



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:15 a.m., March 30, 2025



The psalm sets the tone today:

“Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!”
Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits
of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has
“rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return
of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake.
Rejoice!

***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 Bill Greenaway in celebration of and thanksgiving for his 93rd birthday.

Ministers

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

**Lector
Crucifer**

Yvonne Mullins
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

* * * * *

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

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

Congregational Council

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

Interim Executive Assistant

Linda Fewell

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

PRELUDE

Andi Zdrava

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WE STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

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

(pause for reflection)

Most merciful God,

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

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

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

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

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

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

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN **Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing** ELW 807

We sing together



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

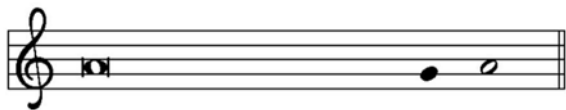
GREETING

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.



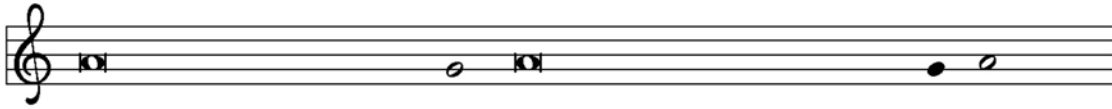
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



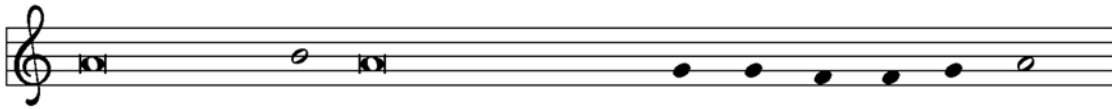
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism, clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

L: A reading from Joshua.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 32:11

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



Be glad, you righ-teous, and re-joice in the LORD.

Psalm 32:11

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

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PSALMODY: Psalm 32

L: ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

C: Refrain.

L: ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers
to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow,
they shall not reach them.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁷ You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ “I will instruct you and teach you
in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule,
which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

C: Refrain.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

L: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11b-32

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry

and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY **Our Father, We Have Wandered**

ELW 606

We sing together



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
 com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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APOSTLES' CREED

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

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried; he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

L: God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the wellbeing of all. We pray that our leaders' courage will result in an enduring, just peace in Israel, Gaza, Russia, Ukraine and all areas rocked by unrest. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts. (*pause*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus may be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

L: God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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

Amazing Grace
Voices of Faith Choir

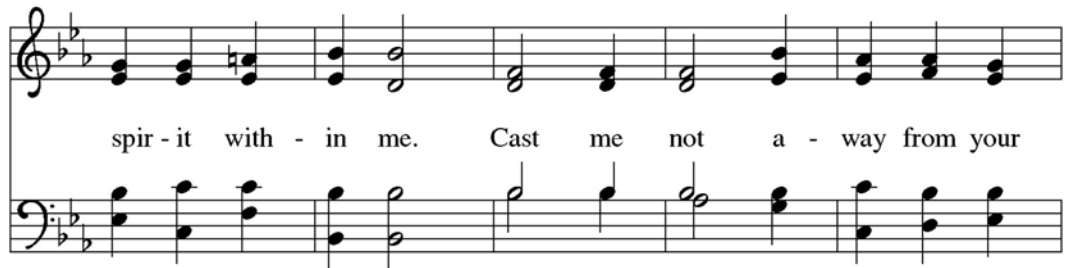
John Coates

WE STAND

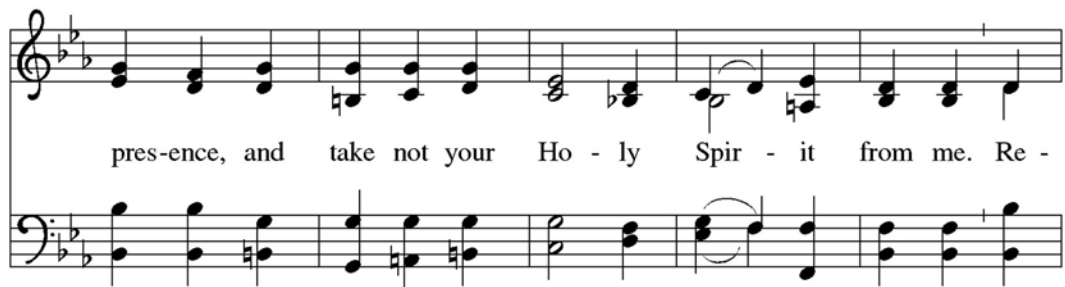
We sing together
Create in Me a Clean Heart
Offering Song



