



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

5 p.m., August 31, 2025



Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

***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.

Minister
Assisting Minister
Director of Music

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Deacon Scott Rice
Andi Zdrava

WELCOME

WE STAND

SONG: Come, Now Is the Time To Worship

Chorus

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship.
Come just as you are before your God. Come.

Verse 1

One day every tongue will confess You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose You now.

Chorus

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship.
Come just as you are before your God. Come.

Verse 2

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives.
Willingly our knees will bow.
With all our heart, soul, mind and strength we gladly choose You now.

Ending

Come, just as you are, come.

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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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

SONG: Here I Am To Worship

Verse 1

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus

So here I am to worship.
Here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that You're my God,
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

Verse 2

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

Chorus

So here I am to worship.
Here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that You're my God,
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Chorus

So here I am to worship.
Here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that You're my God,
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

Tim Hughes CCLI Song #3266032 © 2000 Thankyou Music.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

L: A reading from Proverbs.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God, word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 112

L: We read Psalm 112 responsively.

The righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

C: The righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

L: ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

C: The righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

L: ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

- ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
⁶ For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

C: The righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

- L: ⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.

C: The righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

WE STAND

SONG: In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song,
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe,
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.
Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4

No guilt in life, no fear in death - This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
Til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

MESSAGE

Rev. Larry Wright

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God of Light
We sing together
(see next page)

ELW 507

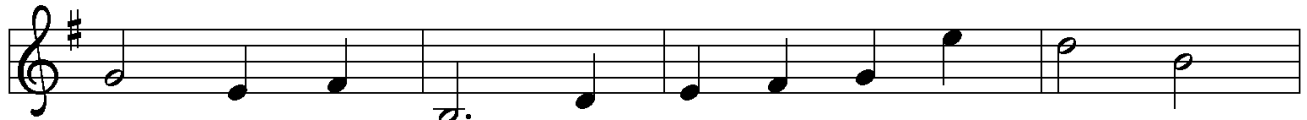
O God of Light



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt.

Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933

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Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

L: For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: For an end to suffering in Cuba, and an enduring, just peace in Israel, Gaza, Russia, Ukraine and all areas rocked by suffering and unrest. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts (*pause*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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



There is an offering plate at the entrance of the sanctuary. 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.

WE STAND

SONG: This I Believe (*The Creed*)

Verse 1

Our Father everlasting,
The all-creating One,
God Almighty, through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son, Jesus our Savior.

Chorus 1

I believe in God our Father.
I believe in Christ the Son.
I believe in the Holy Spirit.
Our God is three in One.
I believe in the resurrection,
That we will rise again,
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

Verse 2

Our judge and our defender suffered and crucified,
Forgiveness is in You.
Descended into darkness,
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high.

Chorus 2

I believe in life eternal.
I believe in the virgin birth.
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church.
I believe in the resurrection
when Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

Ben Fielding, Matt Crocker CCLI Song #7018338 © 2014 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia
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OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

WE SIT

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SONG: How Great is our God

The splendour of a King,
clothed in majesty
Let all the Earth rejoice
All the Earth rejoice

He wraps himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
Trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Name above all names
Worthy of our praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

Name above all names
Worthy of our praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Songwriters: Chris Tomlin / Ed Cash / Jesse Reeves

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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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.

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Women of Faith** breakfast will not meet this week due to the Labor Day holiday. We will meet on our next scheduled meeting date, September 15th.
 - **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, The Oasis Café & Bakery, 3542 S. Osprey Ave.
 - **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.
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Pastor's Discretionary Fund Needs Replenishment!!! (Please make a special donation if you are able)

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund enables quiet, immediate help to individuals facing emergencies—help with rent, groceries, utilities, or gas. Your contribution, no matter how small, becomes a lifeline in a moment of need. Please consider giving today. If you use giving envelopes, you will find a special envelope in your packet this month. You can also give online through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com.

"Breakfast for Dinner" Comedy Benefit for Food Pantry

Join us for a night of laughter and good food—all for a great cause! All proceeds benefit Faith's Food Pantry—help us fight hunger in our community while having a fantastic evening out!

📅 Date: Friday, September 5, 2025, 5:30 p.m. 🎫 Tickets: \$65 (includes buffet and show)

📍 Location: Toasted Yolk Café 🛒 Buy tickets online: www.eventbrite.com - search "Faith Lutheran Breakfast"

Pastor Marianne to join Faith Staff as Assistant to the Pastor

Dear Faith family,

As Labor Day approaches and summer draws to an end we will begin to ramp up programing as we ease into "the season." We have so many wonderful volunteers who serve to help shape and support mission and ministry here at Faith and we celebrate your "labor of love!" We also have a small, but dynamic staff that I have the privilege and pleasure to lead as your called Pastor.

I am blessed to have Andi, a brilliant Music Director, Carrie, a proficient Executive Assistant and Pastor Larry, a wise and faithful Assistant to The Pastor, to work with on staff to help implement and oversee all aspects of our life together.

Through the generous financial support of one of our church member families we are now able to add Pastor Marianne as an additional Assistant to The Pastor. The funding for this position is secured for this year, beginning in September!

Please join me in welcoming Pastor Marianne officially to the team. She will be mentored by Pastor Larry who has been serving as an Assistant To The Pastor since 2005 at Faith! To help the congregation understand how an Assistant to The Pastor functions, I have asked him to share his insights below.

As your pastor, I continue to marvel at the blessings that God is bestowing upon us in and through the hearts and hands of all of our church family members. Thank you for your faithful support and your partnership in the gospel!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Eric†