



Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members
and visitors in Jesus' name**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:15 a.m., April 6, 2025



Our God makes all things new. In the first reading, God promises it.

In the gospel, Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial.

In the second reading, Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | www.faithlutheransrq.com

All who are baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.

The flowers on the altar today are given by Karen and Jerry Kolschowsky with thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

Ministers

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. Larry Wright

**Lector
Crucifer**

Jonelle Lutz
Deacon Mark Greenwood

**Music Director
Cantor
Flutist
Vocals**

Andi Zdrava
Jesse V. Martin
Julianne Geyser
Voices of Faith Choir

Greeters & Ushers

Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz,
Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre,
Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard,
Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Deacon Scott Rice,
Jane Sanks, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

Media Team

Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell,
Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Deacon Mark
Greenwood

Sunday School Teacher

Emily Holst

Altar Guild

Linda Fewell, Dottie Gustavson,
Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson,
Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan

* * * * *

**Pastor
Assistant to the Pastor
Retired Pastors in Residence**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Larry Wright
Rev. John Hilficker
Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. John Spittal

Congregational Council

Ann Greenwood, president; Joan Searles,
vice president; Lauren Wardach, secretary;
Anita Wooton, treasurer; Jane Sanks,
assistant treasurer; Jerry Cooper; Quyen Dang;
Julianne Geyser; Mark Nelson; Peggy Ragan;
Deacon Scott Rice

Interim Executive Assistant

Linda Fewell

- Noted throughout the service - P: Presiding Minister L: Lector C: **Congregation**
- Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s) also are enabled.
- Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

PRELUDE

Andi Zdrava

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WE STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

(pause for reflection)

Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and
by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

We sing together

1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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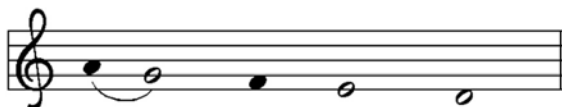
GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE*We sing responsively*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



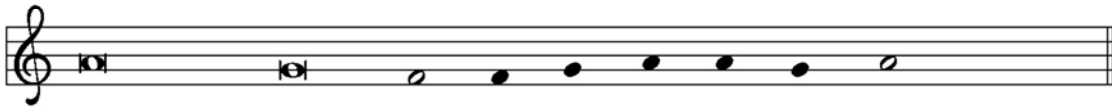
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



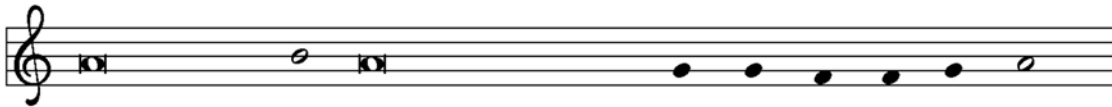
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



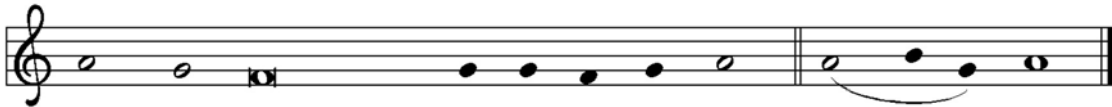
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

L: A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 126:5

To begin, the organist plays the refrain once, the cantor sings it once and then we all sing it together.



Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Psalm 126:5

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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PSALMODY: Psalm 126

L: 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

² Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.

C: Refrain.

L:⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

C: Refrain.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

L: A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We sing together



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY **Take My Life, That I May Be**

ELW 695

We sing together

See next page

Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: ΠΑΙΜΟΣ, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Together, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world and all those in need.

L: The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. And we pray for peace in our world, especially in Israel, Gaza, Russia, Ukraine and all areas rocked by unrest. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job loss or home loss, divorce or death. Bring healing to those in need, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts. (*pause*). May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel through music, poetry and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. With thanks for John White, Judi Melander, Joe Dongarra and all those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

WE STAND

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Feel free to greet your neighbors with a word of peace.

