



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Second Sunday in Lent

10:15 a.m., March 16, 2025



Though we sometimes doubt and often resist
God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists.

In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered
into a God-initiated relationship that will endure.

Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face
again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the
face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

***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
Nancy Flanagan in memory of Agnes Kurelic.***

Ministers

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

**Lector
Crucifer**

Kelly Ashlock
Deacon Mark Greenwood

**Music Director
Cantor
Flutist
Vocals**

Andi Zdrava
Hannah Boyd
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

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

* * * * *

**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

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WE STAND

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 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

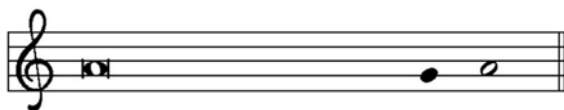
GREETING

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.



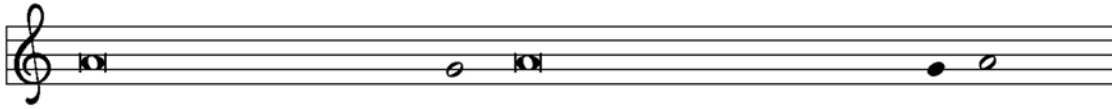
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



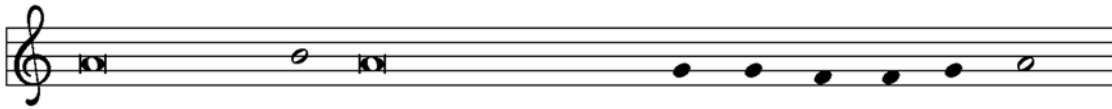
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

L: A reading from Genesis.

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 27:5

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



Psalm 27:5

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

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PSALMODY: Psalm 27

L: ¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me in.

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹²Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the Lord and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the Lord!

C: Refrain.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

L: A reading from Philippians.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I

have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

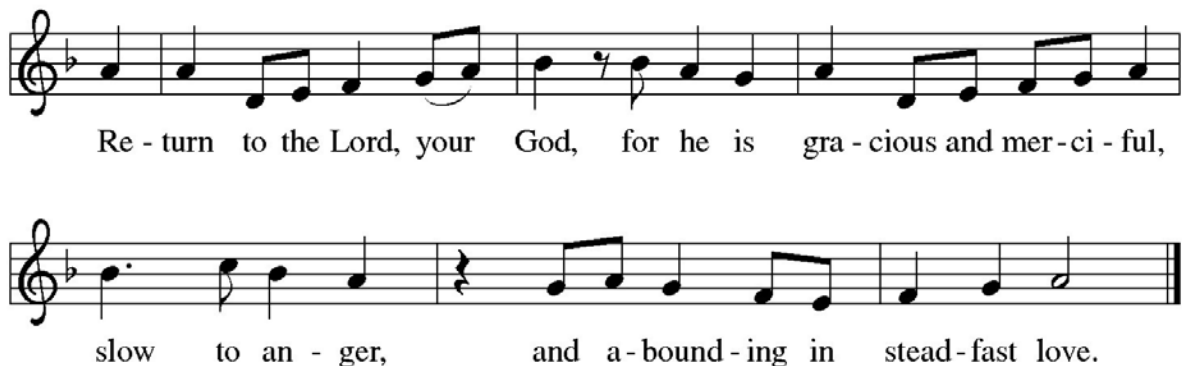
Word of God, Word of Life.

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 13:31-35

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY **If God My Lord Be For Me**

ELW 788

We sing together



1 If God my Lord be for me, I may a host de - fy;
 2 I build on this foun - da - tion, that Je - sus and his blood
 3 Christ Je - sus is my splen - dor, my sun, my light, a - lone;
 4 For joy my heart is ring - ing; all sor - row dis - ap - pears;



for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con - found - ed, fly.
 a - lone are my sal - va - tion, the true, e - ter - nal good.
 were he not my de - fend - er be - fore the judg - ment throne,
 and full of mirth and sing - ing, it wipes a - way all tears.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove,
 With - out him all that pleas - es will vain and emp - ty prove.
 I nev - er should find fa - vor and mer - cy in God's sight,
 The sun that cheers my spir - it is Je - sus Christ, my king;



what foe or what di - sas - ter can drive me from his love?
 The gifts I have from Je - sus a - lone are worth my love.
 but be de - stroyed for - ev - er as dark - ness by the light.
 the heav'n I shall in - her - it makes me re - joice and sing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, adapt.
 Music: IST GOTT FÜR MICH, English melody, 16th cent.

