

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

March 4, 2018



THIRD SUNDAY
In Lent

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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Okemos, MI 48864



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
.. we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
.. we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
.. we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ
-



Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26)
We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.

Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ www.faithlutheranokemos.org
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ www.mittensynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ www.elca.org

Facebook

facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship
Sermons

Spring Cleaning

Greek mythology tells a story about one of the greatest cleanup jobs of all time. The superhuman Hercules is given the challenge of clearing out a gigantic stable where thousands of animals are living. No one thinks he can do it. But, being quite clever, Hercules diverts a river to run through the stables. As the waters pour through, all the grime and filth is swept away.

In today's gospel, Jesus tackles the "mess" that has built up in the temple in Jerusalem. He overturns tables and drives sellers from the temple courts where they have set up shop. Jesus' actions show his resolve to clear out all that clutters and distracts from our relationship with God. He boldly points to the injustices he sees around him and acts to eradicate them. With his words and his actions, Jesus moves through the world and through people's lives, sweeping away everything that has no place in God's kingdom.

During Lent we invite Christ into our communities and congregations for some spring cleaning. We direct our attention toward those places where injustices and distractions have built up, and we pray for God to go to work through Christ. Assembled together, we remember and renew our baptisms. We return each week to have the waters of baptism rush over our lives and through our hearts. Some will take on practices to reflect this desire for purification—giving more space for prayer, simplicity, and silence. Some will declutter their lives by practicing generosity—giving out of their abundance to those with great need. Whatever our practices, we can come together in the hope of God's sanctifying power in our lives.

Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 4, 2018

Thank you to Pastor Neves for preaching this Sunday.

Introduction to the day

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.

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

“Mit Freuden Zart”

(hymn 727) arr. Charles Ore

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of heaven and earth,
you come in close and make us yours.
Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin,
embrace your forgiveness,
and seek the way you set before us in your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

forgive us.

Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.

We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence.

We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence.

We acted when we knew better.

Silence.

We were still when we know we should have moved.

Silence.

**For the wrong we have done,
for the good we have failed to do,
have mercy on us,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

People of God, look to the ✝ Son,
given to heal you and set you free
because God loved the world so much.
Take hold of life—eternal life!

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

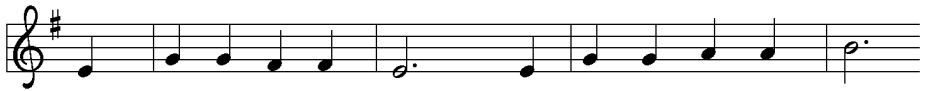
ELW 727

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.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully
and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace,
and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The ten commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

A reading from Exodus.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

ELW #736

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

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers,
and the assembly responds:*

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

"Jesus, Clear the Temple"

(Choplin)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

Sing Twice

Jesus, Lamb of God

All in All

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, starting on a G4 note. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The first system ends with a double bar line.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.

The second system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, starting on a G4 note. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The second system ends with a double bar line.

Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all"

Music: ALL IN ALL, Dennis Jernigan

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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

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 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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 life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

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

Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey,
drink for the desert.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Only by Grace

On-ly by grace can we en - ter, on - ly by grace can we stand;
not by our hu - man en - deav - or,
but by the blood of the Lamb. In - to your pres - ence you call
us, you call us to come.
In - to your pres - ence you draw us, and now by your grace we come,
now by your grace we come. *Fine*
Lord, if you mark our trans - gres - sions, who would
stand? Thanks to your grace we are cleansed
by the blood of the Lamb. *D.C. al fine*

Text: Gerrit Gustafson
Music: ONLY BY GRACE, Gerrit Gustafson

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CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Shout to the Lord

ELW #821

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

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.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

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

Canticle of the Turning

ELW #723

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Canticle of the Turning” (723) arr. Ron Scholtze

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Sisters & brothers in Christ, welcome to worship! May your time in the Lord be rich and blessed.

Pastor	Ellen Schoepf	prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Secretary	Katie Love	klove@faithlutheranokemos.org
Director of Christian Education		Katie Love
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

February 25, 2018 Attendance 104

Serving Faith	March 4	March 11
Acolyte	Owen Kadrofske	Paige Lewis
Altar Care	Gretchen Bills & Gail Barricklow	
Communion Assistants	Owen Kadrofske	Paige Lewis
	Diane Wilke	Dane Webb
	Warren Heilman	Linda Hirt
Greeters	Mike Eschelbach	Jeff & Melinda Schultz
Lay Assistants	Diane Wilke	Dane Webb
Readers	Warren Heilman	Linda Hirt
Ushers	Williams Family	Williams Family
Nursery	Alexis Hereza	O'Briens