WE SIT

OFFERTORY



The offering is collected at this time. You also can give online by scanning the QR Code printed here or via the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com. We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Lamb of Calvary
Voices of Faith Choir

Lloyd Larson

WE STAND

We sing together

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

We sing responsively

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

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The minister sings

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the

pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,

we may come to the full - ness of your grace.

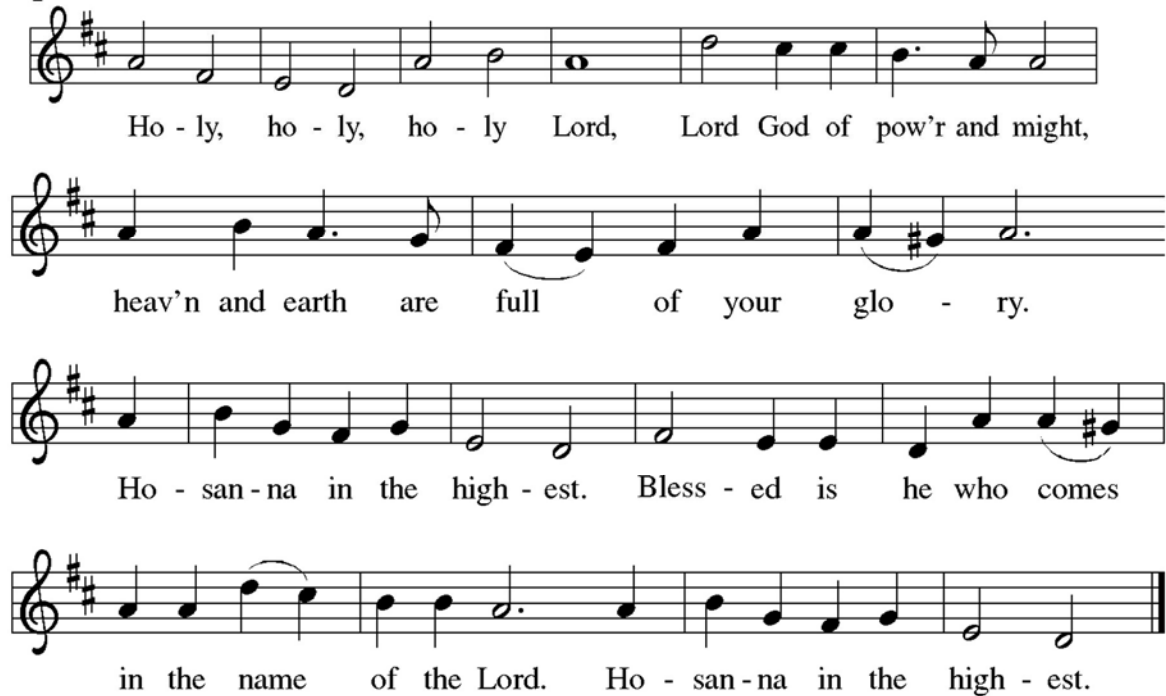
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

