

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the ELCA

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Guest Pastor: Pr. Shane Freiberg

OFFICE HOURS: Tues & Thurs 8:30 - 5:00; Fri 8:30 - 12:30

Worship Plan for Sunday, March 15, 2026 * Fourth Sunday in Lent

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, where grace and love abound. While we wait and prepare for a new pastor, we invite you to participate fully in the vibrant life of the congregation, and to join us in prayer as we continue to serve God and God's people during this time of transition.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Enriching lives through faith and God's grace.

MEMBERS & GUESTS: Please fill out a worship attendance card found in the pew racks. Prayer requests may be included on the reverse side for one Sunday or bulletin publication.

INVITATION TO BAPTISM: We would like to extend to you the blessing of Baptism and encourage you to contact the church office to be baptized.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Christ is truly present through the power of God's Holy Spirit. We invite everyone to come forward and be renewed in the covenant God made with us in our baptism. All are gladly invited and welcome. If, in coming forward, you choose not to receive the Sacrament, we ask you to fold your hands over your chest so you may receive a pastoral blessing. The Sacrament will be brought to those unable to come forward to the altar (notify an usher). Available upon request: gluten-, wheat-, corn-, dairy- and soy-free wafers.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNION: Families are encouraged to come to the rail together during the distribution. Children may receive Communion or a special blessing from the Pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School for children of all ages is immediately following the Children's Chat.

CELL PHONES: Please silence your cell phones before Worship.

Following worship, ALL are invited to join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Introduction to the day

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.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: Unbelievable!

This story from the Gospel of John captures the religious leadership in Jerusalem in a struggle to understand this Jesus who restores sight to a person born blind. This miraculous healing is so unbelievable, so contrary to the leaders’ understanding, that they reject it altogether, even accusing the man of lying. Their quest for a certainty that feels familiar forces them to reject the miracle in front of them and closes them off to a greater truth—that the Messiah has come in Christ Jesus.

Certainty and its pursuit often disrupt our ability to see reality, which is at its core a mystery. *Mystery* in the Christian tradition refers to that deep truth that surpasses our understanding, as in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity or the efficacy of the sacraments. We know them as true, but not how or why they are so. Mysteries transcend the world of certainty, and our efforts to possess certainty, like those of the religious leaders in John 9, can cut us off from something miraculous happening right in front of us.

How much conflict and division in our church and in our world is amplified by our pursuit of certainty? How many possibilities have we missed in our commitment to the way things are? How often in our pursuit of certainty do we use it to hoard power and keep others on the outside looking in? Certainty is the enemy of community because it rejects the very notion that God may be doing a new thing.

Embracing mystery in our life of faith looks like learning to say “I don’t know,” “Maybe,” and “What if . . . ?” It asks us to let go of our need to control and understand, and to trust God’s promises more than our evidence. Mystery requires a posture of humility and curiosity, a willingness to look for God in inexplicable and unbelievable places and events. After all, we preach Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23), an unbelievable notion if ever there was one.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)

OneLicense Song# 59074; © 1974 Hope Publishing Company; Contributors: George W Kitchin, Sydney H Nicholson, Michael R Newbolt; Tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Company Text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Company; OneLicense# M-402221

AM: WELCOME

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church where grace and love abound. It's a joy to be with you all this morning! A special welcome to those of you here for the first time, to those joining us online, and to our guest pastor, Pr. Shane Freiberg. During this season of Lent, we focus on our Savior's journey to the cross and the supreme sacrifice He made there for all of us. As we follow the path Jesus walked, we trust in God's faithfulness and guidance - in our continued search for a permanent pastor, and in all areas of our ministry to and for God's people. Join in as we journey to the cross together. *Everyone* is welcome!

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by the Puccios, celebrating Ivy's 13th birthday. Please check the lost and found, which is the bottom shelf below the mailboxes. There are quite a few items there waiting for their owners to pick up!

Join us this Wednesday at 5:00 for our Lent Soup & Vespers!

The WELCA quarterly meeting is next Saturday, the 21st beginning at 1:00.

Come join the "fun" of sprucing up the Sanctuary for Easter!! Many hands make light work! Saturday, March 28th at 9:00am (there will be donuts and coffee, of course!). Bring cleaning equipment – wood cleaning & polishing supplies, long-armed dusters, vacuum and attachments for pew cushions, etc.

This quarter Outreach is collecting protein or granola bars and body wash for MilVet.

For March, we are collecting peanut butter, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons. You will find more information about what's happening at Faith in the Narthex.

WELCA BOARD INSTALLATION

P: At this time, I would like to invite forward the new members of the WELCA Board for their installation.

P: The Lord be with you.

I have been authorized to install these members, who have accepted the call as faithful leaders for the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) board of Faith Lutheran Church.

