

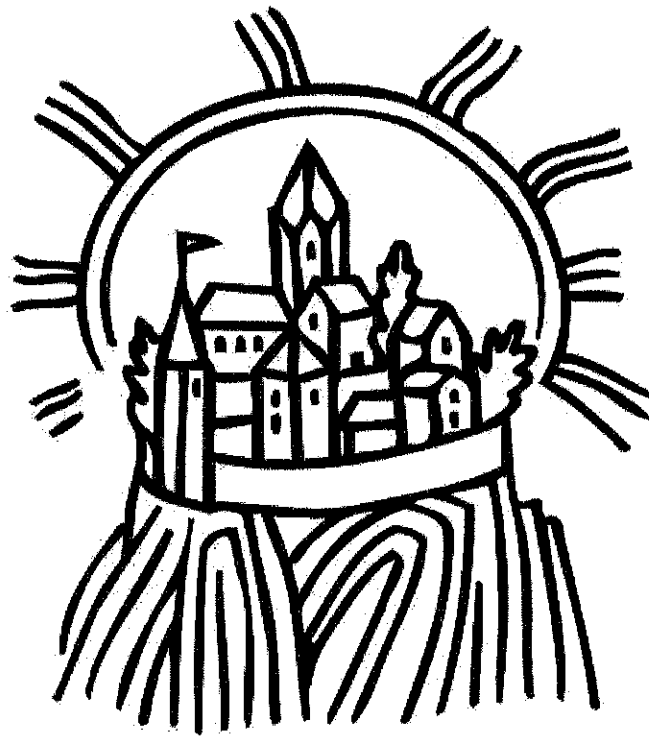


Faith Lutheran Church

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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

5 p.m., February 8, 2026



Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of 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 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

SONG: O Come to the Altar

Verse

Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling.
Have you come to the end of yourself?
do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling.

Chorus

O come to,
the altar,
the Father's arms are open wide,
forgiveness,
was bought with,
the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Verse 2

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes,
come today there's no reason to wait,
Jesus is calling.
Bring your sorrows and trade them for
joy,
from the ashes a new life is born,
Jesus is calling.

Chorus x 2

O come to,
the altar,
the Father's arms are open wide,
forgiveness,
was bought with,
the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Bridge x 2

Oh what a Saviour,
isn't He wonderful,
sing hallelujah Christ is risen,
bow down before Him,
for He is Lord of all,
sing hallelujah Christ is risen.

Chorus x 2

O come to,
the altar,
the Father's arms are open wide,
forgiveness,
was bought with,
the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Music & Lyrics by: Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye

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.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

A reading from Isaiah.

L: ¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

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.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 13-20

P: The holy gospel according Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: [Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

WE SIT

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Good, Lord, to Be Here

ELW 315



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
 we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
 we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
 but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

L: Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray 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. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you silently or aloud. *(Pause)*. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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.

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: Goodness of God

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest nights
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Bridge x 2

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Chorus x 2

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

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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.

