



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023, 8 a.m.



Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Welcome to worship at Faith Lutheran Church
Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

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:
Peggy & Ken Krueger



In honor of grandsons Carter & William
who are celebrating birthdays

Presiding Ministers:

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen, Pastor
Rev. Marianne Powrie, Retired Pastor in Residence

Lector:

Mark Nelson

Guest Director of Music/Organist:

Cynthia Roberts-Greene

Acolytes:

Alma Dornemann, Jazmin Gamboa, Christian Jones

Greeters & Ushers:

Thomas & Amanda Bright, Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Jan Phillips, Scott Rice, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

Videography:

Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood
Kevin Fewell, Greg Cooper

Altar Guild:

Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Janet Phillips,
Steve & Peggy Ragan, Linda Fewell

Congregation Council:

Scott Rice (President), Ann Greenwood (Vice President)
Peggy Ragan (Secretary), Anita Wooton (Treasurer),
Amanda Bright, Jerry Cooper, Gail Lidinsky,
Mark Nelson, Joan Searles, Lauren Wardach

Pastor

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

Assistant to the Pastor

Rev. Larry Wright

Retired Pastors in Residence:

Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. John Spittal

Office Administrator:

Cate Teague

Sunday Sexton:

Thomas Bright

Director of Music/Organist:

David V. Patrick

Lead Cantor/Music Librarian:

Tom Tryon

Artist in Residence:

Dr. Joseph Holt

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. NOTE: This service is being live-streamed. While we try to avoid filming congregants, it may happen at times.

PRELUDE

Wondrous Love

Arr. Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE STAND

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ☩ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

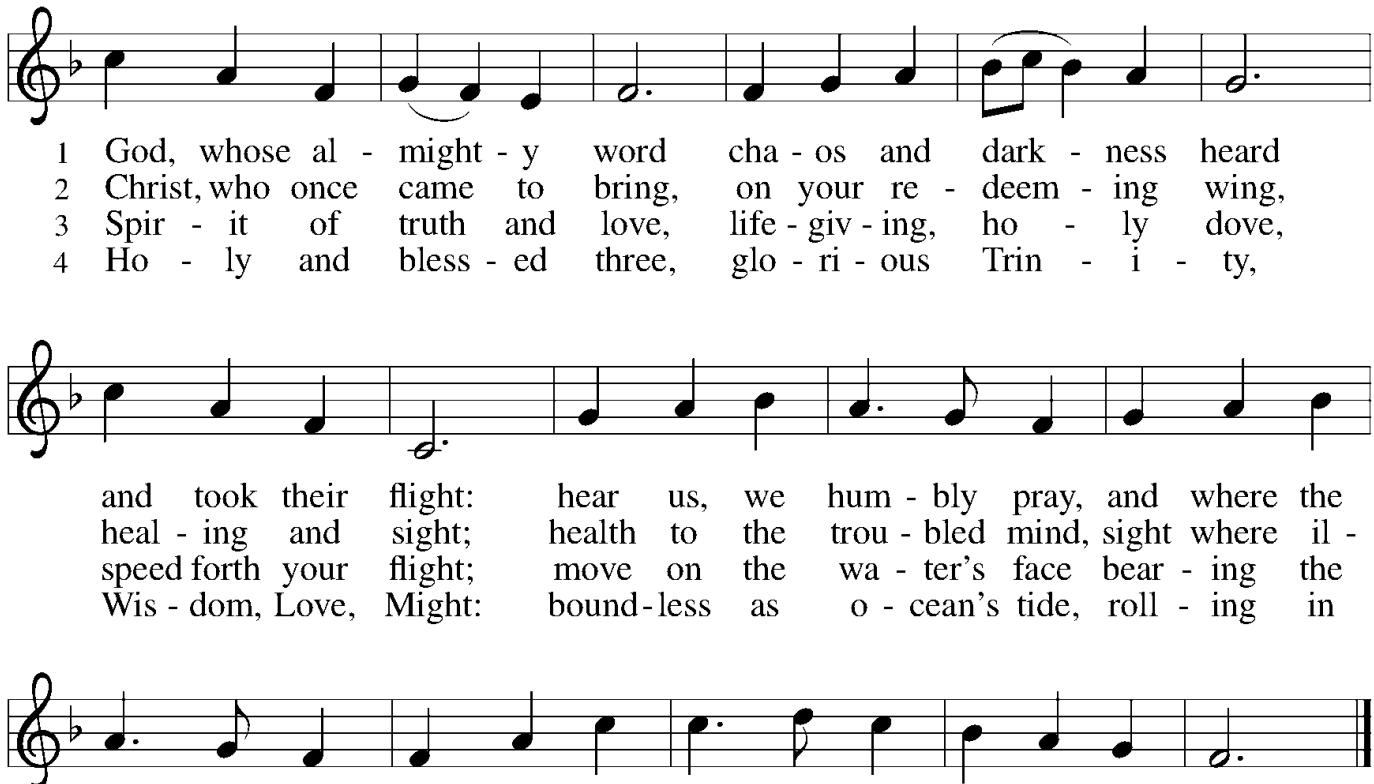
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

