

FAITH COVENANT

C H U R C H

Spreading A Love for God and His Glory

November 30, 2025



There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him.

Isaiah 11:1

*Our worship is
a response to
God's initiative.
The pattern of
our worship
reflects the
gospel.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*The word "Advent" comes from the Latin meaning "coming" or "arrival."
Advent is a time of preparation for the final coming of Jesus, while we give thanks
for the gift of Christ in the past. We meditate on the faithfulness of God to his
promises –past, present, and future.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Isaiah 9:6; 1 Timothy 3:16*

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the
government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name
shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels, was preached among the nations,
was believed on in the world, and was taken up in
glory.

Leader: Proclaim it among the nations. Sing of his greatness you
people of God.

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***COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS - Hymn #196**

Come thou long-expected Jesus born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

God Calls Us

The Lord
summons his
people to
worship and we
respond in
obedience.
The Lord's call
is a call to
action. We
gather, praise,
adore, give
thanks.
The Call to
Worship is a
joyful summons
and a clear
reminder that
worship is our
coming into
God's presence
by his
command, and
not our
command that
He come into
our presence.

***AWAKE MY SOUL (PSALM 57)**

Be gracious to me, oh God
Hide me in the shadow of Your wings
Till destruction of the enemy goes by
Be gracious to me, oh God

Be merciful to me, my King
There's a darkness in this cave surrounding me
When the swords are drawn and spears and arrows fly
Be merciful to me, my King

(Chorus)
You are exalted, oh God above the heavens
Come let Your glory cover the earth
You have saved me from the roaring lions
Awake my soul to love You, awake my soul to sing

Be faithful to me, my Lord
Protect me when the enemies draw near
Though they set their nets before me in the night
Be faithful to me, my Lord
(Chorus)

(Bridge 2x)
I will sing for all You've done
You have changed my life
Rescued me from the grave
Kept me safe through the night
(Chorus)

Awake my soul to love You, awake my soul to sing

COMMON CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION: *1 Samuel 15:22-23*

Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.

All: Have mercy on us Lord. We often chose sacrifice over obedience. We presume upon your grace, and delight in our show of faith; yet our hearts can be far from you. Forgive us of our disobedience, when we have chosen to love our sin more than to love you. Forgive us of our rebellion, when we have willingly walked away from your commands, in order to pursue the sins of our flesh. Keep us from self-worship, disguised as true religion. Purify and cleanse us by the blood of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

DECLARATION OF GRACE: *Hebrews 9:13-14*

Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

*AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN - *Hymn #455*

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou,
My God, should die for me?

(Chorus)

Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!
(cont. opposite)

God Cleanses Us

The biblical response to God's call to be in his presence is confessing our sins. We humble ourselves when we approach our God. This is a corporate prayer of all God's people. It is a great privilege of the gospel that we can stand forgiven before the Lord of glory.

*AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN (*cont.*)

'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
(Chorus)

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.
(Chorus)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.
(Chorus)

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold, I approach th' eternal throne, and claim the crown,
Through Christ my own.
(Chorus)

OFFERTORY & RESPONSE

*Reminder: please sign and pass the Attendance Register down the pew.
Children ages 4-6 excused for Children's Church (downstairs Corner Classroom)*

Offering

We give back to
God a portion of
what he has
given us to use to
declare that he is
Lord of all.
(This is part of
our service as a
church family,
and visitors
should not feel
obligated to
participate.)

ANCIENT OF DAYS

Though the nations rage
Kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King
Reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains:
That my God is the Ancient of Days

(Chorus)

*None above Him, none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power, all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of Days*

Though the dread of night
Overwhelms my soul
He is here with me
I am not alone
O His love is sure and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

(Chorus)

Though I may not see
What the future brings
I will watch and wait
For the Savior King
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

(Chorus)

For my God is the Ancient of Days

Sermon Series—Advent: A New King is Coming
Pastor Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D.
A New, New Beginning—Isaiah 11:1-5

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips she shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

I. God has a plan

II. God has the power

Questions for Further Reflection

1. What is significant about the sevenfold elaboration of the Spirit here?
2. Jerusalem's destruction is right around the corner from Isaiah's message. How would this be a source of encouragement for those in exile? How might this have been puzzling for those who returned later?
3. Read Isaiah 4:2 and 6:13. What kind of picture of future redemption does Isaiah present here with this imagery?
4. The coming of Christ fulfills this message in part. What still remains for his second return?
5. Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord comes and says: "The status quo will not get it done." What about Jesus changes not only the status quo but also the expectations of what a kingly Messiah should look like? Why is it that God's people still struggle with what it is to look like through history?
6. Knowing that in Christ your failures are not the final word, how are you encouraged in your life of following Jesus?

Children's Question

With Jesus, our failures are never the last word. He can work our worst moments into a trophy of his grace. How does Jesus encourage you when you have failed?

God

Consecrates Us

Consecrate means to make holy, to set apart. The Word of God does that for the lives of believers. Through the sermon, confessions of faith, and the offering we are sanctified for service to our Lord to joyfully offer up our lives to him.

*HOW LONG

How long? Will You turn Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

(Chorus)

*'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain?
Jesus, give us hope again!*

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?

(Chorus)

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?

(Chorus)

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Wine is located in the two outer rings; juice is located in the center ring.

