

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE

WEEK ONE

December 2nd, 2020 – 7 pm



Faith Lutheran Church

310 Southdale Road East

London, ON N6E 1A1

Order of Service

We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. Psalm 48:9

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 Be strong and courageous, be careful to live according to everything Moses commanded.

P Do not let God's Word depart from your mouth.

C But meditate on it day and night.

P Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

C Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts because nothing is impossible with our God!

Hymn

“The Advent of Our King”

#331

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ, And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be, Himself a servant's form puts on to set his servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise to meet your lowly King, Nor let your faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again And his true members all unite with him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone, The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free, With Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

Confession and Absolution

P Almighty God, because nothing is impossible with you, we come into your presence confessing our sin, confident of your mercy and forgiveness. For lack of reverence; for calculating minds; for going along with the majority

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For selfishness that dares not face truth; laziness content with half-truth; for artificial life and worship—

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For self-indulgence; for being pompous and puffed up with self-importance—

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For cynicism about our fellow Christians; for cruel indifference; for being satisfied with things as they are and failing to trust that with you nothing is impossible—

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For token concern for the poor, the lonely and the loveless people; for confusing faith with good feelings—

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For everything in us that hides your divine power—
C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

P Hear the good news! Because of his death and resurrection, Jesus is our Savior. The Lord God has given to him the throne of his father David. Jesus reigns over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Therefore, you are fully and forever forgiven in Jesus' name.

C Nothing is impossible with our God!

Prayer of the Day

P Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and resurrection be convinced anew that absolutely nothing is impossible with you; for you live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Joshua 1:7-9

P Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading Colossians 3:15-17

P And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading St. Luke 1:26-38

P In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb

and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P. This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame: “All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee; Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said. “My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.” Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Sermon

Prayers

P Heavenly Father, we have a lot in common with Mary. When we consider the enormity of the promises you have made accompanying the birth of Jesus, we also ask, “How will this be?” To which you answer back in your Word,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P Father, every promise you have made about Jesus and our redemption purchased through his shed blood and empty tomb will happen. Indeed, your great and glorious promises are always “Yes and Amen.” And so we confess,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P Jesus, on your Second Advent, you will finish making all things new—changing this sinful and dying world into the New Jerusalem. This promise is so overwhelming that you remind us,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P Father, heal the pain in our families. Restore unity. Release compassion and kindness. And let the love of Jesus pervade and permeate our homes. We believe that,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P Father, through your Holy Spirit, empower us to think of others more often than ourselves; not to keep a record of wrongs; and no longer rehearse the ways others have hurt us,

and the ways we've hurt them. Remind us again that,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P And so we say with Mary, we are your servants, Lord. Let it be to us according to your Word.

C We pray in Jesus' glorious and grace-filled name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

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

C Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

P So that whatever we do, in word or deed.

C We do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

P Giving thanks to God the Father through him because

C Nothing is impossible with our God!

Hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

"From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home; Glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild; This little child, of lowly birth, shall be the joy of all the earth.

"This is the Christ, our God and Lord, who in all need shall aid afford; He will himself your Savior be from all your sins to set you free.

"My heart for very joy doth leap, my lips no more can silence keep; I, too, must sing with joyful tongue that sweetest ancient cradle-song."

By Reed Lessing. © 2020 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved.