



Faith Lutheran Church

7750 Beneva Road
Sarasota, FL 34238
(941) 924-4664
www.faithlutheransrq.com

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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

5 p.m., September 27, 2026



Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

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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

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

Deacon Scott Rice

Deacon Deborah Dornemann

Deacon Jane Sanks

Director of Music

Andi Zdrava

WELCOME

SONG: O Come to the Altar

Verse 1

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.

Chorus 2x

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

Bridge 2x

Oh what a Savior, 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 2x

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

(pause for reflection)

Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

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.

Bridge

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray, God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

L: A reading from Ezekiel

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Refrain: 25:1-9

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



Psalm 25:6

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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PSALMODY: 25: 1-9

¹ To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

² My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴ Show me your | ways, O LORD,

and teach I me your paths. **R**
⁵ Lead me in your I truth and teach me,
 for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all I the day long.
⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compas- I sion and love,
 for they are from I everlasting.
⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and I my transgressions;
 remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- I ness, O LORD.
⁸ You are gracious and up- I right, O LORD;
 therefore you teach sinners I in your way.
⁹ You lead the low- I ly in justice
 and teach the low- I ly your way. **R**

WE STAND

SONG: In Christ Alone

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

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

Verse 3

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

Verse 4

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

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend CCLI Song #3350395 © 2001 Thankyou Music
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GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

P: The Gospel According to Matthew:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

P: The Gospel of The Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 695

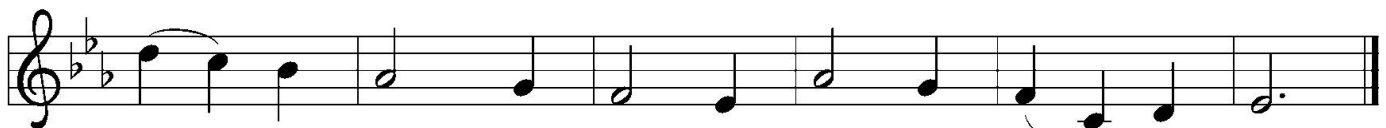
O Master, Let Me Walk with You



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.

Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

L: Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. We ask you to bless recovery and rebuilding efforts in Nepal, Columbia, and Venezuela. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. We especially pray for our president and members of Congress and the Supreme Court justices. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you silently or aloud (pause). Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

L: Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Bring peace to a waring world, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Iran, and Lebanon. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you

WE STAND

Feel free to greet your neighbors with a word of peace.

SONG: Your Grace is Enough

Verse 1

Great is your faithfulness
Oh God of Jacob
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead me by still waters into mercy
Where nothing can keep us apart

Chorus

Remember your people
Remember your children
Remember your promise
Oh God
Your grace is enough, yea
Your grace is enough, yea
Your grace is enough, yea
Your grace is enough for me

Verse 2

Great is your love and justice,
God of Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Heaven's Victory
And all your people sing along, So

Chorus x2

Songwriter: Matt Maher

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: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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

SONG: Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, Lord
Help me to see Your face
Open my eyes, Lord
Help me to see

Open my ears, Lord
Help me to hear Your voice
Open my ears, Lord
Help me to hear

Open my heart, Lord
Help me to love like You
Open my heart, Lord
Help me to love

And the first shall be last
And our eyes are opened
And we'll hear like never before
And we'll speak in new ways
And we'll see God's face in places we've never known

I live within You
Deep in Your heart, oh love
I live within You
Rest now in me

Open my eyes, Lord
Help me to see Your face
Open my eyes, Lord
Help me to see

Help me to see Your face
Help me to hear
Help me to hear Your voice
Help me to love
Help me to love like You
Help me to see

Songwriters: Jesse Manibusan
Open My Eyes lyrics © Spiritandsongcom Publishing

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

L: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation,
healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

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.

