



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Third Sunday in Lent

8 a.m., March 23, 2025



The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent.

Cut it out or get cut down!

The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness:

"Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live."

The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us.

Thanks be to God!

***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 Marlene Radesk in loving memory of her parents and Marilyn, and with thanksgiving for eternal life in Christ.

Ministers

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Marianne Powrie

Lector

Ron Walter

Music Director

Andi Zdrava

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

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Pastor

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

Assistant to the Pastor

Rev. Larry Wright

Retired Pastors in Residence

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

GATHERING HYMN **Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

ELW 756

First and last verses We sing together



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825–1878, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

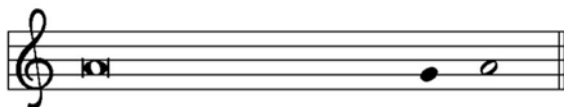
GREETING

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

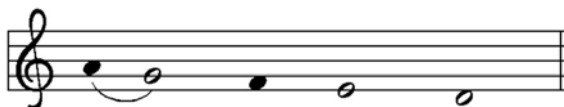
C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

We sing responsively



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



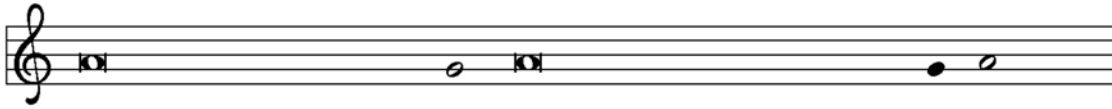
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



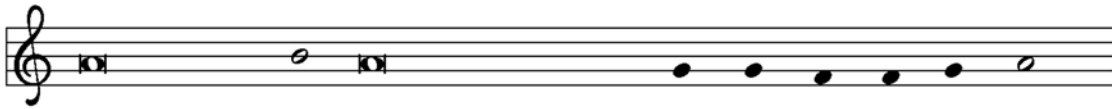
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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 55:1-9

L: A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
- ⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 63:1-8

L: We read verses from Psalm 63 responsively.

O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

C: O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

- L: ¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- ² Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- ³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.

C: O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

L:⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

C: O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

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: Luke 13:1-9

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P:¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

First and last verses We sing together

- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
 Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
 God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
 Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Refrain
 Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950

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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: We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity that, in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. We also pray for an end to suffering in Cuba, and an enduring, just peace in Israel, Gaza, Russia, Ukraine and all areas rocked by unrest. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal and rebuild. Comfort those in need of your compassion, especially for those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts. *(pause)* God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless our food pantry, our kitchen, and all ministries in this community and throughout the world that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. 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