Candy Pellechio: President

Kandie Hulme: Treasurer

Diane Molina: Vice President and Circle Leader

Bea Olsen: Secretary

Joanne McGavran: Parliamentarian

Candy Pellechio: Snip 'N Stitch Coordinator

P: A reading from Romans 12: “As in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another”.

P: Sisters in Christ, after prayerful deliberations, you have been chosen for leadership responsibilities in the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We rejoice in the gifts God has given you, and in your willingness to offer them in this service.

P: Do you faithfully agree to continue in your growth in faith, encourage others to offer their talents, seek to lead this organization’s ministry in action, and accept responsibility for the financial and constitutional order of this congregational unit of Women of the ELCA? If so, please respond, “Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me.”

Board Members: Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Family of Faith, do you agree to faithfully uplift, support, and pray for these Spirit-led bold sisters in Christ? If so, please respond, “Yes, and we ask God to help and guide us.”

All: Yes, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: I now declare you installed as Congregational Unit Board Officers and Members of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

SILENCE

P: Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

P: GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

P: GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 789

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (ELW 789)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

P: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.


Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

P: PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

P: WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

Today's first lesson has a striking similarity to baptism. In this account, Saul, the man chosen by God to be King of Israel, has fallen from favor with God. God has instructed Samuel to go to the home of a man named, Jesse where it will be revealed to him whom the next king will be. After reviewing all the sons, God tells the prophet that David will be the king. In a ceremony which David likely recalled when he wrote in the 23rd Psalm, "You anoint my head with oil," Samuel pours oil on the selectee to indicate that he has been chosen by God.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

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."

² Samuel 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.'" ³ Invite 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." ⁴ Samuel 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?" ⁵ He 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. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But 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." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel 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." ¹² He 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." ¹³ Then 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

The much-loved psalm has been traditionally associated with David, the shepherd who became king. Its spiritual insights speak to people of all ages and circumstances. Who knows how many have made it their life's inspiration and their deathbed prayer?

The image of the good shepherd is one still to be seen in the more sparsely settled wilderness areas of the Holy Land. Here it serves as a metaphor for God. In other Old Testament passages it is a metaphor for the spiritual leaders of Israel. The early church adopted it too, more than likely from the lips of Jesus himself who

not only knew the scriptures, but may well have been intimate with many shepherds from the verdant hills around Nazareth where flocks of sheep pastured and water was plentiful in flowing streams and quiet pools.

Providing for and protecting his flock is the shepherd's life work. The psalmist uses this theme to describe Yahweh's care for Israel. The response people make, however, is not that of sheep which have no way of expressing their acceptance of this care. Hence, in vss. 5-6 the scene shifts to the table of the provident host who spreads a feast for unexpected guests and to the temple where thanksgiving is offered. For us, the appropriate response is to maintain a similar intimate, thankful fellowship throughout our days with the God who so loves us.

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 23

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

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

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

⁴ **Though 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.**

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

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

Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

Light and darkness, sight and blindness are both themes that come out in today's New Testament and Gospel lessons. Before Christ, a person is not merely in the darkness, he or she is an integral part of the darkness, since there is no source of light within them. Through faith in Christ, we not only walk in the light, we are light, since God's illuminating Spirit is within. While we were in darkness, our lives were fruitless, but now that we are light, we produce the fruits of goodness, truth, and love.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try

to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for 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.

Thanks be to God.

L: Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man born blind. However, there is much more at stake here than physical sight. This account highlights the dynamics of spiritual blindness. The blind man receives his sight immediately after washing his eyes in the Pool of Siloam, but his spiritual condition comes more slowly. We see the development of this account as the man gradually sees whom Jesus is.

The question is raised about the paradox of suffering. The blind man’s situation raises an issue with which we all struggle: why do some people suffer loss and misfortune and not others? The religious leaders react with disbelief and distrust, challenging this man’s healing by Jesus.

In verse 2, the disciples, products of their society, assumed that such misfortune must be the punishment for some evil, either on the part of the man or his ancestors. They wanted and needed to believe in a rational universe, where there is cause and effect. That’s what we want too, isn’t it? The factor that really disturbs a lot of people about the epidemic of violence in our society is its randomness. Someone pulls out a pistol, shoots into a crowd and kills innocent bystanders, who just happened to be there. No more orderly universe. The paradox of suffering can be stated as follows: “If God is good, as well as powerful, why do innocent people suffer?” God does not explain away the paradox; he

merely answers it with another one. The God who brings light out of darkness also raises life out of death.

P: GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The 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?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He 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." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then 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." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So 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." ¹⁸ The 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 ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but 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." ²² His 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. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ So 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." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He 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?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus 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." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus 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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 793

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Be Thou My Vision* (ELW 793)

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

AM: APOSTLES' CREED

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

CREED

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.