God, Whose Almighty Word
First and Last Verses
See next page

ELW 673

God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound-less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

L: A READING FROM 1 SAMUEL

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’

³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”

⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.”

⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”

⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”

¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”

¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”

¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

L: A READING OF PSALM 23 WITH REFRAIN PSALM 23:5

You have anointed my head with oil.

C: You have anointed my head with oil.

L: ¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

C: You have anointed my head with oil.

L: ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

C: You have anointed my head with oil.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

L: A READING FROM EPHESIANS

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—

⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;

¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG)

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.

⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,

⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."

¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes."

³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

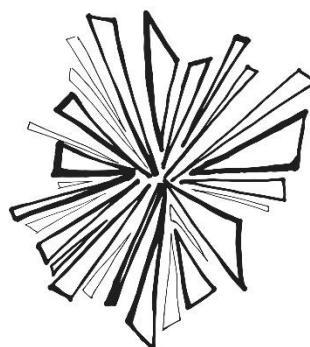
Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

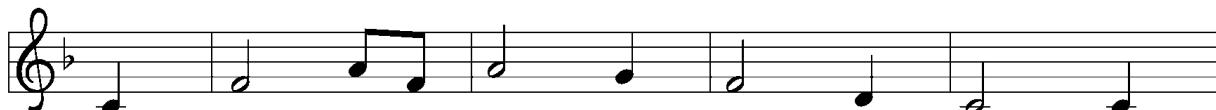
HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace
First and Last Verses
See next page

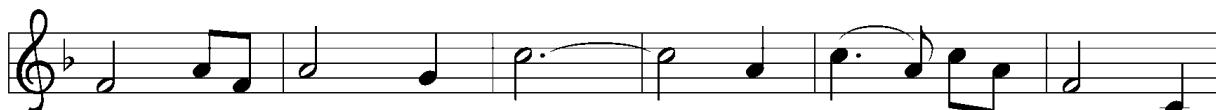
ELW 779



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835



Apostle's 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: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, silently or aloud [pause for responses].

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community especially All Faiths Food Bank and all community partner food pantries. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ 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 neighbor with a word of peace.

WE SIT

The offering is collected at this time. Online giving also is available at www.faithlutheransrq.com. We sincerely appreciate your generosity in support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.

When the offering plates are brought forward, the congregation stands and sings.

WE STAND

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song

Music score for 'Create in Me a Clean Heart' featuring a treble clef, a bass clef, and a key signature of two flats. The score consists of five staves of music with corresponding lyrics.

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.