God Communes with Us

The Lord
strengthens and
nourishes our
faith through a
sacramental meal.
Through Jesus,
communion with
God has been
reestablished. The
covenant has
been renewed.
The Lord's Supper
is the gospel
made visible for
us and we share
in it as the full
community
of God's
people.

We observe the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day as the climax of our worship service. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body—the Church. Visiting children who have not been examined by their church's leadership, we ask to refrain. By sharing in the Supper, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with our Triune God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. If you are in doubt about your participation, please refrain. Wine and bread are the elements of the supper as instituted by Jesus Christ. We recommend the use of wine; however we offer both juice and wine in the tray to allow true liberty of conscience.

PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

*THIS IS JESUS

Night of wonder, still and silent
Heaven's brilliance from above, light of glory
Pierced the darkness, mercy pierced my heart with love

(Chorus)

*This is Jesus, King of glory, here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who comes to save us, Prince of peace and Lord of all*

Oh the mystery who could fathom,
God would leave His Holy throne
For a manger, for a sinner, for us all to be His own
(Chorus)

Rejoice He is with us, Rejoice Hope is here (4x)
(Chorus)

For the hearts so prone to wander, for these feet so quick to flee
God is here and love is reaching, for the lost and least of these

*BENEDICTION

If you are in need of personal prayer, an elder is available up front after the service.

God Commissions Us

Having been richly blessed by the Lord in our worship, we are sent forth as his ambassadors of reconciliation into the world. Our worship of God as his people now extends into our lives throughout the week. We are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to him in all areas of our lives.

Leaders & Staff

Senior Pastor: Lloyd Pierson, Ph.D. — Associate Pastor: John Sackett

Youth & Family Pastor: Jake Neufeld

Elders: Tim Anderson, Jason Davis, Sean Iddings, Tom Jentz, Trent Neumann,
Don Olmsted, Lloyd Pierson, Matt Riley, John Sackett, Micah Tinkham

Deacons: Wade Carroll, Scott Cunningham, Terry Falk, Kyle Hanson, Patrick Jentz,
Jeff McGarvey, Tom Moody, Ryan Petersen, Mike Thompson, Bruce Tulloch

Assistant to the Deacons/Mercy Ministries: Dawn Tinkham

Music Director/Assistant: Lisa Iddings/Laura Sackett

Director of Women's Ministries: Sarah Morrison Refuge Director: Sissy Hashley

Staff: Kelly Brown, Hanni Hanson, Jenny Mattern, Niam Moody

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOCAL MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR: Faith Free Lutheran, Pastor Tim Herset

MISSIONARIES TO PRAY FOR: Trinity Center for World Missions

LADIES' CHRISTMAS TEA & COOKIE EXCHANGE: This is the final Sunday to sign up for ladies' holiday tea, which will be at the church on Sat., Dec. 6 at 4 pm.

MUG DRIVE: We will be phasing out of paper coffee cups over the next couple months and replacing them with real mugs. If you have dishwasher safe mugs to donate to the church, you can drop them off in the basket in the fellowship hall.

REFUGE GIFT CARDS: Leading up to the Christmas Tea, our church will be collecting gift cards for the Refuge ladies. (\$10-\$20 cards to Walmart/Smiths/Super 1 are the most helpful) The more donations we get, the more we can bless these ladies! Please bring your gift cards to the office by THIS Thurs., Dec. 4.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE INVITATIONS: Postcard-sized invitations are available in the foyer if you'd like to take a few to pass out to neighbors/friends/family.

HOLIDAY SEASON SERVICE TIMES: Please note that there will be NO Sunday school and the service times will change to 8:15 & 10:15 for the following dates: Dec. 14, Dec. 21, & Dec. 28. We will return to our regular schedule when Sunday school resumes on Jan. 4.

YOUTH GROUP TIME CHANGE: Starting December 3, middle school youth group will run from 6-7:30 pm on Wednesdays and the high school group from 6:30-8:15 pm. Feel free to reach out to Pastor Jake with any questions.

YOUTH GROUP GATHERING: There will be a joint youth group meet-up for 8th-12th graders on Sun, Dec. 7, from 2:30-5, at Faith Free Lutheran Church. Reach out to Pastor Jake with questions.

SERVING: November On-Call Deacon - Kyle Hanson

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

Today (1st service/2nd service)

Ushers: N&H Hanson / von Olhausen Family
Children's Church: A. Ingram & E. Morin / J. Thompson
Nursery: Streits / Hunters
Fellowship Hosts: N. Moody & L. Gomez
Communion Prep/Cleanup: G. Tronstad / A. Tinkham

Next Sunday December 7

Ushers: Ushers: C. Duncan & R. Hadley / Davis Family
Children's Church: T&T Jentz / J. Adney & C. Kliem
Nursery: Hobus Family / K. Anderson
Fellowship Hosts: R&C Bitney & K. Anderson
Communion Prep/Cleanup: J. Eck / N. Moody

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 & 11 am

Sunday School

10 am

Vespers

2nd Sunday @ 6 pm

Sunday Evening Prayer Svc

Non-Vespers Sundays @ 6 pm

Wednesday Youth Group

6-7:30pm (MS) / 6:30-8:15 pm (HS)

Elder/Deacon Meeting

3rd Monday @ 7 pm

Men's Breakfast

Wednesdays @ 6:30 am