**Worship Plan for Sunday, March 16, 2025** **\* Second Sunday in Lent**

**Introduction to the day**

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God’s desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God’s people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God’s face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who “comes in the name of the Lord.”

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: Judgment in the Name of the Lord**

Some of us in the room, likely more of us than we imagine, know what a conviction is like. We’ve had experience with a physical, undisputable, black-robed conviction, the kind handed down by a judge or jury. It’s a statistical fact that nearly half of the American population is personally affected in some way by the criminal justice system. Those numbers are staggering; even more so is the weight of guilt that welds itself to the convicted one’s shame like steel clenching iron. To be convicted, found guilty as charged, is no small matter.

It is with such certainty and severity that Jesus unleashes his anguish over Jerusalem—anger and grief that rail with the reverberations of a gavel’s blow in the courtroom when words, sharpened for penetration, are pronounced from behind a high bench. Judgments can last a lifetime, and they intentionally have the power to change futures. Jesus was about the work of God, to change futures.

There is no courtroom, no black robe, no jury of twelve peers in Luke’s account of Jesus’ encounter with some Pharisees. But there is an exacting judgment that rumbles like rolling boulders, a conviction meant to loiter hauntingly like shivering nightmares. Jesus’ words prosecute with a burden that few gospel lines expose so solemnly; the accusations are decisive. His judgment falls on the religious.

No, we do not escape, do not get away by dismissing Jesus’ words as ancient, frozen in a time long past, petrified among a people long gone, meant only for some others’ failures—not our own. The judgment lives on. Pronounced then in the holy city, it ricochets even now through our sacred spaces and hallowed sanctuaries, aimed at the pious and devout who with self-appeasing righteousness look to tame God’s word, rebuff God’s scandalous mercies, silence God’s voice, and break God’s will.

The judgment: “How often . . . and you were not willing!” And yet, the promise: “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord” (Luke 13:34-35).

**Processional**

**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. All are welcome!

**AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers were provided by Annie Misko in honor of her late brother, Tony's birthday.

Please be sure to join us in the Fellowship Hall after today’s service and have some cake to celebrate the baptism of Isla and Sawyer.

Our Lent Soup & Suppers are in full swing! This Wednesday and every Wednesday during Lent, join us at 5:00 for Soup and Supper...be fed in body and soul! Please sign up in the Narthex, but even if you don't sign up, ALL are welcome to attend!

Beyond Question, part of the ELCA Book of Faith series, is a transformative journey through Lent. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus uses questions to change the lives and deepen the discipleship of those who follow Him. Every Thursday evening at 7:00 P.M. throughout this Lenten Zoom series, we will open Scripture and encounter Jesus and His transformative questions. Contact Pastor Ken at hopegiver@aol.com for a list of the weekly topics and info on how to join in.

Ladies, the WELCA Spring event is this Saturday, the 22nd at 1:00! Come and bring a friend for snacks, talking and laughing together, learning about Project Linus and to "tie" no-sew fleece blankets to donate! Please sign up in the Narthex.

For the month of March, we are collecting canned chili, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office.

**Baptism of Isla Solei Godshalk and Sawyer Dale Godshalk**

**Presentation**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*Sponsor:* I present Isla Solei Godshalk and Sawyer Dale Godshalk for baptism.

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Isla Solei Godshalk and Sawyer Dale Godshalk baptized into Christ?
*Response:* I do.

As you bring Isla Solei Godshalk and Sawyer Dale Godshalk to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that thesechildren may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Isla and Sawyergrow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:* I do.

Ben, do you promise to nurture Isla and Sawyer in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:* I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Isla and Sawyer and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

***A: We do.***

**Profession of Faith**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

***A: I renounce them.***

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

***A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***A: 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.***

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

***A: 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.***

**Thanksgiving at the Font**

P: The Lord be with you.

***A: And also with you.***

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

***A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things. Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***A: Amen.***

**Baptism**

P: Isla Solei Godshalk, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

***A: Amen.***

P: Sawyer Dale Godshalk, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***A: Amen.***

***A: Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.***

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Isla and Sawyer with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

***A: Amen.***

P: Isla Solei Godshalk, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

***A: Amen.***

P: Sawyer Dale Godshalk, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

***A: Amen.***

**Welcome**

P: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

***A: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.***

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king: heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king: one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king: born of the Father, we are His children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.

**AM: Please turn to hymn 456**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**post baptismal Song: *Baptized in Water* (ELW 456)**

**P: Silence**

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 327**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow* (ELW 327)**

**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.

**God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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.

**Lector: First Reading:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 2 But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” 4 But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” 5 He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6 And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” 8 But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” 9 He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Psalmody:** Psalm 27

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

4 **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

5 For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

6 **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

7 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

8 **My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

9 Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

10 **Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in.**

11 Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

12 **Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

13 This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

14 **Wait for the Lord and be strong. Take heart and wait for the Lord!**

**Amen.**

**Lector: Second Reading:** Philippians 3:17—4:1

17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

***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.**

**P: Gospel:** Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” 32 He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day: *Blessed Be Your Name* (Matt Redman)**

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***Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession***

**Pastor and Assisting Minister: Prayers of Intercession**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today’s leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need, especially Lynn Bennett; Arnette Calkins; Sandy Chandler; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; the family of Dee Seel; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, especially Rudy Bosinger and Dee Seel. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

**P: Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**P: Offering**

Let us remember at this time of Offering, that all we have and all we are given are gifts from God. Our offerings of time, talent and treasures are expressions of gratitude to God for all we have received. May we show abundant gratitude.

**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.**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 343**

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

**Musical Offering:*My Song Is Love Unknown* (ELW 343)**

**P: Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

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.**

**P: Preface (ELW p. 153)**

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 (all sing) (ELW p. 153)**

**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.**

**P: Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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**

As you are comfortable, you are invited to come forward to receive communion. All of God’s children are welcome to Christ’s table.

Gather at the altar rail to receive the communion elements or if you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may commune yourself once you’ve received the communion elements. Please commune the bread first, turn over the vessel and then carefully open the grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets on your way back to your seat.

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.

**P: Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**During Distribution: *Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW 471)**

 ***We Come to the Hungry Feast* (ELW 479)**

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

**P: Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**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.**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song: *The Old Rugged Cross* (Alan Jackson)**

**AM: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Invitation**

The Church Council Members invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that we can meet and welcome you. All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

**THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

Tuesday, the 18th: 4 Plus 1 Group meets at 10:00; Fellowship Team meets at 2:00

Wednesday, the 19th: Lent Soup & Supper begins at 5:00; Menifee Reads! meets at 7:00

Thursday, the 20th: Snip 'N Stitch begins at 9:30; Menifee Reads! meets at 2:00; WELCA Bible Study begins at 6:00; Pr. Ken's Lenten Zoom Bible Study begins at 7:00

Friday, the 21st: Stewardship meets at 10:00; Al-Anon meets at 10:30; the opening of The Women of Lockerbie begins at 7:00

Saturday, the 22nd: WELCA Spring Event begins at 1:00; The Women of Lockerbie begins at 7:00

Sunday, the 23rd: Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Rich; The Women of Lockerbie begins at 2:00

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