We sing together



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

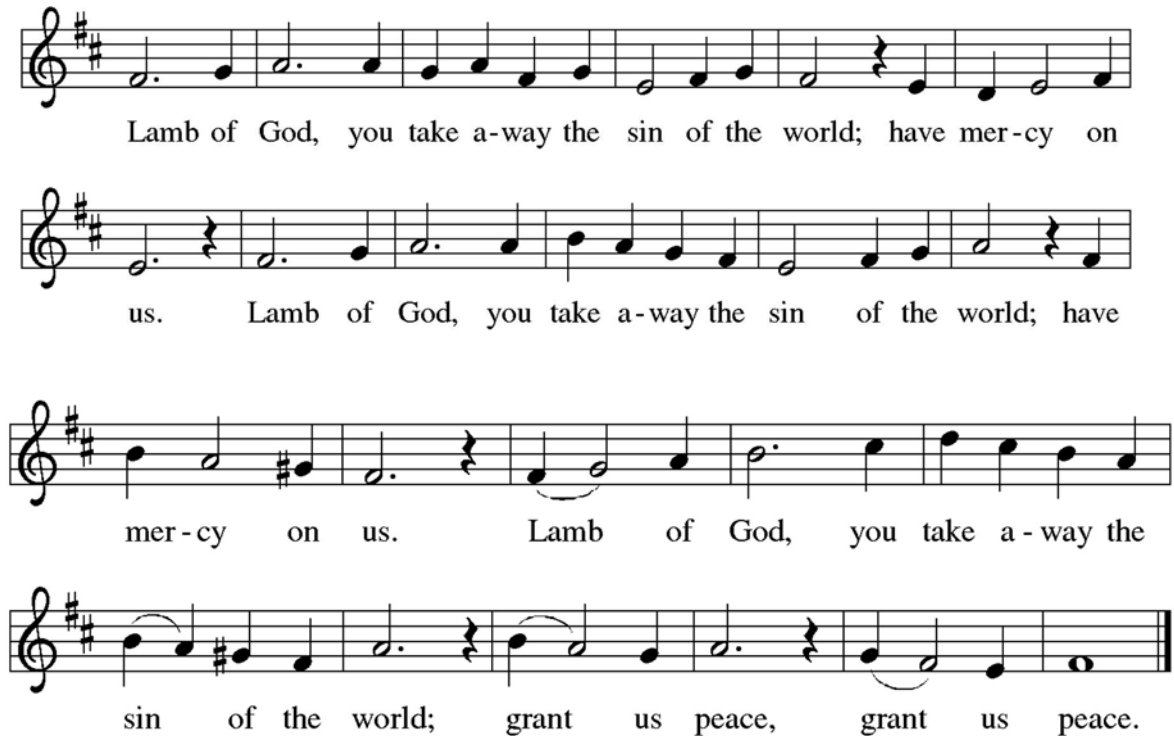
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread, and all are welcome at the Lord's Table.

COMMUNION SONG

We sing together



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

He Is Here in the Breaking of the Bread

Lloyd Larson and Mary Kay Beall

Voices of Faith Choir

WE STAND

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your

liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Receive a blessing. God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

ELW 833

We sing together



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my
2 Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep
3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for
4 All crea-tures that have breath and mo - tion, that thron'g the
5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore you to lis - ten



God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has
joy in sum-mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and
earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -
to my earth - ly song un - til that day when I a -



joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -
grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and
slen - der, you flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, you live to
vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most
dore you, when I will join the an - gel thron'g and raise to



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!
bod - y, join to raise with heart - felt joy your mak - er's praise!
show forth praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!
pow'rs can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!
you with joy - ful cry ten thou - sand hal - le - lu - jahs high!

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. composite

Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Andi Zdrava

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Welcome, Visitors!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by signing our guestbook and/or filling out a Visitor Card located on the table near the entrance. Kindly give the card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

Remembering the Dearly Departed

A service of resurrection and life for **John White** will begin at 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 11, in the sanctuary. A luncheon will follow in fellowship hall. Please keep John's wife, Karen, and all of John's family and friends in your prayers.

A service of resurrection and life for **Judi Melander** will begin at 10:30 a.m., Monday, April 14, in the sanctuary. A luncheon will follow in fellowship hall. Please keep Judi's family and friends in your prayers.

Plans for a service of resurrection and life for **Joe Dongarra** are pending. Please keep his wife, Joan, and all of Joe's family and friends in your prayers.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servants, John, Judi and Joe. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own redeeming. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum** meets between the two morning worship services in the conference room. Next week, the group will study Lesson 3, *The Powers of Darkness*, in the "A Clash of Kingdoms" series.
- **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail.
- **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible study** meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the library to focus on "Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength." Can't attend in person? Join via Zoom, Meeting ID 867 2113 5300, Passcode 815433.

