



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

10:15 a.m., February 23, 2025



Mercy. Mercy. Mercy.

Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ.

It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit.

It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

***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 the 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 father, Wally Radesk, on his birthday.

Ministers

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

**Lector
Crucifer**

Lauren Wardach
Mike Geysler

**Music Director
Cantor
Flutist
Vocals**

Andi Zdrava
Raul Ortiz-Villegas
Julianne Geysler
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, Scott Rice,
Jane Sanks, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

Media Team

Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell,
Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, 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

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

* * * * *

**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, our creator, our protector,
our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us
confess our sin.

(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 proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

We sing together



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
 4 Yes, the sor - row and the suf - f'ring's which on
 5 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your



life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing
 free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine
 hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys -
 ev - 'ry hand we view chan - nels are for
 life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing



for the lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 of your good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 te - rious sen - tence, "You have done it all to me."
 gifts and of - f'ring's due by sol - emn right to you;
 for the lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



and with that have free - ly giv - en bless - ings
 till our cold and self - ish na - tures, warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
 right of which we may not rob you, debt we
 Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, hope, to



count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 deign for alms to sue, say - ing by your
 may not choose but pay, lest that face of
 stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"
 love and pit - y turn from us an - oth - er day.
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

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 together

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

CANTICLE

We sing together

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there

is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

L: A reading from Genesis.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 37:11

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

The low - ly shall pos - sess the land; they will de -
light in a - bun - dance of peace.

Psalm 37:11

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

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PSALMODY: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

L: ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.

³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴ Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what God will do.

⁶ The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.

¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in you they seek refuge.

C: Refrain.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body,

there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We sing together



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

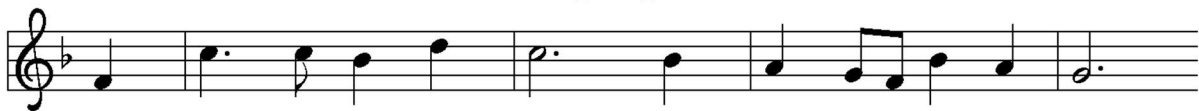
Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

ELW 651

We sing together



1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
 and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
 ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
 a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
 with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
 the love, the word, the tide.
 Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
 praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*

7 Oh, praise the living Christ
 with faith's bright songful voice!
 Announce the gospel to the world
 and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

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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: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world and all creation.

L: Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static, but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. We pray also for enduring peace in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Russia, Ukraine, Haiti, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and all areas of the world that are rocked by unrest. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts (*pause*).

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless ministries of caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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

What God Can Do!
Voices of Faith Choir

Don Besig and Nancy Price

WE STAND

We sing together

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the

prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,

and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

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.

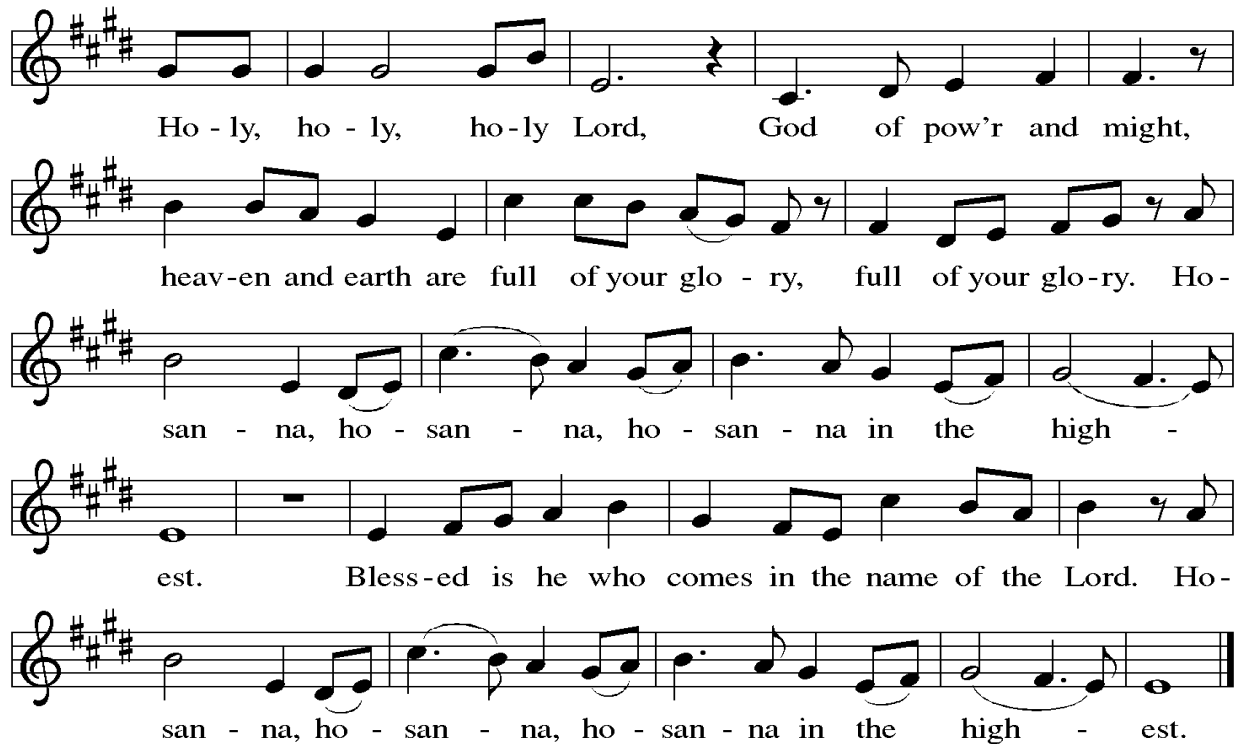
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

