God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

Preface

Pastor It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,', 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Thanksgiving at the Table

Please kneel as able.

Pastor Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All 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.**

Invitation To Communion

Pastor Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Please be seated.

Distribution

Ushers will direct you to follow social distancing as you come forward to receive the promise of God's grace in the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ. As you come forward you will find stationary offering plates in which to place your offering. As you come forward, observe social distancing. Extend your hand toward the celebrant who will place a wafer of bread on your open palm. You may respond with the affirmation, "Amen." Step to the side to eat the wafer. Step to the communion tray station where an assistant guide you to pick up your own prefilled cup of wine. You may again offer the affirmation, "Amen." Then step to the side to drink the wine and place the used cup in a receptacle and then return to your pew by the side aisle.

Communion Song



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Reception of Holy Communion

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

**Johann Crüger
Paul Gerhardt**

Communion Hymns

***Come, now, O Prince of Peace
My Lord, What a Morning***

ELW#247

ELW#438

Please stand as able.

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ✚
strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Prayer

Asst Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Pastor The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

Sending Song

ELW#259

Fling Wide the door

Dismissal

Asst Go in peace. Christ is near.

All Thanks be to God.

Postlude

***He Comes With Clouds Descending*
Charles Wesley, Thomas Oliver**

Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
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Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of the birthdays of Charles Erick Ekelund 11-28-1956 and R.L. (Bobby) Sanderson Jr. 11-23-1956 by Joyce Ekelund and Barbara Sanderson.

Prayer Concerns: Earl Gilmore, Theresa Boysen, Kay Hoh

Christian Sympathy is expressed to Theresa Low upon the death of her husband Roger Low last Sunday.

Sustaining Prayers: Jeanie Doreck, Pat Henderson, Gene Nelson, John Doreck, Lee King, Darrell Brooks, Christina Muehe, Nicole Cheramie, Ann Reiser, Barbara Austin, Kristi Martorell, Helga Garcia, Dana Connor, Donnie Nelson, Carl Davis, Anne Murphy, Cheryl Jaynes, Leslie Johnson, Stacey Bolden, Syleenia Gilman,

Serving at Worship Today

Crucifer	Roy Essex
Acolytes	Miguel Albarran, Evelyn Gualt
Lay Minister	Kay Tucker
Lector	Adam Palmer
Altar Guild	Doug and Mary Lee Guthier
	Adam Palmer
Cantor	Diane Denson
Ushers	JP Massa, Dennis Broughton

This Week at First Lutheran

Sunday - Holy Communion, 10:00am

Tuesday - Online Bible Study, 6:30pm

Wednesday - Share Your Holidays/Feed Galveston, Ball High

Wednesday - Advent Worship, 6:30pm

Advent 2021: Wait Upon the Lord During the rush of the season, join in a quiet time of worship on Wednesdays in Advent. Use this as a way of slowing down, focusing on Christ and waiting thus upon the Lord. Gather in the sanctuary for worship at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays for a service of word, reflection and Holy Communion.

Magazines - the need for magazines is back! Please bring in your magazines once you are through with them and put them in the Narthex. Jack Danner will collect them and distribute them.

Ladies Game Day - will not be held on December 21st. Instead they will meet December 14th at Nick's on 37th and Seawall. Please RSVP with Kay at kay.henson@ymail.com or 409-370-1318. There will not be a gift exchange just fellowship over lunch.

Kid's Chairs for sale! FLC has more wooden children's chairs than we can use so we are opening them up for the congregation. Each chair will be \$20 and all proceeds will help send FLC's youth to the the National Youth Gathering this summer. You can pay with cash, check, or online. See the youth on Sunday in the Narthex to purchase your chairs. For questions, email emily@firstlutherangalveston.com.

Thank you to everyone who wrote cards for Hope for the Holidays, on Nov 14th. Hope for the Holidays is a LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services) program which works to bring hope and compassion to those spending Christmas in immigrant detention centers. These Christmas cards will remind our neighbors that we haven't forgotten them. Want to do more? To buy Christmas presents for immigrant children, you can make a financial donation here: LIRS.org/GiveHope

Feeding 150 is our campaign to raise the last \$1500 needed for Feed Galveston. We have officially raised \$1,589! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this campaign! On December 1, we will meet our goal of packaging 150,000 servings of food in 2021. If you didn't get a chance to contribute, you will have many more chances. Feed Galveston is an ongoing ministry and we are always preparing for our next event. To donate, go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/YQ7W/campaign/C-Z9MW>

ELCA Good Gifts- It's that time of year again! Time for you to purchase pigs, goats, chickens, water filters, Bibles, bees, latrines, school supplies and so much more through the ELCA Good Gifts programs. It is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love both near and far! Look for the Mission Team tree near the parish hall.

Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Friday, December 3, 2021

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Saturday, December 4, 2021

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