**C: God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (SPOKEN)

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 (SPOKEN)

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.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the
pascal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
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 (SPOKEN)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

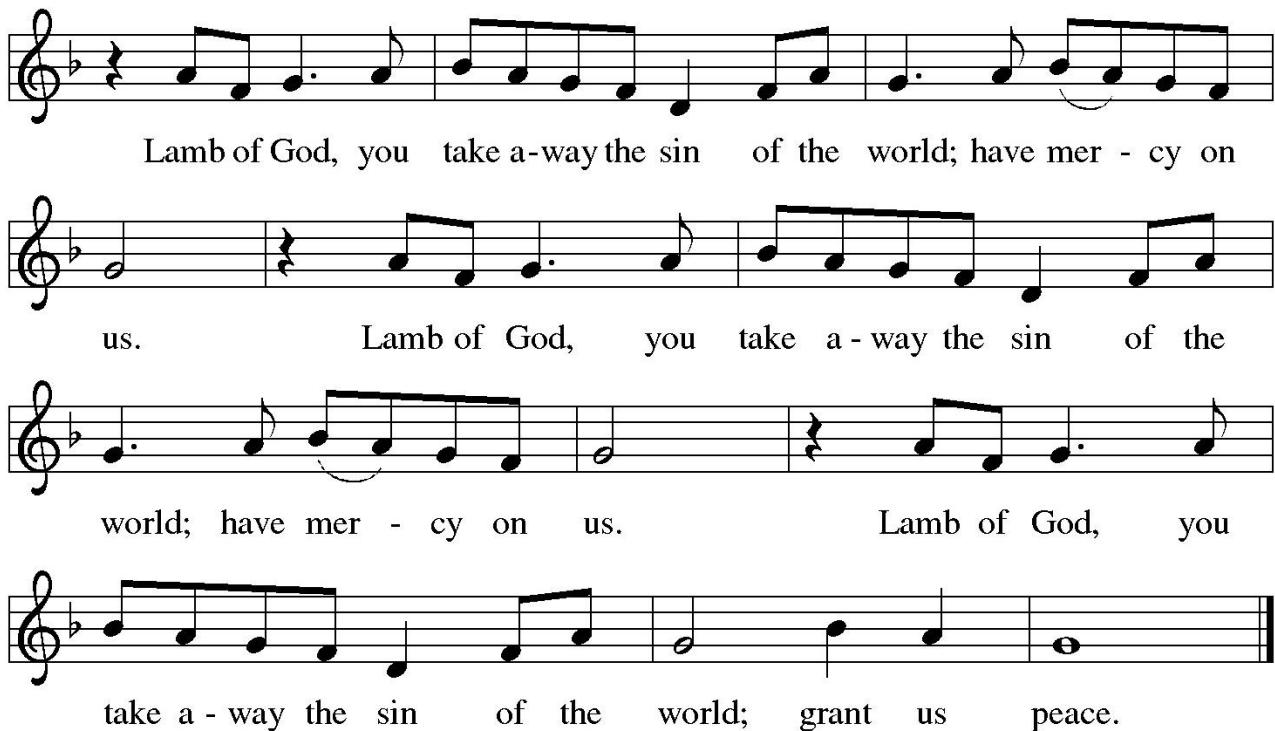
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.



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

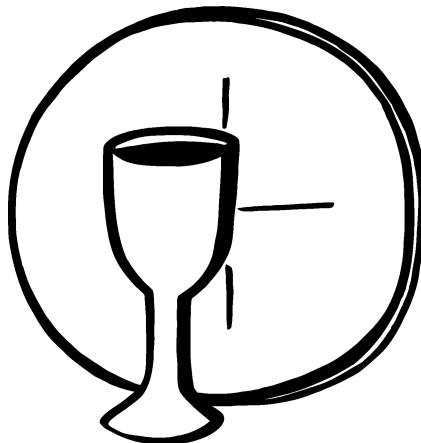
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

WE SIT

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.



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.

C: Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love. Amen.

