

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 29, 2026 * Palm Sunday

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

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: His Blood Be on Us

Today we begin Holy Week, a week filled with paradoxes, reversals, and ironic twists. The story moves inevitably toward death, yet it brings the promise of life. Jesus appears to be the victim, but he chooses this path, humbling himself, confident that God will exalt him in victory. Pilate embodies the full might of the Roman Empire but is powerless before the crowd's demands. The chief priests and elders, perhaps more than anyone else, should recognize the long-hoped-for Messiah, but their jealousy prevents this.

Perhaps the greatest irony in today's Passion reading is found in the crowd's exclamation, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25). These words have been misused to slander the Jewish people, claiming they bear the guilt of Christ's blood. Superficially, that is what the crowd means: Pilate refuses responsibility, so the people take it upon themselves. Theologically, though, the crowd speaks a universal truth. Far from justifying anti-Jewish scapegoating, these words apply to all humanity. Somehow, we are all implicated in the death of Jesus. Our rebellion, our sin, places him on the cross.

Paradoxically, however, the crowd's words also reveal a deeper truth. The blood of Christ does not mark with condemnation; it promises forgiveness. It does not stain with guilt; it washes sin away. By accepting suffering and death at the hands of sinners, Jesus wins the victory of love. His blood be on us, indeed! Just as we all share guilt in the crucifixion of Jesus, so too are we all granted mercy by his self-giving death. United in baptism to his death and resurrection, receiving his body and blood in communion, we receive grace, freedom, and life.

In the days to come, do not look at these contradictions as puzzles to be solved. They are mysteries beyond full understanding. But as you contemplate the events

of Holy Week, you will discover new depths of God's love for you. May his blood be upon us all, with mercy and salvation.

Please stand for the Processional

PROCESSIONAL: *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)

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AM: WELCOME

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church where grace and love abound. It's a joy to be with you all on this beautiful Palm Sunday! A special welcome to those of you here for the first time, to those joining us online, and to our guest pastor, Shane Freiberg. Our search for a permanent pastor continues, as does the vibrant life of the congregation, thanks to all of you. Holy Week begins today with Jesus' palm-strewn entry into Jerusalem. Our Journey to the Cross intensifies as we move into Maundy Thursday, when we will share Holy Communion and lift up Jesus' mandate to "love one another." The week culminates with Good Friday, as Jesus suffers and dies for us – for you and for me, and for ALL people. Together, let's walk through this week of reflection, prayer and repentance. Easter is so much lighter and brighter when we do.

AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers were provided by Annie Misko, in memory of her brother, Tony. Today after the worship service, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a free pancake brunch!

For this Holy week, we will have worship services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, both at 5:00.

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.

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!

Please stand as you are willing and able.

GATHERING SONG: *Hosanna* (by Carl Tuttle)

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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.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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.

FIRST LESSON INTRODUCTION

This is Servant Sunday. All three of our lessons depict aspects of what it means to be a servant, an option which is then presented to us.

The passage from Isaiah is one of five portions of the prophet's writings called, "Servant Songs." Here the servant encounters shame and derision with fortitude and faith, with the sure confidence that God is with Him. The servant's ears are open to the wisdom of Yahweh and so he is able to stand against the tide and speak words of comfort to those who are afflicted.

It may be difficult for us to understand how one person can suffer vicariously on behalf of many. The Servant is described as a teacher who listens to Yahweh every morning. Then as one who is himself a learner (vs. 4), he receives the strength to bear the insults and injuries heaped upon him. This suffering equips him with the moral authority to challenge his adversaries and be found innocent.

LECTOR: FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen

as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM INTRODUCTION

The content of this reading may be regarded as the prayer of a person doubly afflicted. His wasting disease gives no greater cause for suffering than rejection by friends and malicious gossip by adversaries.

Out of this distress comes a singularly effective declaration of trust. Great sermons could be based - and no doubt many have been - on the text in vs. 15: "My times are in your hand." The contrast between the protective hand of God and the hostile hands of enemies portrays a vivid image like that of Jesus in Gethsemane confronting Judas Iscariot and the high priest's guards. The plea in vs. 16: "Let your face shine..." is found in several other psalms as well as the well-known Hebrew blessing in Numbers 6:24-26 (²⁴The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace").

LECTOR: PSALMODY: Psalm 31:9-16

⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰ **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵ My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶ **Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”**
Amen.

SECOND LESSON INTRODUCTION

In the second lesson, Paul is attempting to instill the humility of a servant in the minds of the Philippians and so he points to the example of Christ. It contrasts the exalted state of being in the form of God and being equal to God with the servant posture which Jesus assumed. “He became obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (v. 8). Because of His obedience, God has exalted Him as Lord of all, to whom every knee shall bow. Paul sees this as the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. Perhaps one of the greatest of texts from Paul’s letters, this may actually be an early Christian hymn. He may have picked it up somewhere on his travels or have written it himself. This hymn set before the Philippians the example of Christ, urging them to pursue the humble selflessness which had been the essence of Paul’s life in following Christ.

LECTOR: SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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 Matthew alone, as Jesus dies, there is an earthquake “...and the rocks were split and the tombs were opened and many bodies of the holy ones who had fallen asleep were raised, and they came out of the tombs after his resurrection and came into the holy city and appeared to many” (27:51–53). What a strange scene!

But Matthew is wrapping the cross with hope. There is real devastation for the land in Jesus’ innocent blood, as in all the innocent blood that has been poured out upon the earth. Darkness covers the land. The earth is shattered.

But this is not the end. By the grace of God there is more to this story than the capacity of human sin to destroy. Jesus’s death, in Matthew, is intertwined with resurrection.