- **The Prayer Support Group** meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the chapel to pray for all in need, our community, nation and world, and to share Holy Communion. Can't be there? Join via Zoom, Meeting ID 871 4720 3661, Passcode 041291.
- **During Lent, the Bereavement Group meets at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays** in the chapel. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you.
- **Women of Faith** meet for breakfast, prayer and camaraderie at 8:30 a.m., Monday, April 14, at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail. Questions? See Pastor Marianne or email her, pastorp2.o@gmail.com.

Our Journey Through Lent to Easter Continues

Lenten Wednesday: April 9

Noon Midweek Lenten Worship followed by a common meal, sanctuary/fellowship hall

Palm Sunday, April 13

8 a.m. Celebration Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary

10:15 a.m. Celebration Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary

5 p.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 17

7 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary

Good Friday, April 18

7 a.m. Multi-Denominational Stations of the Cross, park at Church of the Redeemer, 222 S. Palm Ave.; take a free trolley to the starting location (see announcement below)

2 p.m. Stations of the Cross, sanctuary

7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship with choir, sanctuary

Holy Saturday, April 19

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Part One, parking lot

Easter Sunday, April 20

7 a.m. Easter Vigil Part Two, Memorial Garden

9 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, fellowship hall and playground

10:15 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary

Be Among Worshipers at Stations of the Cross Main Street Pilgrimage

Join 27 pastors and more than 1,000 people from more than 14 denominations for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross Main Street Pilgrimage, April 18. Park at Church of the

Redeemer, 222 S. Palm, by 7 a.m. to take the trolley to the Regal Hollywood starting point near Main and Highway 301. Trolleys begin running at 6 a.m. The procession to 14 Stations of the Cross along Main Street will begin at 7:20 a.m and will conclude with morning prayer at Church of the Redeemer. Questions? Email Dr. Tom Pfaff with the Sarasota Ministerial Association, ChaplainTomPfaff@gmail.com.

Mary Circle Hosts, Requests Personal Care Donations

- **Women of the church, plan to attend the WELCA Mid-Gulf Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Faith.** It will be a day of fellowship, Bible study and a special presentation by Faith's own Al Ernst. Both continental breakfast and lunch will be served at a cost of only \$10. Sign up on the narthex table to indicate that you'll be there.
 - Mary Circle is collecting personal-care items for Lutheran World Relief. Please place nail clippers, combs, bath-size soap and adult-size toothbrushes in the bin in the narthex. **Soap is the most-needed item.** A Thrivent grant will cover the cost of towels for the kits. If you are unable to shop, monetary contributions are welcome.
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Donate Altar Flowers in Honor or in Memory

Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or to glorify God. The cost is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" in the memo line. Check the altar flowers donation board in fellowship hall to see if your desired date is available. If not, choose an alternate date. **The next open date is May 4.** When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication appear in the bulletin on your selected Sunday.

To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with payment, and place it in the offering plate. Indicate your wish to keep or donate the flowers on the donation board in fellowship hall.
- By mail, send payment with a note indicating your desired date and dedication, and if you want to keep the flowers or donate them.
- By email or phone, contact the church office with your desired date and dedication, and whether you want to keep or donate the flowers. Pay through the Altar Flowers option on the Online Giving page of the Faith website, faithlutheransrq.com.

Contact Joan Hirsch, 941-726-7885, with questions or specific requests about who or what organization should receive flowers that you purchased and choose to donate.

Daily Lenten Devotions and Prayers Continue

The Faith Evangelism Ministry team continues emailing daily Lenten devotions from Luther Seminary with the musical theme "There in God's Garden." Printed devotional booklets also are available in the narthex for people who do not use email.

Readers Club Meets April 28

The Faith Readers Club meets at 2 p.m. on the final Monday of each month. On April 28, the group will discuss *The Gift of Empathy: Helping Others Feel Valued, Cared For, and Understood* by Joel P. Bretscher and Kenneth C. Haugk. You can purchase the book from StephenMinistries.org (not Amazon, which has a similar title, but not this book). Come and join the conversation. Or log in via Zoom, Meeting ID: 840 3904 1433, Passcode: 182787.

