

**ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE**  
**WEEK TWO – PRAYER**  
**December 9, 2020 – 7 pm**



**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**310 Southdale Road East**  
**London, ON**  
**N6E 1A1**

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **Invocation and Call to Worship**

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

**C Amen.**

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

**C God promises to be with us and keep us wherever we go.**

P He will not leave us until he has done what he has promised.

**C Surely the Lord is in this place!**

P This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

**C For God sent John the Baptist—**

P To turn the hearts of parents to their children.

**C To make ready a people prepared!**

**Hymn** “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

#711

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
 Much we need Your tender care.  
 In Your pleasant pastures feed us,  
 For our use Your fold prepare.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 You have bought us; we are Yours.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 You have bought us; we are Yours.

2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,  
 Be the guardian of our way;  
 Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,  
 Seek us when we go astray.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 Hear us children when we pray.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 Hear us children when we pray.

3 You have promised to receive us,  
 Poor and sinful though we be;  
 You have mercy to relieve us,  
 Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 Early let us turn to You.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 Early let us turn to You.

4 Early let us seek Your favor,  
 Early let us do Your will;  
 Blessèd Lord and only Savior,  
 With Your love our spirits fill.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 You have loved us, love us still.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 You have loved us, love us still.  
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### **Confession and Absolution**

P Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry—

**C Too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**

P Forgive what our lips tremble to name, .

**C What our hearts can no longer bear.**

P And what has become for us a consuming fire of

judgment. **C As parents, we have not fully loved our children.**

P As children, we have not fully loved our parents.

**C Set us free from a past that we cannot change.**

P Open to us a future where we can be changed.

**C And grant us grace to grow more and more in the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

P Surely the Lord is in this place as the God of love and kindness who forgives you, frees you, heals you, strengthens you and raises you up to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. He also sends his Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of parents to their children.

**C To make ready a people prepared!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray: Almighty God, we thank you that in your providence you sent John the Baptist to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents to make ready a people prepared for the coming of our Savior; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading**    Genesis 28:10-17

P Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And

behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading** 1 Timothy 2:1-6

P First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1:5-25

P In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things

take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

P. This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

**C. Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn**            “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”            #357

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ord’rest all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heav’nly home. Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind. Bid thou our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## Sermon

## Prayers

P St. Paul writes, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Compassionate Father, today we bring before you those with whom we share the closest relationships—members of our families. How we long for you to be gracious on behalf of our children, our parents, our siblings and our extended families. We believe that you will—

### **C Turn the hearts of parents to their children.**

P Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon the people we cherish. For our children, siblings and parents who don’t know you, bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus. For our family members who are living destructive lives, save them from themselves. In the meandering of their madness, bring the grandeur of your goodness. We believe that you will—

### **C Turn the hearts of children to their parents.**

P Tender Father, for family members who are having failing health, financial stress, emotional stress or mental illness, marital meltdown or relational disconnect, pour forth your life-giving Spirit. Where there is weariness, bring your



presence; where there is hopelessness, bring encouragement; where there is despair, be a mighty and merciful God. We believe that you will—

**C Turn the hearts of children to their parents.**

P To make ready a people prepared. We pray in the matchless and merciful name of Jesus.

**C Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

**C God heard Zechariah's prayer!**

P His wife Elizabeth bore a son named John.

**C Who turns the children of Israel to the Lord their God,**

P And goes before Jesus in the spirit and power of Elijah.

**C To turn the hearts of the parents to the children to make ready a people prepared!**

**Hymn**            "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"            #770

- 1        What a friend we have in Jesus,  
           All our sins and griefs to bear!  
           What a privilege to carry  
           Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
           Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
           Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
           All because we do not carry  
           Ev'rything to God in prayer!
  
- 2        Have we trials and temptations?  
           Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged—  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Can we find a friend so faithful  
 Who will all our sorrows share?  
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.

- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
 Cumbered with a load of care?  
 Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee;  
 Thou wilt find a solace there.

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