We sing together



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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

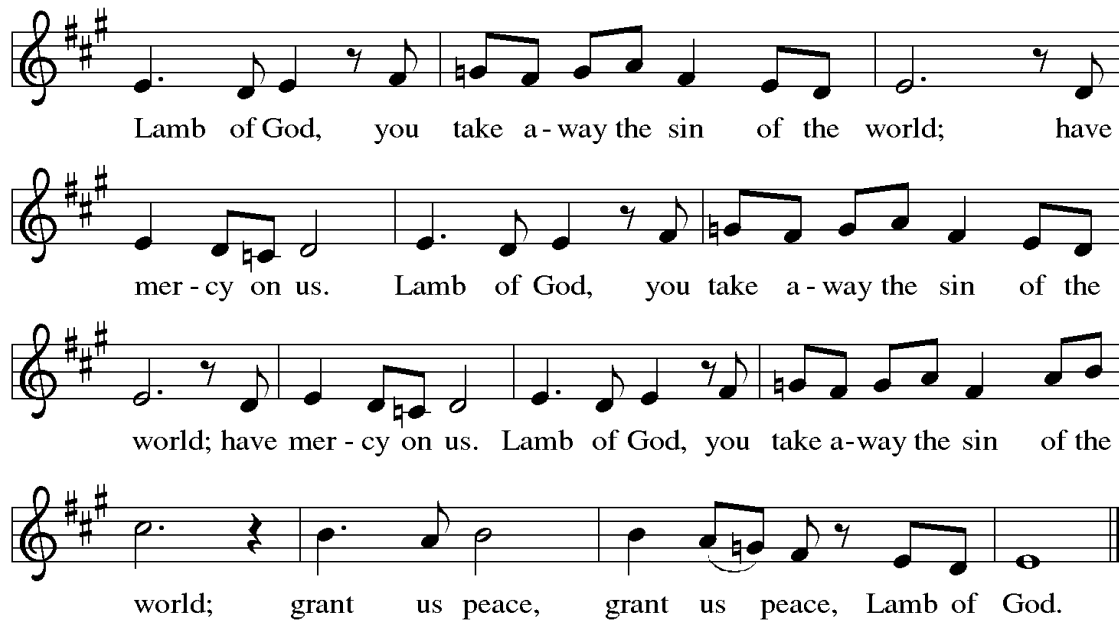
P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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, Lamb of God.

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Remember His Love

Benjamin Harlan/J. Paul Williams

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. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

We sing together

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

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.

Today: Attend the Faith Lutheran Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will begin at 11:45 a.m. today, following the 10:15 a.m. worship service. All voting members are encouraged to attend either in person, by video, or by phone (call-in):

- Attend in person at Faith Lutheran in the sanctuary. Voting will be anonymous.
- Attend by video using the Zoom program on your computer, tablet or phone. During the meeting, a Zoom coordinator will seek an anonymous vote from each person separately. To connect via Zoom on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. (before the meeting begins), type or copy the following link into your internet browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88459156804?pwd=aDscxBRY1NCx9AcG5n915DbHscUt7d.1>

- Attend by phone (voice only) by calling +1 646 558 8656 at 11:30 a.m. (before the meeting begins). You will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID 884 5915 6804 and Passcode 729720. You will then be able to hear and participate in the live meeting. Please note that this option does not allow for anonymous voting. You will be able to vote if you wish, but it will not be anonymous.

Those attending the meeting by video or phone should log in or call at 11:30 a.m. so we can run the virtual side of the meeting with ease, and link everyone appropriately.