***Like and Follow Faith's Facebook Page,
facebook.com/faithlutheransrq***

Orders for Easter Lilies or Hydrangeas to Adorn the Altar are Due Today

You can purchase lilies and/or hydrangeas to adorn the altar and honor loved ones on Easter Day. Dedications to your loved ones will appear in the bulletin. The cost is **\$25 per lily plant** and **\$35 per pink or blue hydrangea plant**, and you are welcome to take the plants that you ordered home or donate them following 10:15 a.m. Easter worship. The plants are in limited supply; **orders are due today**. To indicate how many lilies and/or hydrangeas you wish to purchase and to whom you would like to dedicate the plants:

- Use a yellow-bordered Easter Lily giving envelope available in the pew racks, in the narthex and on the altar flowers bulletin board in fellowship hall. Indicate how many of each plant you would like to order, add your dedication, enclose your payment, and place the envelope in the offering plate.
 - Contact the church office, 941-924-4664 or officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com with your plant order and dedication, then send payment in the mail.
 - Order, indicate your dedication and pay online on the Faith website, faithlutheransrq.com/online-giving.
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Scam Alert! Beware of False Emails or Text Messages

Beware of false emails or text messages from scammers who pretend to represent Pastor Eric or another church staff person and ask for money or gift cards. Neither Pastor Eric nor any Faith Lutheran staff member will ever ask any individual for money, gift cards or any other item via email or text message. Be on guard, and feel free to contact the church office with questions about any communication to you personally that appears to come from Faith Lutheran or its staff members.

LWR Requests Emergency Earthquake Relief Donations

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) workers in Myanmar and Thailand report that the devastation from the recent earthquake is worse than news reports reveal. Your donation can help LWR deliver water, medical care, shelter and essential supplies to those affected. You can donate at give.lwr.org, through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com, or via cash or check to Faith and designated to LWR Earthquake.

Worship to Go Needs You

Worship to Go needs additional helpers! You can participate at:

- **10:45 a.m., Tuesday, April 8**, at The Barclay (formerly Elancé), 3260 Lake Pointe Blvd. (next door to Faith), Tiffany Room.
- **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 15**, at Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore Ave.
- **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 29**, at Aravilla Sarasota, 3251 Proctor Road.

Volunteers will meet in the chapel and can carpool to the facility (30 minutes prior). To join in, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055, or show up at the chapel. No experience necessary!

The Joy of Managing God's Blessings: Being Rich Toward God

"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of your possessions" (Luke 12:15). In that verse, Jesus tells us, his listeners, that if we store up things only for ourselves and are not *"rich toward God,"* we will have the same fate as the Rich Fool. To be *"rich toward God"* with our money, we need to acknowledge that God is the source of all that we have and to glorify God through the use of our money. *Dear Lord, help me to be rich toward you in how I view and use my money. Amen.*

Consider Donating to Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Pastor Eric often speaks with people about aid they require. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund allows him to assist financially, when appropriate. The need currently is great so, if you can, please consider a donation to the fund so those in need can receive assistance. You can give online through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com, or via a cash or check contribution to Faith that is designated to Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Contact officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com:

- If you or someone you know would appreciate a communion, hospital or home visit; to be contacted; or to receive a card in the mail.
- To add or remove a name from the Prayer List.