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: Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and to safeguard the world for future generations. We also pray for an enduring, just peace in Israel, Gaza, Russia, Ukraine and all areas rocked by unrest. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. We pray 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: Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith that are divided over earthly things that, following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. 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

How Great Thou Art
Voices of Faith Choir

John Carter

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.

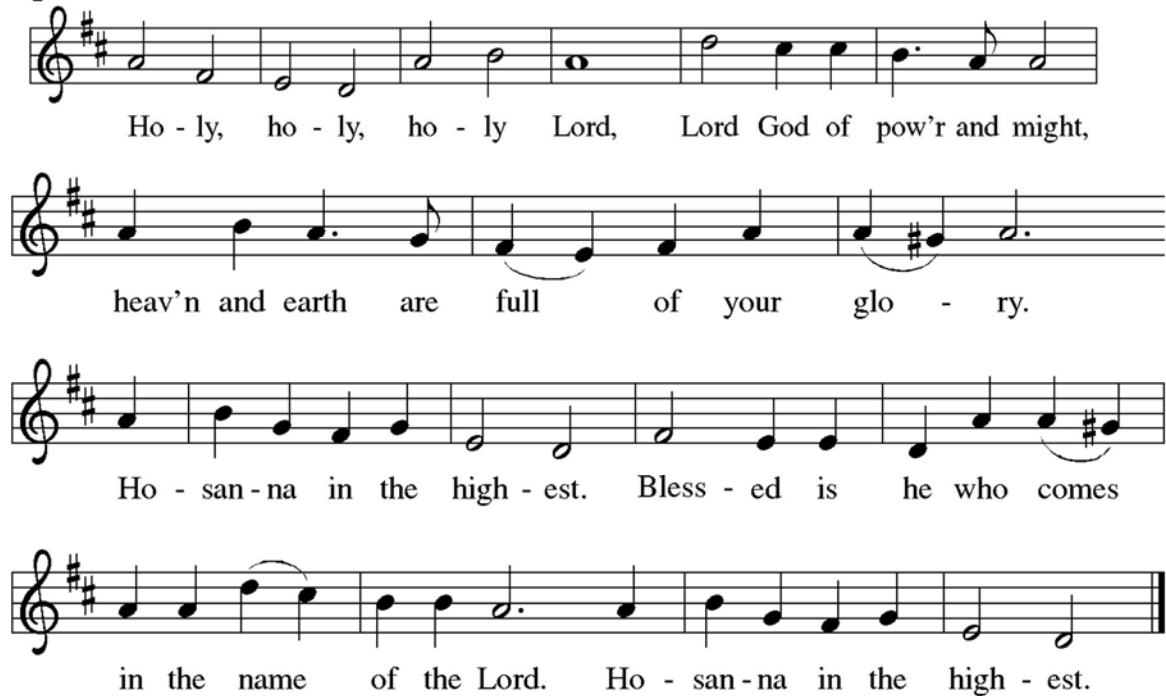
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

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.**

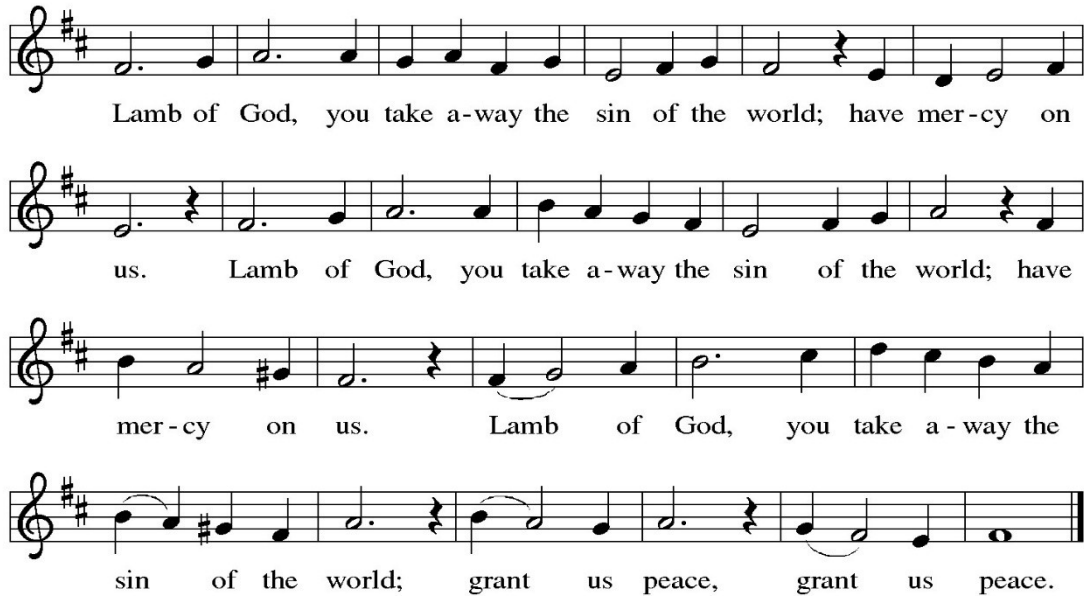
Amen.

