**Welcome to**

**Faith Lutheran Church**

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**Peace Be with You**

When we read or listen to the news, things just seem to be getting get worse. Violence in homes, schools, communities, around the world. Neighbors hurting neighbors, countries declaring war, terrorists kidnapping, trafficking, murdering . . . Jesus, come back! The words of the Kyrie echo in our ears all week long: “For the peace of the whole world . . . and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.”

Jesus’ words in the gospel today sound harsh. They are not what we expect, and certainly not what we want. “Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!” (Luke 12:51).

Ever since Christmas, when the angels announced, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Luke 2:14), we have come to expect peace on earth from Jesus. Jesus, however, has not promised to bring peace to the earth—at least not in the sense of negotiated truces and U.N.-sponsored peace treaties. Rather, he has promised to bring peace to each one of us, deep into our hearts. But following Jesus has consequences. Sometimes, when we let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts (Col. 3:15), others around us are not so impressed. They might wish we let something or someone else rule our hearts. Perhaps they would like us to follow them instead of Jesus. Yes, the peace Jesus brings to our hearts can end up separating us from others, which doesn’t always seem to quite make sense.

The world rages on. We are all sinners. Broken relationships, broken communities, broken treaties all seem to have the upper hand. But the Holy Spirit, in its own time and own way, is working to bring the peace of Jesus to all hearts. For this peace—for ourselves, and for others—let us pray to the Lord.

**Sunday, August 14, 2016**

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

*If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.*

*The ushers also have large print copies of today’s worship folder available.*

*If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during*

*any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.*

*There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish*

*to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.*

*Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

Prayer Requests

PRELUDE

*The pre-service music signals the beginning of the worship service. Silence during the*

*pre-service music enables worshipers to prepare for worship through quiet meditation.*

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” arr. Dale Wood

Gathering

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

*The assembly stands.*

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked*

*at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

abounding in steadfast love toward us,

healing the sick and raising the dead,

showering us with every good gift.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin

in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Just and gracious God,

**we come to you for healing and life.**

**Our sins hurt others and diminish us;**

**we confess them to you.**

**Our lives bear the scars of sin;**

**we bring these also to you.**

**Show us your mercy, O God.**

**Bind up our wounds,**

**forgive us our sins,**

**and free us to love,**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

The apostle Paul assures us:

“When we were dead in our trespasses,

God made us alive together with Christ,

nailing the record of our sins to the cross.”

Jesus says to you, ☩ “Your sins are forgiven.”

Be at peace, and tell everyone

how much God has done for you.

**Amen.**

Gathering Song

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Text and music: Bill Batstone

