

There are no scheduled activities at OFLC the week of December 26 through December 31st. If you need access to the church, please contact Brittni.

Pastor Aaron will be on vacation December 26th through January 1st. For pastoral emergencies, contact Pam Hoekstra, Council President.

Interested in learning more about OFLC or becoming a member? Please contact Pastor Aaron at pastoraaron@ourfatherschurch.org

Our Father's Lutheran Church



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Longest Night/Advent Service

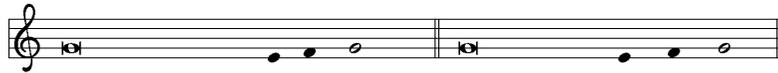
December 21st, 5pm

PRELUDE

OPENING DIALOGUE



Jesus Christ is the light of the world, **the light no darkness can o - ver - come.**



Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, **and the day is al - most over.**



Let your light scat - ter the darkness **and illu - mine your church.**

LIGHT & REFLECTION

1st Advent Candle: HOPE

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."

Meditation: **In what ways do we hold back from hoping in God? How might God respond to our holding back?**

Silence for meditation

Song: "Savior of the Nations, Come" vs. 1 (ELW 263)

2nd Advent Candle: PEACE

Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! It is too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?"

Meditation: **In what ways do we hold onto the unrest in our hearts? God calls us to surrender - in what ways does surrender offer peace?**

Silence for mediation

Christmas Services

Traveler's Christmas 12/21 @ 7 pm

Christmas Eve 12/24 @ 4 pm

Christmas Day 12/25 @ 9 am

*Other petitions may be offered at this time by those present.
After each person's prayer, the assembly will respond with:*
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus, our Light, taught us.

A: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

P: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Let us depart in peace, assured of God's promise that the Light does shine in the darkness, and no darkness can overcome it.

A: Thanks be to God.

Song: "Savior of the Nations, Come" vs 2 (ELW 263)

3rd Advent Candle: JOY

Therefore the Lord godself will give you a sign. Look, a young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse evil and choose good.

Meditation: **Joy is our response to something given as a gift. How is this news a gift? How does this gift bring you joy?**

Silence for mediation

Song: "Savior of the Nations, Come" vs 3 (ELW 263)

4th Advent Candle: LOVE

For before the child knows how to refuse evil and choose good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

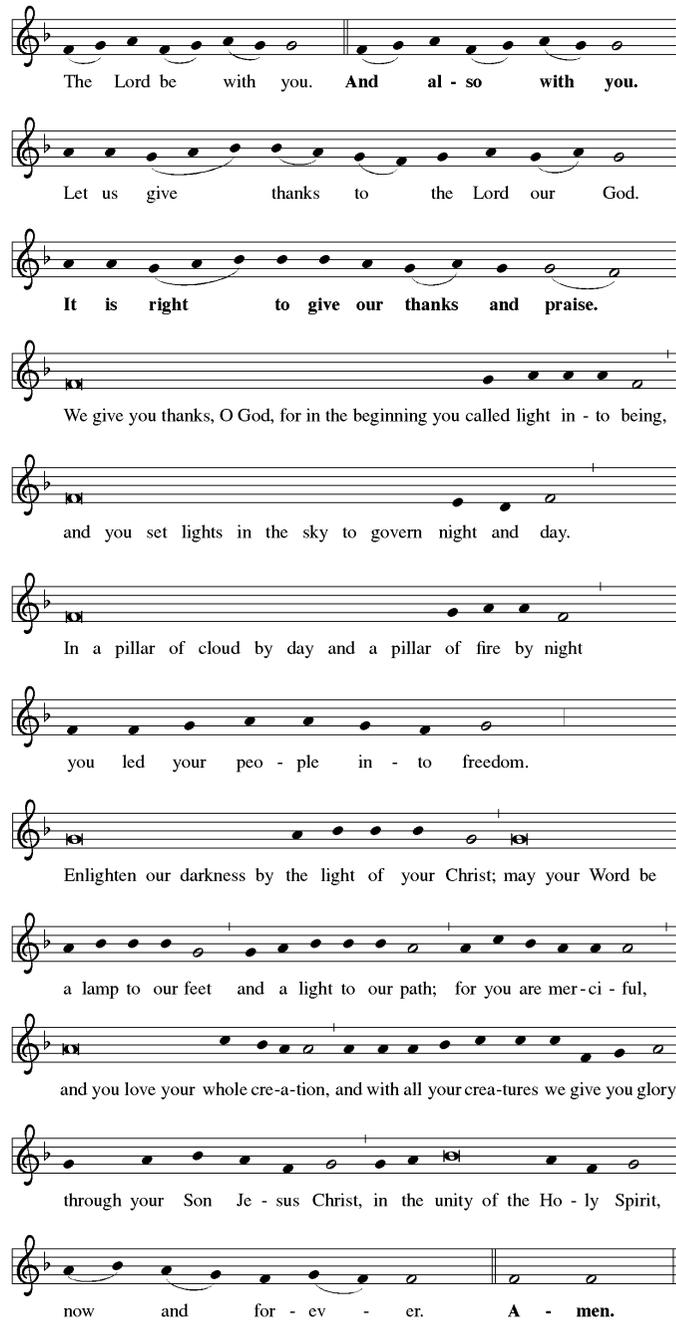
Meditation: **Struggles are a part of life—we know that. So often, before we emerge out of those struggles, we have to endure them. How might God be loving you this night as you consider your own struggles and trials?**

Silence for reflection

Song: "Savior of the Nations, Come" vs 4-5 (ELW 263)

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

ANNOINTING AND CANDLE LIGHTING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light in - to being,

and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day.

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night

you led your peo - ple in - to freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be

a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are mer - ci - ful,

and you love your whole cre - a - tion, and with all your crea - tures we give you glory,

through your Son Je - sus Christ, in the unity of the Ho - ly Spirit,

now and for - ev - er. A - men.

All are invited to come forward for healing anointing with oil, if desired. Regardless if you wish anointing, you may come forward to be prayed over. You are also invited to light a candle for you or others, as a sign of Christ's Light— Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love this night.

PRAYERS

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

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.

A: Lord, have mercy.

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

A: Lord, have mercy.