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Be Thou My Vision
First and Last Verses
See next page

ELW 793

Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Minor

J. S. Bach

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Services

Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.*	
In-Person & *Live-Streamed at	
www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service	
Sun, March 12, Online Views:	32
Sun, March 12, Attendance:	153
Wed, March 15, Noon:	20
Wed, March 15, 7 p.m.:	43

Next: Sunday, March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year A

First Reading:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The dry bones of Israel brought to life

Psalm:

Psalm 130

I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

Second Reading:

Romans 8:6-11

Life in the Spirit

Gospel:

John 11:1-45

Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus

This Week at Faith

Monday, March 20

Tuesday, March 21

9:30 a.m.	G.I.F.T.S. (Ladies of Faith), conference room
9:30 a.m.	Men of Faith Bible Study, chapel
12:00 p.m.	Mary Circle, fellowship hall
6 p.m.	Diversity Voices of Sarasota, sanctuary

Wednesday, March 22

12 p.m.	Lenten Prayer Service with Communion, sanctuary
1 p.m.	Bereavement Group, conference room
6 p.m.	Soup & Sandwich Supper, fellowship hall
7 p.m.	Holden Evening Prayer Service, sanctuary

Thursday, March 23

9 a.m.	Food Pantry, Delivery Break-Down Crew
1 p.m.	Stitch 'n' Chatter
2 p.m.	Food Pantry, Pre-Packing Crew
3:30 p.m.	Food Pantry, Check-In & Distribution Crew
5 p.m.	Food Pantry open
6 p.m.	Jazzercise, gym
6:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Operations Crew

Friday, March 24

8:30 a.m.	Jazzercise, gym
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Saturday, March 25

8:30 a.m.	Jazzercise, gym
9:00 a.m.	Diakonia, conference room

Sunday, March 26

9:10 a.m.	Adult Forum, conference room
9:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, choir room

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. **Please let us know that you visited by 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.

Let Us Pray

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Consider Donating Altar Flowers

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 vases. For each week, we can have either one donor for both vases, or two donors for one vase each. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran 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 both vases for a date already are sponsored, please choose an alternate date. The next available Sundays are **May 14 and 21**.

When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication will be published in the bulletin on your selected Sunday. To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with your payment, and place it in the offering plate. Include a note in the envelope with your donation or call the church office. 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 Faith website, www.faithlutheransrq.com.

After the 10:15 a.m. service, the flowers are yours to keep or donate to a person or place of your choice. **Please leave the liner pots at church. The florist picks these up every week to reuse them. If you have any of these, please return them.**

Thank you for adding beauty to Faith Lutheran's altar!



THE SEASON OF LENT & EASTER
Join us for Midweek & Holy Week Services

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

12 p.m. Wednesdays on March 22, and March 29:

LENT SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPERS & SERVICES

Wednesdays on March 22, and March 29:

6 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Supper

7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer Service

Sign up to bring soup or sandwiches on one or more Wednesdays!

The signup sheet is in the narthex.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 2 – Palm Sunday:

8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Worship Services

April 6 – Maundy Thursday:

7 p.m. Eucharist Service

April 7 – Good Friday:

2 p.m. Stations of the Cross Service

7 p.m. Tenebrae Service

April 8 – Easter Vigil Part One:

7:30 p.m. Meet at the fire in the parking lot near the church entrance

April 9 – Easter:

7 a.m. Easter Vigil Part Two in Memorial Garden

10:15 a.m. Worship Service in the sanctuary



Elevator is Working Again



Men of Faith



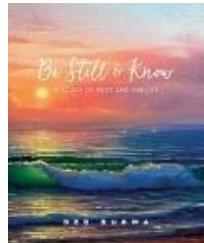
Please join us on **Tuesday, March 21** for another exciting Bible Study! Join us at **9:30 a.m. in the Chapel**. No prior bible study experience necessary! Consider inviting a friend or two as well!

Readers Club Meets March 27

Readers Club meets at **2 p.m.** on the last Monday of the month, **March 27**, in the church library. The group will discuss *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. To learn more, contact Kathy Schilio, schilmo@yahoo.com. **Please join!**



G.I.F.T.S. Meets March 21



G.I.F.T.S. (Growing In Faith Through Scripture) fellowship and study of "Be Still and Know" by Deb Burma will resume at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 21**, in the conference room. We look forward to continuing our exploration of Psalm 46. Please join us.