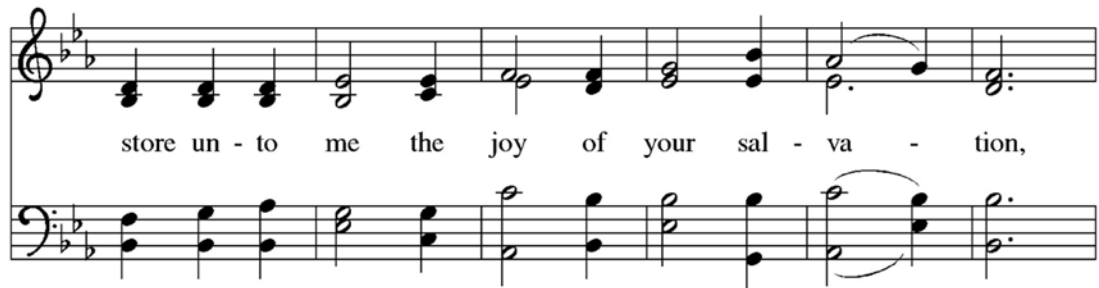
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



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.

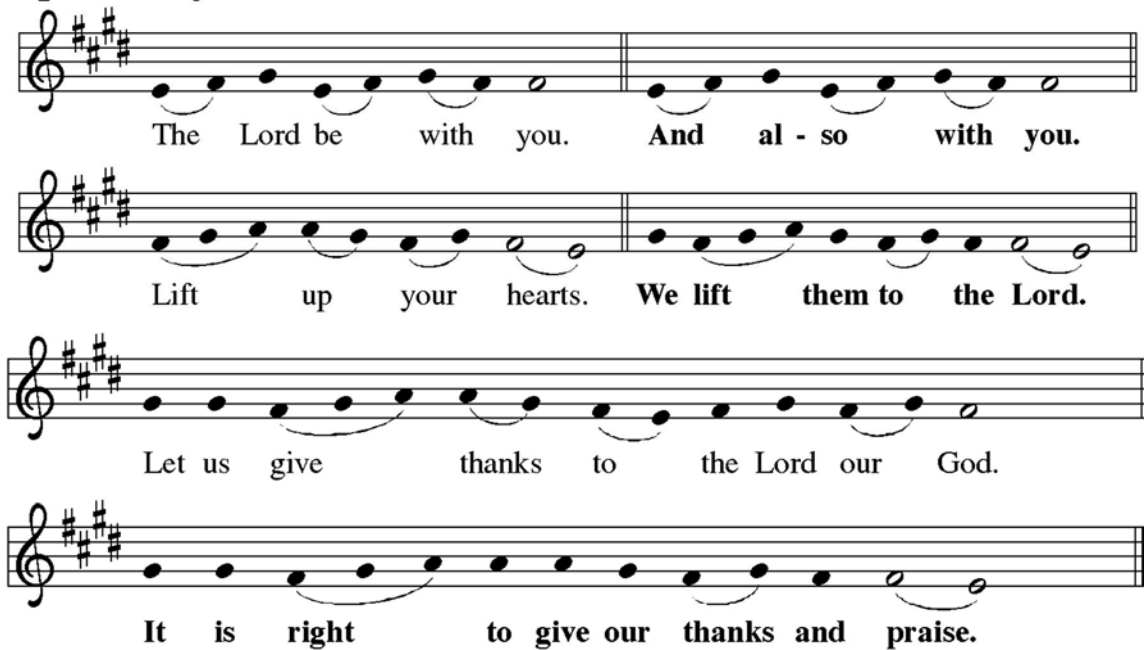
OFFERING PRAYER

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

C: Amen.

