

Serving in the Lord's House Today

Pastor: Seth Hoepfner

Music Coordinator & Clavinova: Becky Roell

Organist: Judy Grove

Audio Visual: John, Ella & Madeline Mock

Reader: Harry Kopplin

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Neil Rand PhD

Church & School Secretary: Kristin Walter

Ministers: All the People of Faith

THE LORD'S SUPPER (Holy Communion)

Those who commune at the Table of the Lord are baptized Christians who have examined their lives and consciences. Christians believe and confess that in the Sacrament of the Altar all who commune receive, irrespective of their personal convictions, the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Those who receive in faith, receive thereby remission of sins, communion with Christ, and the pledge of eternal life. Those who do not receive in faith, eat and drink judgment upon themselves (1 Corinthians 11:29)". If you are not a member of this congregation or have never communed at His altar before, or hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, yet seek reception of the sacrament, please make yourself known to the Pastor prior to the beginning of the service. For further study, see Matthew 5:23, 18:15-35; 26:26-29; and 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

(Note: If for medical or any other reason you prefer not to drink wine when you commune, the rose colored individual cups in the tray hold grape juice. Gluten Free wafer available upon request.)

A Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Congregation

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Faith Lutheran Church and School

March 29, 2024

God on Trial

Evidence

"Prove it!" was the refrain of the onlookers, Jewish leaders, soldiers, and criminals. People today demand evidence too. And isn't there a part of us that wonders as well - especially when facing this sinful world? If Jesus is the Son of God, why does he ___, or why doesn't he ___? Maybe they're right. But Jesus' gracious words and actions turn our doubts to trust, as they did with one of the criminals (and later the centurion). Jesus asked "Why?" so that we could be sure. God even provided a little resurrection proof that Friday - a preview.

Please Stand.

Procession of the Cross — As the cross is carried in procession, the following response is spoken three times.

P: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.

C: O Come, let us worship Him.

Opening Song — O Perfect Life of Love (vs 1-3) - LSB #452
O perfect life of love! All, all, is finished now, all that He left
His throne above to do for us below.

No work is left undone of all the Father willed; His toil, His sorrows, one by one, The Scriptures have fulfilled.

No pain that we can share but He has felt its smart; All forms of human grief and care have pierced that tender heart.

Confession and Sins —

P: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden.

C: Amen. I confess that I am by nature sinful. I am guilty of many sins. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me. For all this I am sorry. I pray for forgiveness. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.

P: Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

P: By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Penitential Psalm — Lord Jesus, because your hands and feet were pierced for us, because you were surrounded by taunting enemies, and because you were abandoned even by your heavenly Father, we are rescued from the lion's mouth. Be with us when we must face our own crosses, and instill in us the confidence to say, "My Savior has won the victory for me." Amen.

First Reading — Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Second Reading — Hebrews 7:26-28

Gospel Reading — Matthew 27:38-54

Hymn — O Perfect Life of Love (vs 4-7) - LSB #452

And on His thorn-crowned head and on His sinless soul our sins in all their guilt were laid that he might make us whole.

In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me. O all atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.

In ev'ry time of need, before the judgment throne, Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, Thy merits, not mine own.

Yet work, O Lord, in me as Thou for me hast wrought; And let my love the answer be to grace Thy love has brought.

Sermon — By Pastor Seth Hoepfner

Offering — In response to hearing the Good News, we take a moment of reflection to give thanks to God.

Prayers of the Church —

The Lord's Prayer —

Our Father

(from the collection "They'll Believe By Your Love")

Gently

Music by Marie-Jo Thun

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal - lowed be Thy
name. Thy king - dom come; Thy will be done on
earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly
bread and for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who
tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,
but de - liv - er us from e - vil; For the king - dom and the
pow - er and the glo - ry are yours *rit.* Now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Concluding Collect —

P: Let us pray. We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the passion and death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Passion Reading and Stripping of the Altar— John 19:16-42

Strepitus— A loud noise signifying the sealing of the tomb. The Christ Candle will be walked out and brought back in to show the hope of the resurrection.

Please leave in silence.