Bereavement Group Meets Wednesdays

The Bereavement Group meets at **1 p.m. Wednesdays** in the conference room. Pastor John Spittal will lead the March 15 discussion. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you. There is strength in community. Help spread the word of hope.



Tech Savvy? We Need Your Gifts!



We are looking to train additional operators to join our team that runs the live stream for our 10:15 a.m. service. If you are comfortable with technology, please consider this vital ministry. Interested? Curious? Contact Rev. Marianne Powrie or the church office.

Adult Forum Meets Today

Adult Forum will meet on **Sunday March 19th** with Volume 5 "The Early Church" Lesson 3: Where Satan Lives of "That the World May Know" video series. We will meet in the conference room between the two morning worship services from 9:10 – 9:50am. (Day Light Savings begins) Pack your bags!



We're going on a journey with Ray Vander Laan, a Biblical scholar. A quest to uncover Scripture and its meaning across history. Filmed on location in Israel and throughout the Middle East, the Faith Lessons Digital series is an adventure in biblical learning.

You will discover why Jesus turned the world upside down with his compelling call to follow Him. The insights you gain will transform your reading of the Gospels and inspire a deeper faith commitment.

Confirmation Students



During Lent, confirmation students are encouraged to attend Wednesday evening Soup & Sandwich Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer.

Fellowship and worship are part of the comprehensive confirmation program, which involves much more than class time. It seeks to provide experiences and opportunities in which the individual can grow in faith as a Christian (i.e., worship, relationships with peers and mentors, small group experiences, and ministry opportunities).

Food Pantry

The Faith Food Pantry currently needs paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, paper napkins, paper plates) as well feminine hygiene products. Place donations in the barrel in fellowship hall.

Help us spread the word that our Food Pantry distribution has officially begun! Faith volunteers welcome clients 5-6:30 p.m. Thursdays.



Thank you to all who graciously give time, talents, and treasures. We appreciate you so very much!

Quilting Group Begins Stitching Soon



Faith's new quilting group is for anyone who would either (1) like to learn to quilt or (2) use their sewing/quilting skills to make quilts.

We will cut, sew, quilt and bind each quilt. If you do not know how to quilt, someone will be available to teach the skills you need. Questions? Contact Jane Sanks (941) 923-4240 or (941) 726-2849.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund Needs Your Help

Pastor Eric often is in conversation with members of the congregation or the community about specific needs and aid they might require. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund provides him the means to help financially, when necessary.

If you are able, please consider a donation so vulnerable members of our community can continue to receive emergency assistance. Thank you!



Joan's Soup Freezer

The soup fridge is filling up! Please consider making a donation or taking one of the delicious soups found in the kitchen fridge labeled "Joan's Soup." If you contribute soup, please label the container with the type of soup and when it was made. Thanks!

Soap Up!

It's time for Faith to soap up! Mary Circle is collecting necessary items to create 65 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please donate bath-sized soap, adult-sized toothbrushes, metal nail clippers, and combs. Place donations in the bin in the narthex.



Don't feel like going to the store? You can order supplies from Amazon or other online sources. Want someone to shop for you? Simply put a monetary donation in the collection plate labeled LWR – Personal Care Kits. Thank you!

Mary Circle Hosts Bold Woman of the Year



Mary Circle is happy to host Faith's 2023 Bold Woman of the Year, Amy Hubschman, during its March meeting at **noon, Tuesday, March 21**.

Amy will talk about her 50 years plus in Sarasota and her personal faith journey. Please bring your lunch. Dessert will be provided.

Register Children for First Communion Instruction

If you have a child or grandchild who would like to receive First Communion on Palm Sunday, mark your calendars. The two-session First Communion Instruction led by Pastor Eric will take place after the 10:15 a.m. service **Sunday, March 26** and during the 6 p.m. Lenten Soup & Sandwich Supper **March 29**.