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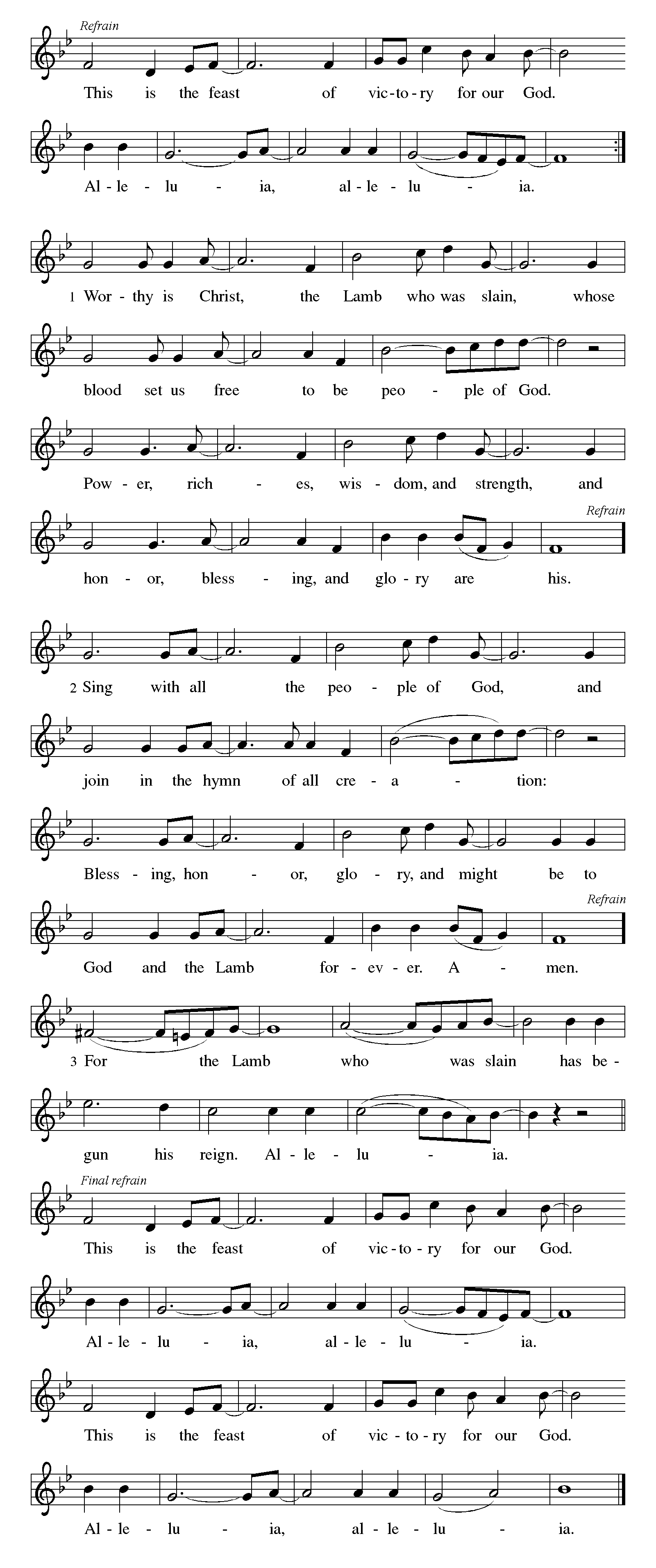
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Greeting

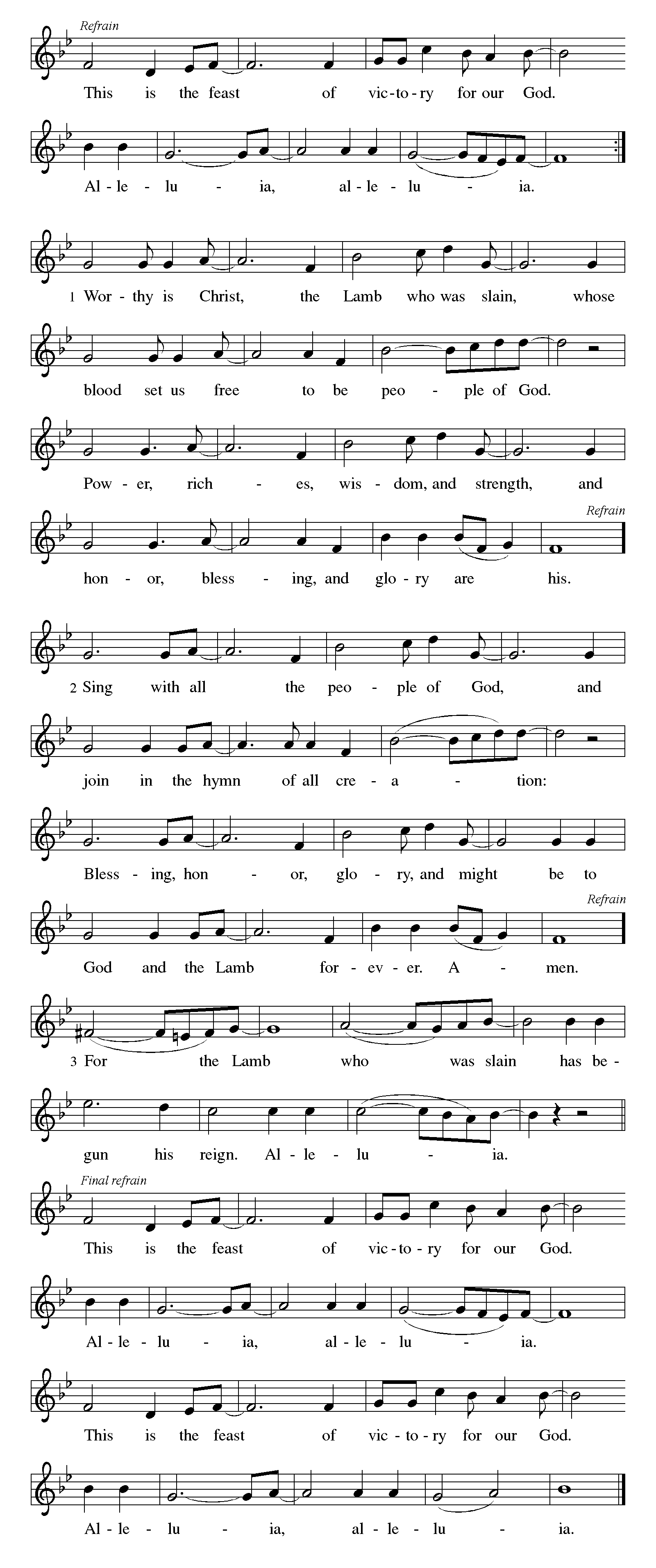
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Canticle of Praise

