

Faith Lutheran Church

April 7, 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY



IN LENT

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
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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.

Faith Lutheran live streams it’s services. No names of participants are broadcast.

Wholehearted Love

The one magnificent thing Mary could wholeheartedly do for Jesus was to love him. Most stunning in the memory of that dinner in Bethany, the line lingering after all the details fade, is this gorgeous passage: “The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume” (John 12:3). Such beauty! What Mary gave in those astonishing moments was what she had discovered at Jesus’ feet.

For Mary had been at his feet before; she sat there at another time in that house, indifferent to aromas of cooking and cleaning, but rather listening, attending to his word. We can easily imagine what she heard from Jesus, words other disciples and the merely curious alike heard: stories of mercy and hope, parables of thieves, tales of servants and masters, the directions of love. And at still another time she knelt at Jesus’ feet, weeping beside a stone gateway to death, stench rising from her dead brother’s body. Daring to have faith in the one who called, Mary ran to Jesus and, out of the wrinkles of scolding despair, heard him: “Lazarus, come out!”

The sweet, extravagant odor of love was in every room as Mary anointed Jesus’ feet, the scent ascending the way psalmists’ prayers rose as incense before God.

Such love has no choice: it spends itself without caution, is not reduced to affordable charity, deliberately disregards prudence. It strains limits of convention and introduces itself with utter humility. It kneels.

Such love is not easily accepted: At home Martha was indignant at Mary. At the tomb, onlookers’ irritation ripened into execution schemes. At a Bethany dinner, Judas had little tolerance for wasteful devotion to a failed and foolhardy cause or its disappointing savior.

Following Mary’s example, we are called to kneel at the feet of Jesus, at the feet of one another. Jesus, too, assumes the posture of Mary at the feet of the disciples, welcoming them—and us—into the way of wholehearted love. May the house be filled with its fragrance.

The parable concludes, stunning, as any drama ever written, the dancers and singers, the hired hands, a household and neighborhood, a brother and father. The older brother is far off, left trying to figure it out. Chances are he never will, and neither will we. Grace is not to be figured out; it is to be received. It comes down a dirty road, where it opens healing arms to embrace us.

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Introduction to the day

The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

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, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.
Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

PRELUDE

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

arr. Ross Root

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us,
anoint us,
and make us new.
Amen.

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin,
and receive God's promise of mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God at the margins,
**We have wandered far from your home;
again and again, we lose our way.
We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.
We forget that you have saved your people before
and promise to do so again.
Do not remember the deeds of our past,
but turn our faces toward the future,
where your forgiveness is sure,
your welcome is clear,
and your love overflows.
Amen.**

Like a hen who gathers her chicks,
God embraces you in tender care.
Like manna in the desert,
God feeds you with surprising mercy.
Like a loving parent,
God runs to meet you again this day,
forgiving your sins for the sake of ✠ Christ,
leading you from death into life.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW #324

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, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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: Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
 ²¹the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

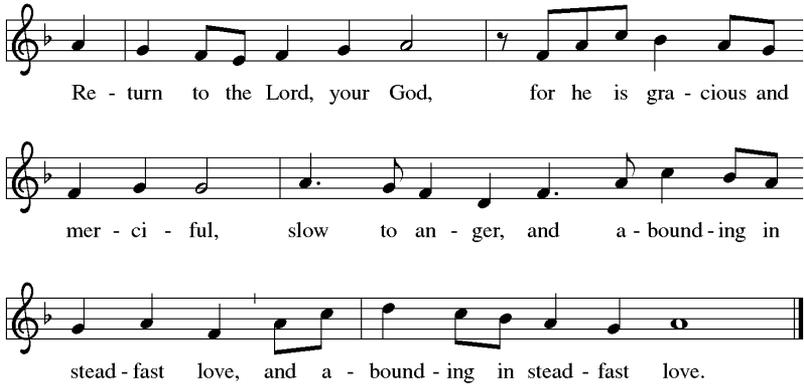
¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lamb of God: Your Only Son

ELW #336

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

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

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:*

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

“Do This and Remember Me”

(Choplin)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment maintains the harmonic support with chords and a consistent bass line.

