

The Offertory

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, And take not Thy Holy Spirit
from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And uphold me with
Thy free spirit.*

Hymn 371 - *Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*

The Offering

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer + The Benediction

All: Amen, amen, amen!

Hymn 56 - *Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring*

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Announcements

- **Today** — A Church Council meeting (annual elections meeting) is scheduled to follow this morning's worship service.
- **Saturday** — Those participating in next Sunday's children's Christmas service here at Faith will meet at church for practice at 10 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation classes will follow the practice.
- **Next Sunday** — Grace-Sleepy Eye worship services begin at 9 a.m. Worship here at Faith begins at 10:45 a.m. The children of Faith and Grace-Sleepy Eye will present a special children's Christmas service during our regular morning worship next Sunday. Children participating in next Sunday's service are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the service.
- **Christmas Bags Sign-Up:** A sign-up sheet is posted here at church for those willing to help contribute to "Christmas Bags" for participants in this next Sunday's Children's Christmas service. Items should be received at church by this Friday, December 16, so that the bags can be put together that day.
- **CLC News:** From the ILC Board of Regents: Paul Heinze has been hired as the new Facilities Manager at Immanuel Lutheran College. In addition, Ronald Porath has been hired as the new assistant maintenance worker.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession -- CLC

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Advent III

DECEMBER 11, 2011 – 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Pre-service Meditation: Ps. 146, pg. 156

Organist: Bonnie Cornish

Pastor: Opening Prayer

Hymn 62 - *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Pastor: The Invocation

People: *Amen.*

Pastor: Beloved of God, the Lord Himself invites us to come into His presence for worship, freely acknowledging our sins, as we look to His throne of Grace for forgiveness in Christ. Let us, therefore, confess our sins together.

People: *Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved you above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.*

All Sing: *O Jesus Christ, the only Son, Of God Your heav'nly Father,
You did for all our sins atone, And Your lost sheep You gather.
O Lamb of God, to You on high, From depths of woe we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, Jesus!*

Pastor: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord: *"Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*
Lift up your hearts! With the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ and by His command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

All Sing: *All glory be to God on high, Who has our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended; The Fa-
ther's love, the Savior's birth, Bring peace, good will, to all the earth;
Oh, thank Him for His goodness!*

Pastor: The Lord be with you
People: *And with thy spirit.*

Pastor: Prayer for the Day
People: *Amen.*

1st Scripture Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-23

Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Alleluia, alleluia! ... *blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28)* Alleluia!

Congregation: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2nd Scripture Reading – John 1:6-8, 19-28

People: *Glory be to Thee, O Lord!*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ... Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD," ' as the prophet Isaiah said." 24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 "It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: Here ends the New Testament reading.

People: *Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

The Apostles' Creed -- Hymnal, pg. 12

Hymn 272 - When All the World was Cursed

The Sermon – Jeremiah 33:14-18

'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: 15 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' 17 "For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; 18 'nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.' "

"The Lord Our Righteousness"