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

Word

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

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God’s judgment, he suffers rejection. Today’s reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God’s word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

23Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? 24Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. 25I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed!” 26How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? 27They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. 28Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. 29Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29--12:2

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

A reading from Hebrews.

29By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. 30By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. 31By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.  
  32And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—33who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. 36Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—38of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.  
  39Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.  
  
 12:1Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God’s call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 49“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! 51Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; 53they will be divided:   
 father against son  
  and son against father,  
 mother against daughter  
  and daughter against mother,  
 mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
  and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

54He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. 55And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. 56You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

Children's Message

Sermon

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

Hymn of the Day

“All My Hope on God is Founded” **Hymn #757**

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and rising to serve,

let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*The presiding minister concludes the*

*prayers, and the assembly responds:*

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting

your promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace, and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering

Laura Nelson, solo “I Can Only Imagine” Millard

*The assembly stands.*

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful,

you bring forth food from the earth

and nourish your whole creation.

Turn our hearts toward those who

hunger in any way, that all may know

your care; and prepare us now to feast

on the bread of life, Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

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.**

Preface

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,

through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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

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Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Lord’s Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*The assembly is seated.*

Communion

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

Communion Song



CONGREGATIONAL SONG #785

CONGREGATIONAL SONG # 638  


*The assembly stands.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

Prayer after Communion

O God, as a mother comforts her child,

so you comfort your people,

carrying us in your arms

and satisfying us with this food and drink,

the body and blood of Christ.

Send us now as your disciples,

announcing peace and proclaiming

that the reign of God has come near;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

Sending Song***#660***

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Lift High the Cross” arr. Carolyn Hamlin

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**Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, welcome to worship at Faith Lutheran Church. May we rejoice in all our human diversity as we celebrate our oneness as God’s children.**

Pastor Ellen Schoepf prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Secretary Katie Love klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

Director of Christian Education Melinda Schultz

Director of Music Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams

Serving Faith Today August 21

Acolyte Sami Ransom

Alter Care Becky Bills and Gretchen Bills

Communion assistants Mike Eschelbach Sami Ransom

Bob Shorman Alyssa Magyar

Nathan Nelson

Greeters Harold Sollenberger Mark & Molly DeHate

Lay Assistants Mike Eschelbach Alyssa Magyar

Readers Bob Shorman Nathan Nelson

Ushers John McCracken

Nursery Lori Webb Jennifer & Maia Guenther