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the

The third system continues the melody. The vocal line has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment maintains the harmonic support with chords and a consistent bass line.

joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment maintains the harmonic support with chords and a consistent bass line.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

Arr. © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God,

**you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.**

**Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.**

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'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

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

Christ has prepared the feast.
Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Siciliano”

Gaetano Valeri

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

By Grace We Have Been Saved



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and
 2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's
 3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through
 4 We know the wage of sin is death; thank
 5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by
 plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -
 Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ
 God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus
 va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.
 filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.
 died for us. We gained by God's own loss.
 rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.
 feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas; Frederick Whitfield, refrain
 Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS, North American traditional

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Tender and merciful one,
at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing,
turning our emptiness into joy.
Filled with your abundant grace,
send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,
mending broken hearts, working for justice,
and striving for peace among all people,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW #325

DISMISSAL

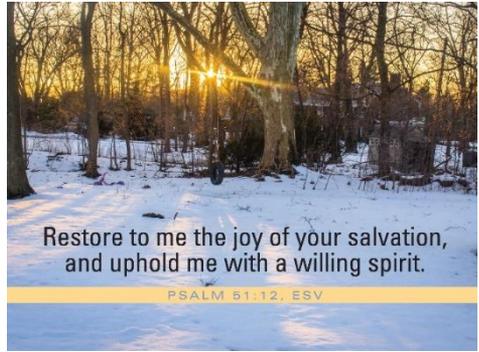
Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Toccata No. 9”

Girolamo Frescobaldi

Siblings 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
High School Director		Katie Love
Trinity/Middle School Director		Maddie Wosinski
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

Serving Faith	April 7	April 14
Acolyte	open	Austin Jones
Altar Care	Gail Barricklow & Linda Gerard	
Communion Assistants	open	Austin Jones
	Gus Lusis	Passion Play
	Korine Warwrzynski	Passion Play
Greeters	Mike Eschelbach	Ken & Karen Whitmyer
Readers	Gus Lusis	Passion Play
Lay Assistant	Korine Warwrzynski	Passion Play
Ushers	Walter & Brenda Kopf	Bill & Pam Williams
Nursery	Williams	Heidi Bowers
Coffee Hosts	Gordon & Judy Tuthill	open

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, April 7

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ann Mayer in celebration of the birthdays of Tim & Allison Mayer.

Altar Flowers are provided by Al-Lins of Okemos

LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

Weekly Wednesday Night Soup Suppers and Lenten Services

We will hold weekly Lenten services at Faith Lutheran. We will worship as we sing the music of Holden Evening Prayer and experience the poems and reflections of *Forty Days: A Journey Through the Desert of Lent*.

Wednesday Eve Schedule 3/13-4/10 No Dinner/Classes on 4/3

5:30-6:00	Joyful Noise Rehearsal
5:45-7:00	Dinner is Served
6:15-7:00	Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30-7:05	Pk/Trinity/Confirmation and Adult Classes
7:15-7:45	Lenten Service
7:45-8:15	Cantata Rehearsal
8:15-9:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 14

10:00 AM Service at Faith Lutheran Church

This service marks the beginning of Holy Week. Be present to discover your own rootedness in the drama which is Christ's passion, a drama that has no audience. As we begin this holiest of weeks, this is a drama in which you are participants. Come and allow the Passion story to embrace you, name you, shape your very being and become your story!

Maundy Thursday Service – April 18

7:00 PM Service at Faith Lutheran

Jesus is making his journey to the cross. That journey includes time with the disciples at that upper room meal where Jesus gives us a new commandment and greets us with his very life and blood. Be present in the quiet as the altar is stripped and we follow Jesus' journey to Gethsemane.

Good Friday Services – April 19

12:00 Noon Service at Okemos Community Church

This will be a combined service with the following churches participating: Okemos Presbyterian, Okemos Community, Faith Lutheran and Haslett Community Church. A joint choir will be singing at this service and the offering taken at this service will go to the local area food banks.

Okemos Community Church: 4734 Okemos Rd, Okemos

7:00 PM Service at Faith Lutheran Church

*Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church will join us for this service as the combined choirs sing *Once Upon a Tree*, a musical version of Luke's account of Jesus' passion. Join us for this deeply meaningful experience.*

Easter Service - Sunday, April 21

10:00 AM Easter Worship

Come, rejoice with us in worship as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Our alleluias will again be proclaimed as we share the joy of the Risen Christ.