AM: Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

PASTOR AND ASSISTING MINISTER: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

AM: God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day, especially Susan Bauerle; Ian Berger; Mary Booth; Arnette Calkins; Rich and Sandy Chandler; Jeff Cook; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Debbie Ehrig; Sandy Evers; Frank Harrison IV; Doris Hays; Mary Holmes; Sarge Hunter; Donna McCain; Gregg McGavran; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Anna Myers; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Tina Peteroski; the family of Marilyn

Rieti; Marlene Rosselli; Amy Sinclair; Shalonne, Chandler, Jillian and family; Joyce Stromberg; Diane Swarts; Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; the San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: Loving God, be with us during this time of discernment as our search for a permanent pastor continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility, especially the Call Committee. Fill all our leaders and members with wisdom and patience. Keep us all mindful of the work you would have us do to further the work of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

P: PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

P: OFFERING

Today's Offering Highlight shines light on the generosity of time and talent for all those who have volunteered (offered) to work on the Outreach Ministry Committee.

Outreach encompasses two major goals – reaching to invite others who are not a part of our congregation to join us in our ministry and reaching out to those in need in our own community, as well as those around the world. Through our gifts, we gather the resources and materials to provide for others through such agencies as the Community Cupboard, Soles for Souls, the Care Project, battered

women and children facilities, MilVet, the December and July Giving Trees and many more. We all give generously to these events, but would you also consider giving of your time and talents to help plan and facilitate by joining the Outreach Committee? Pray about it, and thank you for your constant generosity.

This morning's offering, including our prayers and pledges, will now be brought forward and lifted up to God during the Musical Offering.

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 815

Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along

MUSICAL OFFERING: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815, vs. 1, 3)

One License Song # 00361; Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration; Sources: Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Music: Kathleen Thomerson; OneLicense #M-402221

AM: OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

P: GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

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 paschal 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

P: INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION

All of God's children are welcome to Christ's table. Gather at the altar rail. If you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may choose from red wine or white grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. If you would like communion brought to you at your seat, indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

DURING DISTRIBUTION: *Come to the Table*

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Gift of Finest Wheat: You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (sung by the Sunday 7pm Choir)

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Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life (ELW 472)

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AM: PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

P: BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

DAVID MOE: Endowment Fund Board

P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 545

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* (ELW 545)

Public Domain; Sources: Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.; Music: Sicilian, 18th cent.

AM: INVITATION

We would like to invite guests and visitors to come and join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

AM: DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace dedicating extra time to draw closer to Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God. Our hearts will be open.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, the 17th: Fellowship meets at 2:00

Wednesday, the 18th: Lent Soup and Vespers begins at 5:00; Menifee Reads! begins at 7:00

Thursday, the 19th: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00; Menifee Reads! meets at 2:00; Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible study begins at 7:00

Friday, the 20th: Stewardship meets at 10:00; Al-Anon meets at 10:30

Saturday, the 21st: the WELCA quarterly meeting begins at 1:00

Sunday, the 22nd: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Shane

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joanne

LECTOR: Robert P.

COMMUNION SERVER: Freddericka

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Becky

ATTENDANCE: Pat O.

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Mars and Diane M.

SOUND: Mars

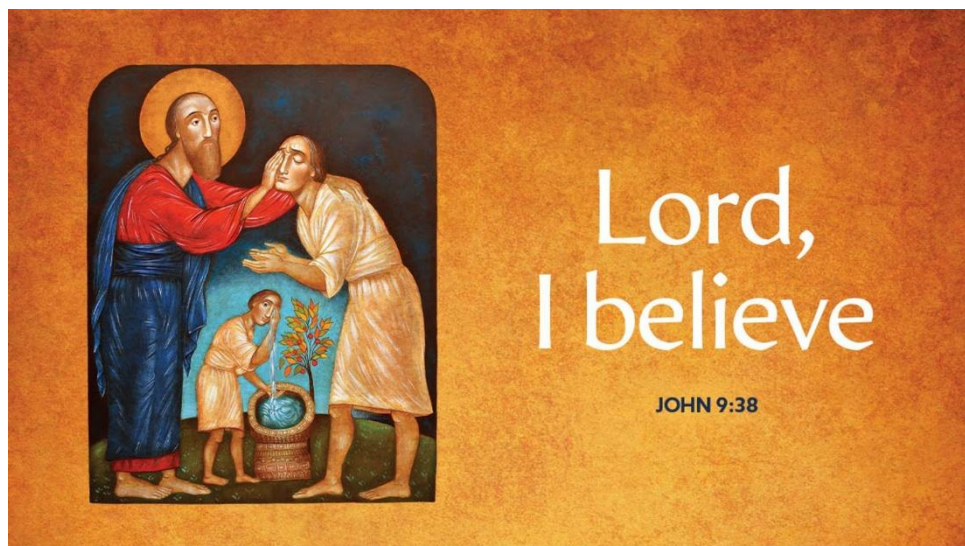
LIVE STREAM: Madeline

To give directly to Faith Lutheran Church electronically, you may use one of the below QR codes.

NO FEES
to Faith Lutheran
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Zelle
flcfinance1518@gmail.com



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