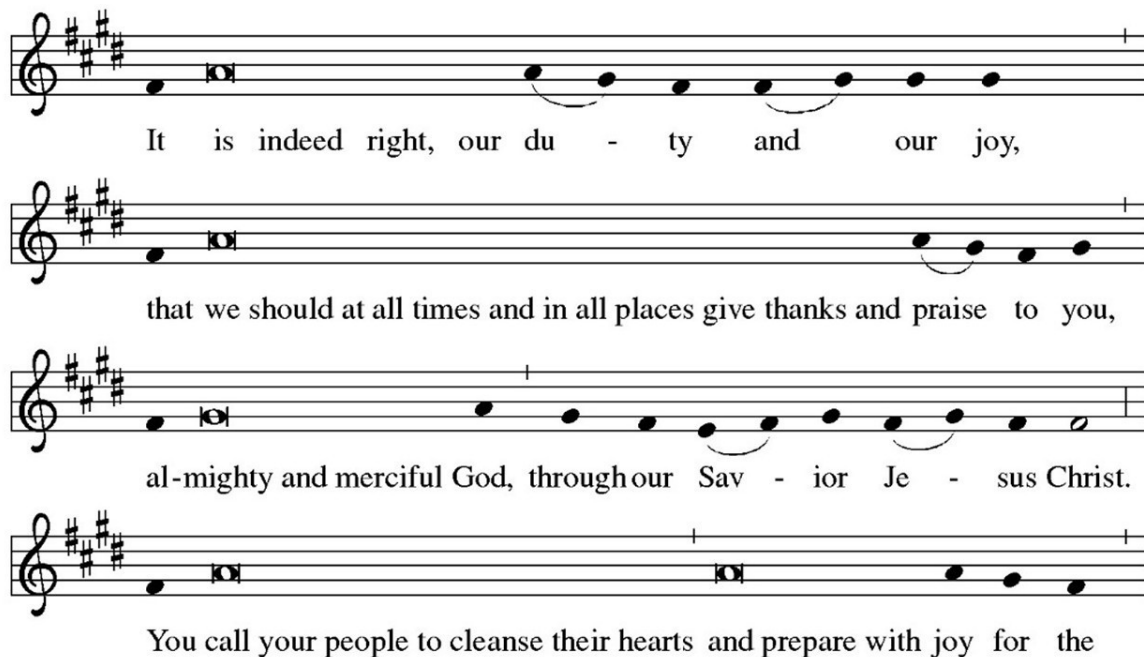
GREAT THANKSGIVING

We sing responsively



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE



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

pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,
 we may come to the full - ness of your grace.
 And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
 we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

We sing together

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

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

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

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

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG

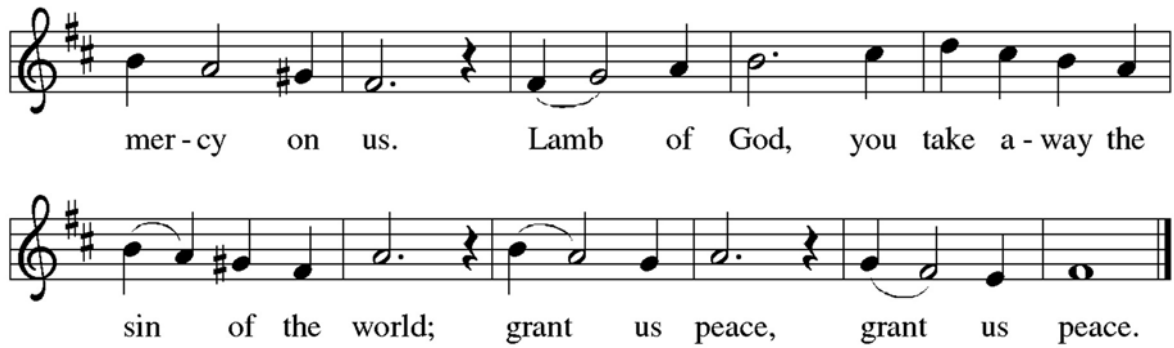
We sing together



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



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



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

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

He Is Here in the Breaking of the Bread

Lloyd Larson and Mary Kay Beall

Voices of Faith Choir

WE STAND

TABLE BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

We sing together

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

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.

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.

Remembering John White

Long-time Faith member John White joined the church triumphant March 25. A service of resurrection and life will begin at 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 11, in the sanctuary. A light luncheon will follow in fellowship hall. Please keep John's wife, Karen, and all of John's family and friends in your prayers. *Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, John. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.*

Today: Benefit Concert Features Andi Zdrava, Other Talent

Join other music lovers at 3 p.m., today 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 at the door or by calling 941-312-1789. When you buy tickets online at aico.ludus.com, enter FAITHLUTHERAN for the discount.