Readers Club Meets Tomorrow

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

- Tomorrow, Feb. 24: *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles, based on a true story set during World War II.
 - 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.
- Come and join the conversation. All are welcome.
-

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 2, *Decapolis: The Other Side – Jesus and the Man from the Tombs*, in the “Mission of Jesus” 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."
- **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.
- **The Bereavement Group** meets at 3:15 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 3, at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail.

Worship to Go Needs Your Help Tuesday

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

Pack Seeds this Tuesday to Help Alleviate World Hunger

Hope Seeds lets you help alleviate world hunger! At 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, gather in fellowship hall to package seeds that will be sent all over the world to help people grow food. Sign up on the sheet on the narthex table to indicate that you'll be there.

You Can Bring Small Batteries to Faith for Recycling

You can place small, used batteries in the box on the counter in fellowship hall. Note the sign with the box, which indicates the types of batteries that can be accepted. A volunteer will take them to Staples once a week for recycling.

More Giving Envelopes Ready to Pick Up on Narthex Table

Additional 2025 giving envelopes that weren't available previously now are ready for pick up in the narthex. Questions? Contact Patty McKee, 941-228-1192 (cell), 941-921-3709 or financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com.

Orthopedic Surgeon Shares Bone Health, Fall Prevention Tips

Join us Saturday, March 1, in fellowship hall as Dr. Richard Crank, board certified orthopedic surgeon, shares information and practices about bone health and fall prevention. Breakfast is served at 9:30 a.m., and the presentation begins at 10 a.m.

Need a Ride to Church?

Faith will pay for Uber or Lyft to bring you or others to worship or other events. Contact Pastor Eric to make arrangements, 716-352-0055.

Consider Donating to SURE

Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE) is a faith-based justice ministry that equips volunteer leaders to engage with community stakeholders and government authorities to address disparities within our community, particularly those impacting

the vulnerable and marginalized. The organization's mission is to foster a sense of optimism by striving for a more just and equitable future for all residents. The lack of affordable housing and education disparities are current priorities. Pastor Eric and a number of other Faith volunteers provide time and talent to SURE, which also needs financial resources to accomplish its work. Please consider a donation to SURE so it can continue its important work. If you use giving envelopes, you will find a special SURE envelope in your packet this month. You also can give online through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com.

Joy in Receiving God's Blessings: Being a Faithful Steward

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy" (1 Corinthians 4:7). God has granted us, his stewards, many blessings, but the decision is ours whether we will use those gifts for the work of the Lord. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God enables us to use our gifts faithfully and joyfully for his purposes. May God help us all to be the faithful stewards that he wants us to be. *Lord, grant me faith to be a committed, joyful steward of all you entrust to me. Amen.*

Pictorial Directory: Have Your Photo Taken Today

Please remember to have your photo taken. Sign up at the studio door at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you! Questions? Contact Lauren Wardach, LaurenFLCSRQ@gmail.com.

Coffee Hour Is Important! Please Volunteer!

Coffee hour needs additional volunteers. All you have to do is provide and put out snacks, and clean up afterward. Faith can cover the cost of the snacks if you would like to volunteer but don't have resources to purchase them. Sign up on the sheet beside the coffee pot in fellowship hall.

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.
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Move to the Music During Zumba Class

Zumba begins at 6 p.m. Mondays in the Community Center (gym). All fitness levels are welcome! It is free for congregation members, and a voluntary donation from non-members is appreciated. Join in the fun!

All New Garden Benches Have Been Dedicated

The new garden benches for the Memorial Garden have all been purchased and dedicated in memory of loved ones. Thank you.

A Celebration of Generosity! People of Faith Step Up for LSF

Thanks to your generous response to the need for emergency funding, Pastor Eric hand-delivered a check for \$25,000 to Lutheran Services Florida (LSF). That amount, which is the combined donations from so many Faith contributors, will help LSF provide emergency assistance to refugees who have entered Florida legally. Faith's generosity to date truly is amazing and heartwarming. Thank you to all! Please note that, because federal funding for refugee assistance was canceled, the organization's financial need will continue, and you can contribute to LSF's important work at any time. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with LSF in the memo line or give online through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com.

Daily Lenten Devotion and Prayer Will Be Coming Your Way

Ash Wednesday, March 5, marks the beginning of our 2025 Lenten journey toward Holy Week and the Season of Easter. To enrich our Lenten experience, the Faith Evangelism Ministry team will share daily devotions and prayers from Luther Seminary called "There in God's Garden." You will receive a devotion via email from Faith each morning during Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday. A limited number of 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.