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

Mark Hayes

WE STAND

We sing together

Create in Me a Clean Heart

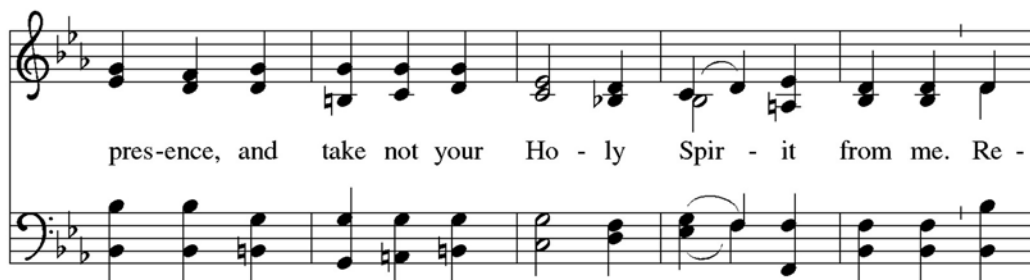
Offering Song



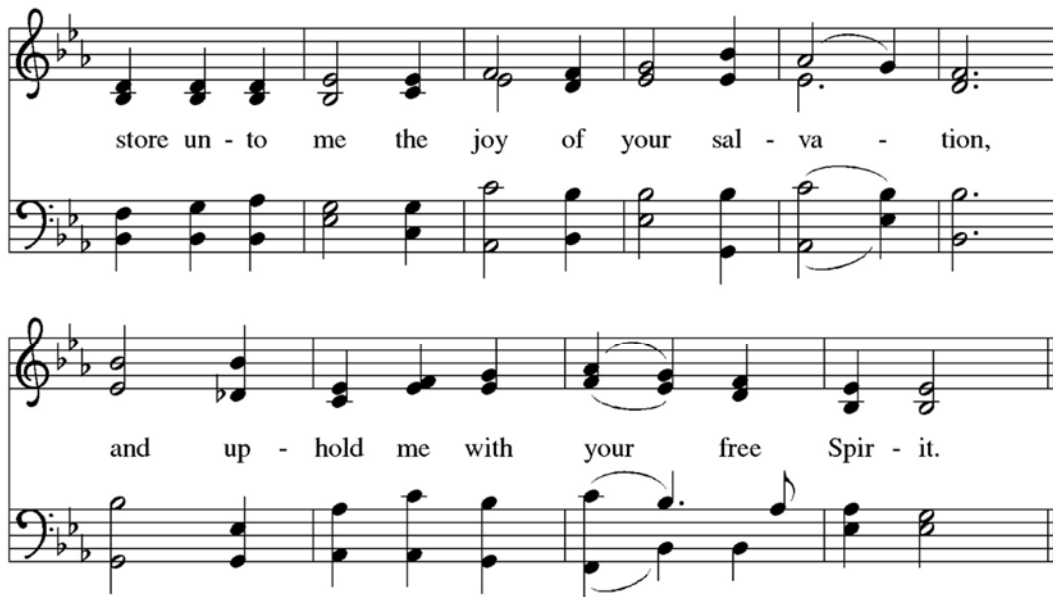
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