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

I Will Remember Thee
Voices of Faith Choir

Jay Althouse

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

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

We sing together

Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.



be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.



I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.



I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.



Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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 19 and 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, 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. Next week, the group will study Lesson 1, *The Gospel of Caesar*, in the “A Clash of Kingdoms” series.
 - **Women of Faith** meet for breakfast, prayer and camaraderie at 8:30 a.m., tomorrow, Monday, March 17, at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail. Questions? See Pastor Marianne or email her, pastorp2.0@gmail.com.
 - **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.
-

Worship to Go Needs You

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

- **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 18**, at Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore Ave.
 - **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 and Invites You

- **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.
- The March packing event for Hope Seeds is canceled, so the next opportunity to help will be in April. Stay tuned for details.
- 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.

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 6.** 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 is sharing daily devotions and prayers from Luther Seminary with the musical theme “There in God’s Garden.” You will continue to receive a devotion via email from Faith each morning during Lent. 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.

Faith’s Prayer List Has Begun Anew: Use Email or Prayer Request Cards to Add To or Keep Someone on the List

The Faith Prayer List has begun anew. To add someone to the list or to ensure that someone who had previously been on the list remains there:

- Email officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com, or
- Complete a Prayer Request Card. The cards are found in the pews, on the tables at the back of the sanctuary and in the narthex. Place completed cards in the offering plate. You are welcome to use the back of a card for additional names.

It is a privilege and joy to pray for those in need, and all prayer requests are welcome. Names can remain on the list for as long as prayers are requested.

Readers Club Meets March 31

The Faith Readers Club meets at 2 p.m. on the final Monday of each month. The group will meet March 31 to discuss *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. Come and join the conversation. All are welcome.

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.*

Consider a Gift to the Mission Endowment Fund

The Mission Endowment Fund allows Faith Lutheran to be a Christian factor in our community and world for many years. Think of a gift to the endowment fund as a legacy extending the work of the church, and allowing you to make a lasting impact on our church and world. Endowment funds consist of monetary gifts or assets of which the principal amount given usually is retained and only the income is spent to fund 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 give online through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com.

Pictorial Directory: Final Photo-Taking Today

Today is your final opportunity to have your pictorial directory photo taken in the photo room at the back of the sanctuary. If you can't have your photo taken today, contact the church office to make special arrangements.

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 online at aicco.ludus.com/200477826 or by calling 941-312-1789.

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.

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

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
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
Mark Evan
John Robert Flower,
 son of Bob & Catherine Flower

Becky Hilton Heeps, friend of Lisa Olsen
Pete Inkrott
Leonard Kotwitz, brother of Janet Falk
Juli & Eli Maresch, niece and grand-nephew
 of Patty McKee
Family & Friends of Matthew McKelvey
Jay Millard, son of John & Judy Millard
Kathy Ocker, friend of Lisa & Pastor Eric Olsen
Judy Osborn, sister of Peggy Ragan
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

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 9

Online views	190
8 a.m. in person	27
10:15 a.m. in person	128
5 p.m. in person	29

Wednesday, March 12

Online views	25
12 p.m. in person	52

Next Sunday, March 23

Isaiah 55:1-9
Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the Lord.

Psalm 63:1-8
O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you (Ps. 63:1).

1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians.

Luke 13:1-9
Unless you repent, you will perish; parable of the fig tree.

This Week at Faith

Monday, March 17

8:30 a.m. Women of Faith Breakfast, Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami
6 p.m. Zumba, community center

Tuesday, March 18

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
12:45 p.m. Worship to Go Prep, chapel
1:30 p.m. Worship to Go, Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore
6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota, choir room and sanctuary

Wednesday, March 19

9:30 a.m. Executive Committee, conf. room
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 20

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
9:30 a.m. Finance Committee, conf. room
1:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, 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, March 21

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

Saturday, March 22

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center
9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room

