

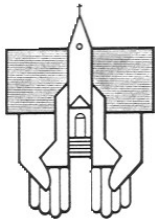
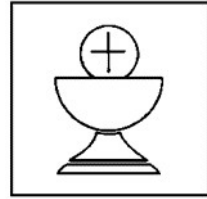


**OUR REDEEMER**  
**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**  
**Worship Bulletin**

**For 21 December 2025**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**SAINT THOMAS**

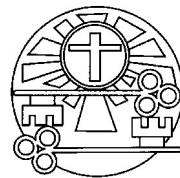
Pastor: Tod R. Rappe (910)488-6010 (W) 488-3046 (H)  
Organist: Barbara Sexton  
Web site: [www.faylcms.org](http://www.faylcms.org)

Our practice of closed communion is the historic practice of the church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word and for God's people. It does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's deep concern for doctrinal truth (Rom. 16:17) and the Bible's witness that doctrinal unity is central to the common reception of this sacrament. **For this reason, guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with the pastor before the service.**



**WELCOME!** We invite all visitors to sign the guest register in the narthex and worship with us again. If you are not a first time visitor and are not communing, please complete the card located with communion cards in front of the pews. If you have questions about how to join our church or study the Scriptures with us, please speak with one of our Elders or the Pastor.

Each Saturday evening from 6-8PM Pastor Rappe avails himself for private confession and absolution, that which the historical Lutheran Church refers to as the third Sacrament. This is made available to those whose consciences are burdened and whose hearts are troubled. No one is forced to make private confession, as no one is forced to Baptism or the Holy Supper. Rather, this is the means of God's gospel to those who seek Him and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus.



**PLEASE COMPLETE A COMMUNION CARD:** Fill in the names of only those who are communing and hand it to the usher. You may fill out one per family.

**While the psalmist urges us to "make a joyful noise to the Lord",** he did NOT mean cell phone ringtones, children's noisy toys or other modern electronic marvels. Rather, these should be SILENT while we lift our voices and hearts in worship through song and prayer to our Lord. Please see that all cell phones, toys and anything else that might disrupt our worship are turned

**NURSERY ROOM** is available for children 5 years of age who are having difficulty the service. There is also a rocking chair in the room. The room also has speakers to hear the service.

**OLD TESTAMENT**

So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said— look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said." And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew." And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

**JUDGES 6:36-40**

**EPISTLE**

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says:

"When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men."

(Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Holy Gospel on reverse side.

**EPHESIANS 4:7-16**

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The Collect  
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Collect for the Epistle

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Holy Gospel  
Collect for the Holy Gospel

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## HOLY GOSPEL

## JOHN 20:24-29

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



Worship Bulletin  
For  
December 21, 2025  
The Fourth Sunday In Advent  
Saint Thomas