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

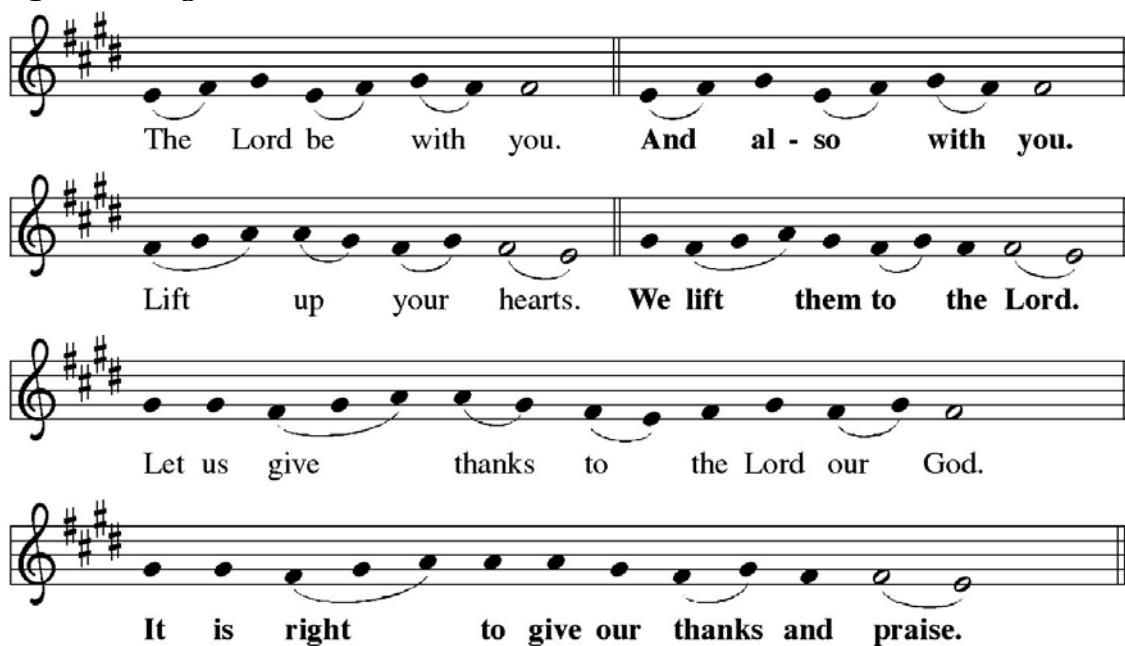
OFFERING PRAYER

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

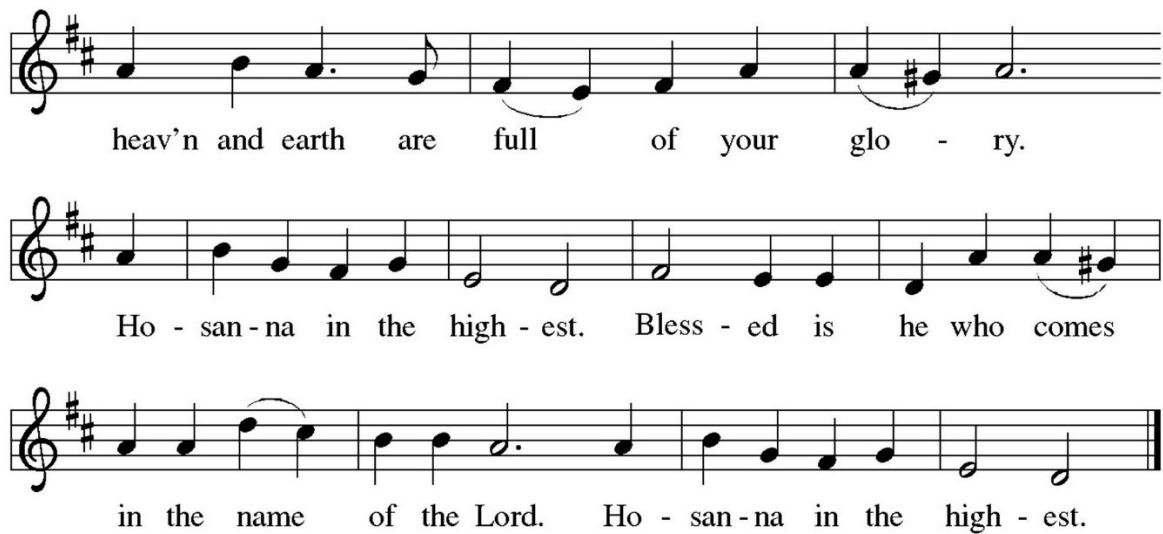
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the
pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the 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:

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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.

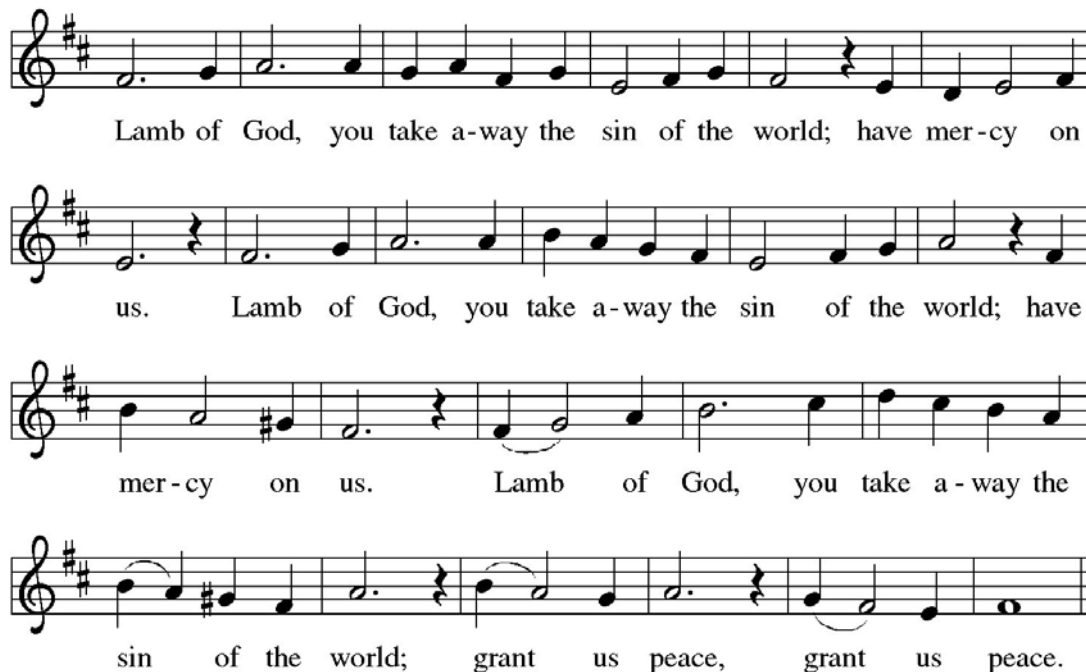
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine 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 One Bread, One Body

Mark Hayes

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

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

First and last verses

We sing together



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

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.

Our Journey Through Lent to Easter Continues

Lenten Wednesdays: March 26, and April 2 and 9

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

Palm Sunday/New Member 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

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

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum** meets between the two morning worship services in the conference room. Today, the group will study Lesson 1, *The Gospel of Caesar*, 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** will meet for breakfast, prayer and camaraderie at 8:30 a.m., Monday, March 31, at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail. Questions? See Pastor Marianne or email her, pastorp2.0@gmail.com.
-

Worship to Go Needs You

Worship to Go needs additional helpers! You can participate at **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 25**, 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!

Mary Circle Hosts, Requests Personal Care Donations

- **Women of the church, save the date for 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.
 - It's time to start 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 April 13.** 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 sharing daily Lenten devotions and prayers from Luther Seminary with the musical theme “There in God’s Garden.” Printed devotional booklets also are available on the table in the narthex for people who do not use email. During midweek Lenten lunches on Wednesdays, which will follow midweek worship, you will be invited into meaningful discussion based on the daily devotions. The Evangelism Ministry team prays that the devotions and discussions will draw us closer as a congregation during our Lenten journey.

