



Sunday, March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Serving us in worship today: Pastors: David Mayer, Rusty Bailey;

Lay Reader: Doris Engelhardt; Music: Annette Stout;

Children's Church: Andrew Cave; Ushers: Kerry Koehler, Andrew Koenig, John Kuempel, and Matt Sherwood; AV: Andrew Kuehne, Roxanne Heckmann.

Welcome to Worship!

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, a people who love and follow Jesus Christ, our Lord! We are blessed and honored that you chose to be with us today!

As we worship today we encourage you to fellowship with other believers in a manner in which you are comfortable. Please be respectful to one another concerning face coverings and social distancing. Feel welcome to join in fellowship on the patio for refreshments following worship.

Children will come forward for a special blessing before meeting for Children's Church. (Ages Pre K through 3rd grade)

WELCOME

PRAYER

Please Stand.

OPENING HYMN: *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"* WOV 725, Verses 1 & 2

1) Blessed be the God of Israel who come to set us free
And raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

2) With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
The oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all:
That we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
In holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: *If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all wickedness.* (1 John 1: 8-9, NLT)

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most Merciful God,

C: We confess that 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all of our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

You may be seated.

SPECIAN MUSIC – HAND BELL CHOIR *“Reflections on How Great Thou Art”*

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9 (ESV)

Here it is written the Israelites were rash, complaining, and even showing resentment against God. Their sin was not believing and trusting in God. That they were focused upon themselves and the consequences, even to this day, separates those who believed the Word of the Lord from those who will not. God is true, therefore the truth remains forever – the gospel message - believe and live.

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless

food.”⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.”⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A: Here ends the reading.

PSALM 107:1-9

(ESV)

The Psalms consist of 5 books consistent with the 5 books of Moses (The Torah). Psalm 107 is the beginning of Book 5 and contains 44 psalms. Many of the Psalms are worship hymns, and many are prayers, and all focus on the Messianic hope that God ascribed to Israel as his chosen messengers.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble
³and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
⁴Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;
⁵hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
⁷He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.
⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!
⁹For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

A: Here ends the reading.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:2-9**(ESV)**

The letter to the Philippian Church overflows with joy and thanksgiving in the knowledge and affirmation of the love of God experienced in Christ Jesus. Here in conclusion, the Apostle urges Christians to “rejoice in the Lord always,” for our salvation is secure in Christ Jesus.

²I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

A: Here ends the reading

Please stand for the Holy Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:12-21**(ESV)**

Heavenly things are difficult for us to comprehend because we only see them dimly, meaning as described by Jesus and the Lord’s prophets. Moses saw the heavenly dwelling of the Lord and built the tabernacle. The kingdom was shown to John, and we read his description in wonder and awe. In this conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus speaks of the spiritual being fulfilled in the physical that we might gain an understanding of the will of the Father and believe that Jesus truly is the light of the world.

¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved

the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

A: The Gospel of the Lord.

You may be seated.

Children meet for Children's Church

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Word of God, Come Down on Earth"* WOV 716 Vs 1 & 4

1) Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

4) Word that speaks God's tender love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

SERMON: *"Golden Words"*

Pastor Bailey

Please stand.

OFFERTORY: *"Create in Me a Clean Heart..."* pg. 96 LBW

P: Blessed be the Lord our God of all faithfulness. By your grace we receive all that we need, and in this abundance may we faithfully share with all in good stewardship, this that you have first given us. Receive this offering to the glory of your Holiness and the work of Jesus Christ in the world. Amen.

C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, And uphold me with your free Spirit. ♪

P: Let us pray. Most merciful God,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

You may be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

CLOSING HYMN: *"Go, My Children, With My Blessing"* WOV 721 Vs. 1 & 4

1) "Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
You are my own.

In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own."

4) "I, the Lord will bless and keep you,
And give you peace.

I the Lord will smile upon you,
And give you peace.

I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you,
And give you peace."

BENEDICTION

A: Go In Peace To Love And Serve The Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Have been given to the glory of God by Missy Sagebiel in celebration of Pat's birthday on the 17th of this month.