Out of the shattered earth the people rise, bones knit together as God promised in Ezekiel 37, dry bones alive again as we heard earlier this month. They rise at Jesus’s death and after his resurrection—because the saving act is not complete in Jesus’s death alone, because death and resurrection are two movements in a single song of grace—after his resurrection the risen people of Israel come into the holy city and are seen by many. They are called “saints,” then and now, these people knit together and forgiven, given new life, in Jesus’s blood and his empty tomb.

P: GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14—27:66

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. ¹⁷ On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸ He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. ²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, ²¹ and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

“Surely not I, Lord?” ²³ He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.” ²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ ³² “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴ Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples. ³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” ³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.” ⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.” ⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them

a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. ⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" ⁶² The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷ Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?" ⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰ But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." ⁷¹ When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene." ⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are

also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”⁷⁴ Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed.⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.^{27:1} When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death.² They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.³ When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders.⁴ He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”⁵ Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.”⁷ After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners.⁸ For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.⁹ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price,¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.”¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?”¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas.¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.”²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!”²³ Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But

they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" ²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified. ²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸ Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" ⁴⁴ The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. ⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!” ⁵⁵ Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. ⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰ and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. ⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember ⁶³ what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

AM: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 344

Please stand as you are willing and able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (ELW 344)

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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: O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day, especially Judy Appel; Susan Bauerle; Ian Berger; Ron Biggs; Mary Booth; Arnette Calkins; Rich and Sandy Chandler; Jeff Cook; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Debbie Ehrig; Sandy Evers; Frank Harrison IV; Doris Hays; the family of Mary Holmes; Sarge Hunter; Donna McCain; Gregg McGavran; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Ovidio Ortega; Janet Oster; Tina Peteroski; Marlene Rosselli; Kevin Simpson; Amy Sinclair; 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: Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

AM: O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. 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 to work on the Cheer/Eucharistic Ministry Team.

These faithful volunteers care for our members who are unable to attend worship regularly by visiting them, bringing communion to them, sending them cards, and making phone calls. Would you consider joining these people who so generously give of their time to help in this crucial ministry? To help out, contact Kandie Hulme. Meanwhile, why not visit, phone or send a card to someone you know of on your own?

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

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

MUSICAL OFFERING: *I Know a Name* (sung by Cece Winans and Brandon Lake)

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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.

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.

P: PLEASE TURN TO HYMN 543

Please stand as you are willing and able.

SENDING SONG: *Go, My Children, With My Blessing* (ELW 543)

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AM: INVITATION

We would like to invite guests and visitors to come and join us in the Fellowship Hall for a pancake brunch, 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

Monday, the 30th: Council meets at 11:00

Thursday, the 2nd: Snip 'N Stitch meets at 9:00; Maundy Thursday worship begins at 5:00; Pr. Ken's Zoom Bible Study begins at 7:00

Friday, the 3rd: Al-Anon meets at 10:30; Good Friday worship begins at 5:00

Saturday, the 4th: Donation drop off is from 9:00-12:00; Blanket Brigade meets from 10:00-12:00.

Sunday, the 5th: Easter Sunday Worship begins at 9:30 with Pr. Ken Puccio.

THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joanne

LECTOR: Candy

COMMUNION SERVER: Debbie

POWER POINT: Mike

USHER: Judy Ad.

ATTENDANCE: Kandie

GREETER: Jean

ALTAR GUILD: Kandie and Mars

SOUND: Mars

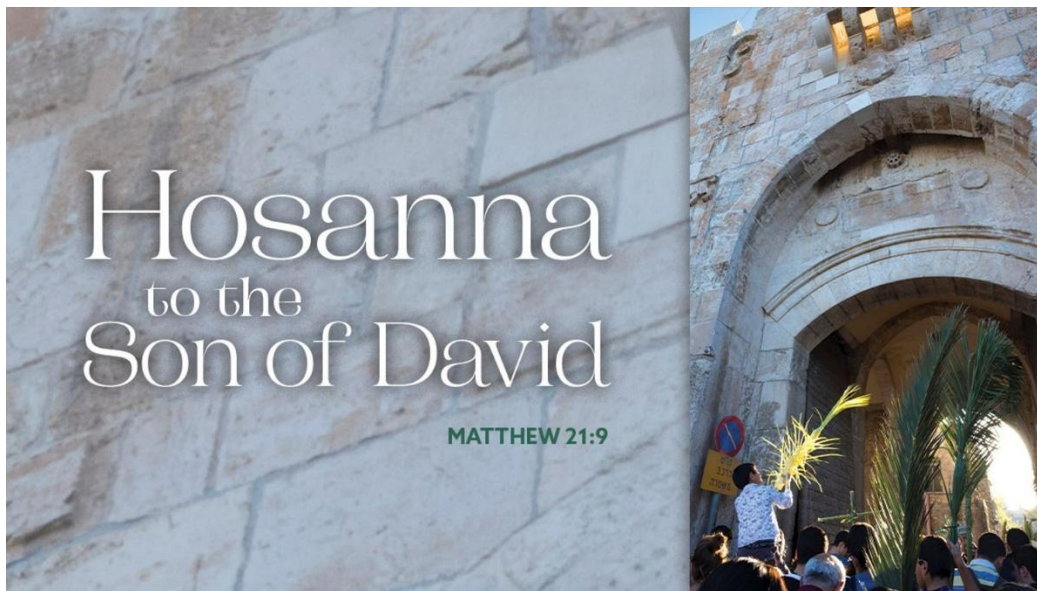
LIVE STREAM: Madeline

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

NO FEES
to Faith Lutheran



Zelle
fclfinance1518@gmail.com



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