Readers Club Sets Meeting Dates, Selections

The Faith Readers Club meets at 2 p.m. on the final Monday of each month. Upcoming meeting dates and reading selections are:

- March 31: *How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Budde, exploring thoughts of the Episcopal bishop of Washington, D.C.
 - April 28: *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. All are welcome.
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Joy in Managing God’s Blessings

“*You cannot serve God and money*” (Matthew 6:24). The world sees money as life’s report card, and source of all happiness and security. In contrast, we, as faithful stewards, see money as a means to provide for our needs, to help others and to further God’s kingdom. *Dear heavenly Father, help me to hold money loosely and to have a proper attitude toward it. Amen.*

Mission Endowment Fund: Grants are Available, Contributions Are Appreciated

It’s grant season at Faith! If you need financial support for a mission idea in the areas of youth ministry, Christian missions, evangelism or faith development, please complete a Mission Endowment Fund application. Applications are available from the church office. To learn more about the Mission Endowment Fund, pick up a brochure the small table in the narthex.

The fund welcomes your donations, which pay for ministries that are not covered by the church budget. If you use giving envelopes, a special Mission Endowment Fund envelope is included in your packet this month. You also can write a check to Faith with “Mission Endowment Fund” in the memo line, or give online through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com. Any amount great or small is appreciated. Thank you!

Get Your Discounted Tickets: Benefit Concert Set for March 30

Join other music lovers at 3 p.m., Sunday, March 30, at Faith for an inspiring concert in which Faith's own music director, Andi Zdrava, will lead an unforgettable program featuring works performed by talented guest artists. The event celebrates and welcomes Andi as the new conductor of the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra, and supports the group's upcoming season. Mention Faith Lutheran for a special discounted price when you buy tickets by calling 941-312-1789. When you buy tickets online at aicco.ludus.com, enter FAITHLUTHERAN for the discount.

Be There March 31 to Celebrate, Support Justice Ministry

Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE), a faith-based justice ministry of which Faith Lutheran is a covenant member, is welcoming a new executive director and will celebrate a time of renewal with a community gathering at 6 p.m., Monday, March 31, in the Faith sanctuary. Public officials will be there to express support, but your participation – as faith-filled members of the larger community – is equally important. Mark your calendar!

Palm Sunday is Also New Member Sunday

Faith will receive new members on Palm Sunday, April 13. If you are considering membership or have questions, please see Pastor Eric or contact him, 941-924-4664 or pastor@faithlutheransrq.com.

You Can Order, Dedicate Easter Lilies or Hydrangeas to Adorn the Altar

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 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 no later than April 6**. 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.

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

Have You Lost Something?

Have you lost an item? Perhaps a piece of jewelry or a water bottle? Call the church office to describe and claim your item.

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.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service
and at facebook.com/faithlutheransrq.

Sunday, March 16

Online views	127
8 a.m. in person	40
10:15 a.m. in person	130
5 p.m. in person	18

Wednesday, March 19

Online views	74
12 p.m. in person	47

Next Sunday, March 30

Joshua 5:9-12
Isreal eats bread and grain, the produce of the land.

Psalms 32
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord (Ps. 32:11).

2 Corinthians 5:16-21
The mystery and ministry of reconciliation.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son.

This Week at Faith

Monday, March 24

6 p.m. Zumba, community center

Tuesday, March 25

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 a.m. Worship to Go Prep, chapel

10:30 a.m. Worship to Go, Aravilla Sarasota,
3251 Proctor Road

5 p.m. Congregation Council, conf. room

6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota,
choir room and sanctuary

Wednesday, March 26

10:30 a.m. Prayer Support Group, chapel

12 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship followed
by a Common Meal, sanctuary/
fellowship hall

1:30 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

Thursday, March 27

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall

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, March 28

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

Saturday, March 29

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room

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
Dee Burlingame
Linda Craley, sister-in-law of
 Dick & Jetty Zarfos
Nancy Dandino
Ken Dixon, online worshipper
Joe and Joan Dongarra, friends
 of Lois Weaverling
Janet Dullard, friend of Bev Hungate
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 Matthew McKelvey
Jay Millard, son of John & Judy Millard
Dulce Mogan, friend of Nancy Flanagan
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
Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller
Darren Thomsen, son of John & Tricia Thomsen
Jessica Uebel, cousin of Adele Smith
John White
Dorothy Wolfe, cousin of Adele Smith
Jon Wooton

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.