"WORDS OF FAITH" BROADCAST SUNDAYS AT 8 AM ON KWED 1580 AM RADIO

This week has been sponsored to the glory of God by Pat and Missy Sagebiel in thankfulness of their many blessings.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Attendance on March 7: 109. Month to Date (March): \$10,947.00; YTD Offerings and Misc. \$76,618.00 (2021 budgeted offerings is \$470,000)

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Julie Sagebiel	Judy Saunders	Nora Lavelett
Carolyn Sagebiel	Walt Fruehling	Kathy Ersch
Kelton Lange	Dot Day	Gladys Fruehling
Teresa Kiel	Pat Sagebiel	Debbie Lehmann
Dorothy Burris	Donald Jackson	Robert Vogel
Charlie Koehler	Steve Foerster	Tootsie Rodgers
Sandy Wille	Ronnie Glenewinkel	Marcus Jahns
Harold Bogisch	Jonathan Edwards	Jody Alexander

WORSHIP COVID PROTOCOLS

As we worship today, please note that the church council has decided to ease the protocol as we transition into a new season of dealing with COVID. We no longer require worshipers to wear masks. We are also opening up the pews in order to accommodate our growing attendance. However, we ask that you practice the use of face coverings and social distancing that you are comfortable with and that you respect the concerns of those who do. We will continue to offer alternatives for worship, i.e. places on campus with TV monitors of the worship stream, in the parking lot by FM radio and live-streaming on Facebook and YouTube.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Monday, March 15	Prayer Group	10:15 AM (Sanc.)
Monday, March 15	Charity Circle	7:00 PM (AC)
Tuesday, March 16	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast	7:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, March 16	Staff Mtg.	9:00 AM
Tuesday, March 16	Love Circle	9:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, March 16	Hand Bell Choir	6:00 PM (Sanc.)
Wednesday, March 17	Joyful Noise	6:00 PM (choir rm.)
Wednesday, March 17	FLY	6:00-8:00 PM (LEC)
Wednesday, March 17	Chancel Singers	6:00 PM (Sanc.)
Wednesday, March 17	Lenten Service	7:00 PM
Thursday, March 18	Hope Circle	9:30 AM (AC)

PRESCHOOL TEACHER POSITIONS OPEN

- **Fulltime Teacher's Aide for Two Year Old Class-** Seeking a loving, patient, and energetic individual who enjoys working with this young age; two years experience in childcare required; 38-40 hrs/week. Position available immediately.
- **5 Day Pre-K Teacher** needed for the 2021-22 school year. Seeking a loving, personable, and mature individual who relates well to children; Bachelor's degree in Education preferred, with two years experience in childcare field; approximately 20 hrs/week. Salary based on education and experience.

Applications for these positions are available in the church office. Contact Director Sharon Stollewerk at 379-7074 if interested or for more information. Resumes may be emailed to stollewerk02@yahoo.com.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2021-2022

Registration for the Fall 2021-22 school year begins continues this month for all currently enrolled students and church members. A \$150 deposit will secure a spot for your child. Contact Sharon Stollewerk at 830-379-7074.

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD

Thank you to those of you who have been dropping off items for the Christian Cupboard. The March item is **Hamburger and Tuna Helpers**, any variety or brand. Total number of items collected for March as of 3/9 is 30.

PERSONAL CARE KITS FOR LWR

Love Circle is preparing Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please contact Nancy Wieding or Rose Mary Ermel. All items are being purchased in bulk online. Thank you, in advance, for your help!

PRAYER GROUP

Anyone interested in joining for a time of prayer, please join us in the Sanctuary each Monday morning at 10:15 AM. Pastor Mayer invites any and all to join him. Don't feel obligated or intimidated, just come and be a part of this short but powerful time with God.

BBQ PLATE SALE

Faith Lutheran Youth (FLY) will be holding a Pulled Pork and Sausage plate sale on Sunday, March 21 following worship. Tickets are \$10 each and are available in the Narthex after worship today. The youth appreciate your support as they hope to raise funds to offset the cost of the High School Frio trip this summer.

EASTER EGGS NEEDED

The Christian Education Team is seeking donations of filled plastic eggs and cascarones to make our annual Easter Egg Hunt a success. Please bring filled eggs to the church office before noon on Friday, April 2nd. We kindly request candy that is individually wrapped. The hunt will be held on Sunday, April 4, following worship. We appreciate your support in this wonderful ministry for our young people!

EASTER LILIES

For those who would like to order an Easter lily to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday the cost is **\$8.00 per plant**. Deadline for ordering is **5:00 PM on Friday, March 26**. Please leave checks or cash (clearly marked) and the completed form below in the church office. Please place your order soon.

Name: _____

Number of Lilies: _____

In Honor or Memory of: _____

(Please circle one)

Paid: _____