Your Participation is Important! Be There Tomorrow to Celebrate, Support Justice Ministry

You are invited, and your participation is important! 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., tomorrow, Monday, March 31, in the Faith sanctuary. The Diversity Chorus of Sarasota will perform, and public officials will be there to express support, but your participation – as faith-filled members of the larger community – is equally important. Please be there!

Our Journey Through Lent to Easter Continues

Lenten Wednesdays: 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 with choir, sanctuary

Good Friday, April 18

- 7 a.m. Multi-Denominational Stations of the Cross, park at Church of the Redeemer, 222 S. Palm Ave.; take a free trolley to the starting location
- 2 p.m. Stations of the Cross, sanctuary
- 7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship with choir, sanctuary

Holy Saturday, April 19

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

Easter Sunday, April 20

- 7 a.m. Easter Vigil Part Two, Memorial Garden
- 9 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, fellowship hall and playground
- 10:15 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum** meets between the two morning worship services in the conference room. Next week, the group will study Lesson 2, *The Believers*, in the "A Clash of Kingdoms" series.
- **Women of Faith** will meet for breakfast, prayer and camaraderie at 8:30 a.m., Monday, March 31, at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail. Questions? See Pastor Marianne or email her, pastorp2.0@gmail.com.
- **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.

Mary Circle Hosts, Requests Personal Care Donations

- **Women of the church, plan to attend the WELCA Mid-Gulf Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Faith.** It will be a day of fellowship, Bible study and a special presentation by Faith's own Al Ernst. Both continental breakfast and lunch will be served at a cost of only \$10. Sign up on the narthex table to indicate that you'll be there.
- **Please place nail clippers, combs, bath-size soap and adult-size toothbrushes for Lutheran World Relief in the bin in the narthex. Soap is the most-needed item.** 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 13.** When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication appear in the bulletin on your selected Sunday.

To make a dedication:

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

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

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.*

Daily Lenten Devotions and Prayers Continue

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

Readers Club Sets Meeting Dates, Selections

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

- Tomorrow, March 31: *How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Budde, exploring thoughts of the Episcopal bishop of Washington, D.C.
- April 28: *The Gift of Empathy: Helping Others Feel Valued, Cared For, and Understood* by Joel P. Bretscher and Kenneth C. Haugk. You can purchase the book from StephenMinistries.org (not Amazon, which has a similar title, but not this book).

Come and join the conversation. Or log in via Zoom, Meeting ID: 840 3904 1433
Passcode: 182787. All are welcome.

Mission Endowment Fund: Grants are Available, Contributions Are Appreciated

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

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

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

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

You can purchase lilies and/or hydrangeas to adorn the altar and honor loved ones on Easter Day. Dedications to your loved ones will appear in the bulletin. The cost is \$25 per lily plant and \$35 per pink or blue hydrangea plant, and you are welcome to take the plants that you ordered home or donate them following the 10:15 a.m. Easter celebration worship service. The plants are in limited supply, so orders are due no later than **April 6**. To indicate how many lilies and/or hydrangeas you wish to purchase and to whom you would like to dedicate the plants:

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

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

Scam Alert! Beware of False Emails or Text Messages

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

Contact officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com:

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

Prayer List

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

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

Worship and Service Calendar

Sunday Worship Services

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

Sunday, March 23

Online views	162
8 a.m. in person	42
10:15 a.m. in person	163
5 p.m. in person	15

Wednesday, March 26

Online views	18
12 p.m. in person	46

Next Sunday, April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21
*The Lord gives water in the wilderness to the
chosen people.*

Psalm 126
*Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs
of joy (Ps. 126:5).*

Philippians 3:4b-14
*To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in
his sufferings.*

John 12:1-8
Mary anoints Jesus for his burial.

This Week at Faith

Monday, March 31

8:30 a.m.	Women of Faith Breakfast, Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami
2 p.m.	Readers Club, library
5 p.m.	Evangelism Ministry Team, conf. room
6 p.m.	SURE Renewal Rally, sanctuary
6 p.m.	Zumba, community center

Tuesday, April 1

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

Wednesday, April 2

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, April 3

9 a.m.	Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
4:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
5 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
6:30 p.m.	Voices of Faith, choir room

Friday, April 4

8 a.m.	Jazzercise, community center
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Saturday, April 5

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

About Faith Lutheran

Our Mission

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others.

Our Vision

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

The ELCA

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

Subscribe to Receive the Latest News and Updates

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