Bread for the World CEO Shares Insights about Hunger Crisis, What the Church Can Do

You are invited to an evening with Rev. Eugene Cho, president and CEO of Bread for the World, at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 6, in the sanctuary at Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL, 34239.

Bread for the World recognizes that hunger cannot be solved by charities and food pantries alone – feeding the world takes all of us, and it is a solvable crisis. Christians can encourage world leaders across all aisles to rise to the occasion.

Rev. Cho is an international leader with deep knowledge of the hunger crisis that faces nearly one in every 10 people globally. During the special March 6 event, he will share insights and show what a united church can do. Come, listen, and be inspired.



Worship and Service Calendar

Worship Services

Sundays at 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, Feb. 16

Online views	188
8 a.m. in person	39
10:15 a.m. in person	122
5 p.m. in person	41

Next Sunday, March 2

Exodus 34:29-35
Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shines.

Psalm 99
Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill (Ps. 99:9).

2 Corinthians 3:12 –4:2
With unveiled faces, we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed.

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]
Jesus is transfigured on the mountain.

This Week at Faith

Monday, Feb. 24

2 p.m. Readers Club, library
6 p.m. Zumba, community center

Tuesday, Feb. 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
10:30 a.m. Hope Seeds, fellowship hall
5 p.m. Congregation Council, conf. room
6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota, choir room and sanctuary

Wednesday, Feb. 26

10:30 a.m. Prayer Support Group, chapel
3:15 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

Thursday, Feb. 27

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
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, Feb. 28

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

Saturday, March 1

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center
9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room
9:30 a.m. Brunch & Learn with Dr. Richard Crank, fellowship hall

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

Pastor Steve Anderson, friend of Jan Phillips
Michele Bajor
Tani Banta
Randy Boid
Barbara Brannan, mother of Kim McDonald
Gail Brown
Arthur Brucato, friend of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Dee Burlingame
Judy Carlsen
Jerry Clancy
Evelyn Conlon
Doug Dahlquist, father of Hannah Boyd
Jeanine Davis (nee Molella), granddaughter of
Karen & John White
Eloise Dettmer
Joe & Joan Dongarra
Beth & Mary Farmer
Andrea Gamboa
Vicki Goffinet
Hope Hall & Family, sister of Faye Adkins
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles
Sonja Hickling, mother of Kelly Ashlock
Becky Hilton Heeps, friend of Lisa Olsen
Friends & Family of Marilyn Hirsch
Bob Hurdle, friend of the Kolschowskys & Coppers
Pete Inkrott
Jan and Michele
Jesus & Rita Jimenez
Alf Kirkeeng
Michael Kolschowsky
Leonard Kotwitz, brother of Janet Falk
Lillian Lapenckas
Kevin Lasko
Ruth Levy, sister of Joan Hirsch
Diane Lewis, sister-in-law of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Pat Longo & Ronnie Mojo, friends of
Susan Wakefield
Julie, Eli, Paul & Debbie Maresch, family of
Patty McKee
Kim MacDonald

Matt McKelvey, friend of Lois Weaverling
Judi Melander
Jay Millard, son of John and Judy Millard
Alison Nommay, friend of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Terry O'Connell, friend of Marlene Radesk
Meghan Ortega, niece of Lisa & Pastor Eric Olsen
Judy Osborn, sister of Peggy Ragan
Sue Ostrom
Pastor Terry Parker, friend of Max &
Pastor Marianne Powrie
Fran Perkins
Carl Petersen
Richard Keith Radcliffe, brother of
Gail Radcliffe Brown
Annabel Ryan
Floyd Ryder
Robin Ryder, daughter of Floyd Ryder &
sister of Gail Murphy
Lorna Sawyers-Sucra, friend of Jeremy &
Yvonne Mullins
Kathy Schilio
Shirley Schimke
Heather Schott, Les Lorenz's step-daughter-in-law
Becky Sciranko, niece of Alice Rush
Joan Searles
Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller
Pastor John Spittal
Pamela Spry, mother of Hannah Boyd
Ed & Gail Straight, friends of Nancy Dandino
Tess Stransky, cousin of Lynn Clancy
Kris Sullivan
Leigh Tarantino, friend of Marlene Radesk
Melissa Thompson, cousin of Lisa Olsen
Friends & Family of Tyler Tynefield,
loved one of Dee Burlingame
Jessica Uebel, cousin of Adele Smith
Dr. Patty White
Friends & Family of Paul Wick
Dorothy Wolfe, cousin of Adele Smith
Jon Wooton
Celeste & John Yee, friends of Marlene Radesk