Prayer List

Lucy Abbott, sister-in-law of Judy Millard
Dick Allender, cousin of Gerri & Terry Copper
Susan Armistead, friend of Patty McKee
Billy Bajor
Family & Friends of Michele Bajor
Gail Brown
Family & Friends of Dorothy Burkhardt,
friend of Marlene Radesk
Dee Burlingame
Rick Chauncey, son of Wess Chauncey
Linda Craley, sister-in-law of
Dick & Jetty Zarfos
Nancy Dandino
Tyeann Dillon
Ken Dixon, online worshipper
Family & Friends of Joe Dongarra, friends
of Lois Weaverling
Janet Dullard, friend of Bev Hungate
Family & Friends of Christine Earp
Mark Evan
John Robert Flower, son of Bob & Catherine Flower
Travis Galyon, cousin of Bev Hungate
Becky Hilton Heeps, friend of Lisa Olsen
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of Jon & Anita Wooton
Pete Inkrott
Family & Friends of Joan, sister of Bill Greenaway

Bruce Katz, friend of Nancy Flanagan
Leonard Kotwitz, brother of Janet Falk
Ruth Levy, sister of Joan Hirsch
Juli & Eli Maresch, niece and grand-nephew
of Patty McKee
Family & Friends of Arnie Masters
Judy McMahan, friend of Kristine Ordman
Family & Friends of Judi Melander
Jay Millard, son of John & Judy Millard
Dulce Mogan, friend of Nancy Flanagan
Valerie Nicolls, mother of Pastor Ashley Nicolls
Kathy Ocker, friend of Lisa & Pastor Eric Olsen
Family & Friends of Judy Osborn,
sister of Peggy Ragan
Heather Schott, daughter-in-law of Les Lorenz
Kathy Schilio
Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller
Leigh Tarantino, friend of Marlene Radesk
Melissa Thompson, cousin of Lisa Olsen
Darren Thomsen, son of John & Tricia Thomsen
Jessica Uebel, cousin of Adele Smith
Carol Wambold
Family & Friends of John White
Dorothy Wolfe, cousin of Adele Smith
Jon Wooton

Worship and Service Calendar

Sunday Worship Services

8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. in person.
Morning services live streamed and recorded at
www.faihlutheransrq.com/live-service
and at facebook.com/faihlutheransrq.

Sunday, March 30

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Online views | 202 |
| 8 a.m. in person | 30 |
| 10:15 a.m. in person | 126 |
| 5 p.m. in person | 25 |

Wednesday, April 2

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Online views | 20 |
| 12 p.m. in person | 34 |

Next: Palm Sunday, April 13

Isaiah 50:4-9a
The servant of the Lord submits to suffering.

Psalm 31:9-16
*Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit
(Ps. 31:5).*

Philippians 2:5-11
Humbled to the point of death on a cross.

Luke 23:1-49
The passion of the Lord.

This Week at Faith

Monday, April 7

6 p.m. Zumba, community center

Tuesday, April 8

8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Breakfast, Skilletts,
8635 S. Tamiami
9:30 a.m. G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study,
library
10:15 a.m. Worship to Go Prep, chapel
10:45 a.m. Worship to Go, The Barclay,
next door to Faith
6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota,
choir room and sanctuary

Wednesday, April 9

10:30 a.m. Prayer Support Group, chapel
11 a.m. Property Committee, conf. room
12 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship followed
by a Common Meal, sanctuary/
fellowship hall
1:30 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

Thursday, April 10

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
10:30 a.m. Men's Study Group, conf. room
4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
5 p.m. Food Pantry Distribution
6:30 p.m. Voices of Faith, choir room

Friday, April 11

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center
10:30 a.m. John White Service of Resurrection
and Life followed by luncheon,
sanctuary/fellowship hall

Saturday, April 12

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center
9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room
9:30 a.m. WELCA Mid-Gulf Spring Gathering,
fellowship hall



About Faith Lutheran

Our Mission

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others.

Our Vision

To be an ELCA congregation that displays the true, unending love of Christ. To promote peace, social justice and grace in all we do.

The ELCA

Faith Lutheran Church is part of the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are ecumenical, saved by grace and love Jesus.

Subscribe to Receive the Latest News and Updates

To receive the latest news and updates from Faith Lutheran, subscribe to our weekly Friday Update at www.faithlutheransrq.com or email officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com.