To register a child to attend both sessions, contact the church office with the child's name and date of birth.



Donate Blood Sunday, March 26, at Faith



The Suncoast Blood Center bloodmobile will be in the parking lot at Faith **9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sunday, March 26**.

Sign up for a donation time slot on the sheet in the narthex, or by contacting Patty McKee, 941-921-3709 or pattymckee15@gmail.com. Walk-ins also are welcome!

In addition to the knowledge that they have helped save lives, all blood donors will receive:

- A "Faith in Blood" t-shirt.
- A Chick-Fil-A "Be Our Guest" coupon.

Platelet donors will receive a \$40 Amazon gift card. And if you bring a friend who also donates platelets, you will receive another \$50 Amazon gift card.

Thank you to all donors who made our past blood drive successful. Faith will host another drive in the coming months.

Thank You from Pastor Larry

The Adult Bible Study class that explored six of the miracles of Jesus has ended, and we look forward, following Easter, to begin a study of six of Jesus' parables.

My heart is truly grateful, not only for the opportunity to be one of the leaders of Bible Study at Faith, but to learn along with a loving bunch of people, and to enjoy this way of being church together.



Thank you for your many kind words and the gifts you have shared with me. I'm so very blessed.

Beginning **Wednesday, April 19**, we intend to apply textbook, lecture and discussion as we delve into a few of the stories of Jesus. Will you consider joining us as we seek in this way to grow in our faith together? Hope to see you around the table.

Women's Fellowship



More than 30 women of Faith gathered March 11 to sing, hear scripture, and deepen relationships with Jesus and with long-time and new friends during a tea and luncheon.



Each attendee brought a special tea or coffee cup. They shared stories about those cups and in tune with the event theme, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" -- reflected about how Jesus continually fills our "cups" with blessings.



Sincere thanks to the event host committee, which was chaired by Gwen Schell and also included Kathy Schilio, Nancy Dandino, Ann Greenwood, Patty McKee, Carol Inkrott and Peggy Ragan.



Prayer List



Please remember in your prayers this week:

Jeff & Nancy Arntsen
Anna Bancroft, 6 years old,
friend of Alyene Weave
Chuck Banta
Family & Friends of Kevin Beard
Sean Brett, son of Alyene Weaver
Tommy Bright
Sandra Brinker
Charles Budreau
Dee Burlingame
Michael O. Cannon, father of Kay Cannon
Ray Collins, friend of Joan Zabor
Cheryl Cook
Joan Cotton
Eloise Dettmer
Elizabeth Farmer
John Gallo, friend of April Shettler
Andrea Gamboa
Paula Haas, friend of Eloise Dettmer
Elaine Graham
Alyssa Hansen, cousin of Lisa Olsen
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles
Christiana Holmes

Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of
Anita and Jon Wooton
Mary Janice Holt
Jesus & Rita Jimenez
Paul & Debby Maresch
Alexis Martincek, 13 years old,
friend of Heather Stuebe
Kathryn McLaughlin
Judi Melander
Kristin Mohammed
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins
Virginia Link-Pease, wife of James Pease
Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia
Fritz Rappold
Gabriel Rockwell
Beverly & Floyd Ryder
Family & Friends of Dick Sanks
Ken Schell, brother of Mike (Gwen) Schell
Rev. John Spittal
Family & Friends of Dieter Smirnow
Cathy Stubenvoll
Michelle Terrell, niece of Kay Cannon
Colette Thornbloom
Jon Wooton

Jeremiah 29:12 "Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you."

Contact the church office if:

- You or someone you know would like a **communion visit, hospital or home visit, or to be contacted**.
- You know of someone who would appreciate **receiving a card in the mail**.
- You would like to **serve as a Eucharistic Minister**.
- You have an addition to the Prayer List. Send an email with the individual's name to officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com. Please send updates when prayers are answered.

ABOUT US

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.

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