



**January 26, 2020**

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

## **Third Sunday after Epiphany RIC Sunday**

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

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf  
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams  
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love  
High School Leaders: .....Kim O'Brien, Ryan & Addie Thompson  
Pastor's email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website:.....[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

## RIC Sunday

Today we celebrate RIC Sunday. This Sunday celebration has been a way for faith communities to celebrate the work that they have done, as well as to take a stand in creating a worship celebration specifically for all of God's Beloveds, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender expressions. RIC Sunday is set aside to highlight our shared ministry of hospitality and reconciliation for all of our siblings in Christ, with this year's theme centered on advocacy.

We celebrate and recommit ourselves to being fully inclusive, advocating for, and welcoming to all God's people. As you worship today, reflect on how you live your life to reflect God's love and how it is for all people. Review our welcoming statement and consider ways that we can fully live into our welcome for all.

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program is part of ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation which advocates for the full welcome, inclusion, and celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.

Portions of our service came from ReconcilingWork's 2020 Reconciling in Christ Sunday resource. This year, ReconcilingWorks board members helped create the 2020 Reconciling in Christ Sunday service on Advocacy. Those contributing to the service are Rev. Jason Clifton (he/him), Rev. Lauren Muratore (she/her), Pastor Lenny Duncan (he/him), and Pastor Tuhina Verma Rasche (she/her). If you wish to read bios of them, please contact Rich Weingartner and he'll get them to you.

If you wish to learn more about how you can advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community, see materials on our Diversity Center rack, including *Lutheran Guide to Advocate for LGBTQIA+ People in Church and Society* and *Lutheran Introduction to our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Neighbors*; the book *Dear Church* by Lenny Duncan; or the ELCA advocacy section on their website <https://www.elca.org/advocacy>.



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.

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.

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

*Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt  
Greeters: Karl & Brigitta Brunning  
Altar Care: Nina Schrote & Cecelia Kramer  
Acolyte: Kaden Steinke  
Reader: Melinda Schultz  
Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner  
Nursery: Pam Williams  
Sunday School Teacher: Lori Haven  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Middle School Youth Souper Bowl Luncheon*

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

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the Narthex.  
Prayer requests and praises are listed in the announcement packets.

## **Introduction to the day**

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prayer Requests

#### Prelude

“St. Denio”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

### GATHERING

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Holy Parent,  
and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit, whom we invite into this space.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, and in particular your LGBTQIA+ children whom for too long the church was a harmful place. Turn those of us who have actively participated in the sins of homophobia, transphobia, and fear to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Liberator.

**Amen.**

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and our LGBTQIA+ siblings and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done to the queer community and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, to the full vision of the Kin-Dom of God, and uphold us by your Spirit, She who loves us and**

**encourages us towards liberation, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend. Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. All have been saved and quite simply all means all. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to advocate and love our neighbors, all of them. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.  
**Amen.**

*...by grace  
you  
have  
been  
saved...  
Ephesians 2:5,  
NRSV*

# GATHERING SONG

## Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives

Adrienne Stricker

ST. DENIO

1. Im - par - tial, com - pass - ion - ate God of all lives,  
2. Un - ho - ly, un - just - i - fied fear we in - cite,  
3. Cre - a - tor of beau - ty, we stand not in pride,  
4. Our hope is your free - dom for both great and small,  
5. All hon - or - we give you, O help us to see,

in Christ you have shown us your love ac - tual - ized,  
when we shun our neigh - bors yet cling to our rights.  
we do not as - sume you will stay on our side.  
to strive for per - fec - tion and know all means all.  
your chil - dren are wor - thy to claim vic - to - ry.

in - car - nate and weak in the arms of the poor,  
Your chil - dren still wan - der the streets left in pain,  
For yours is the sa - cred, un - tar - nished by sin,  
We chal - lenge and quest - ion each law with - out grace,  
And so let our ac - tions flow out of our praise,

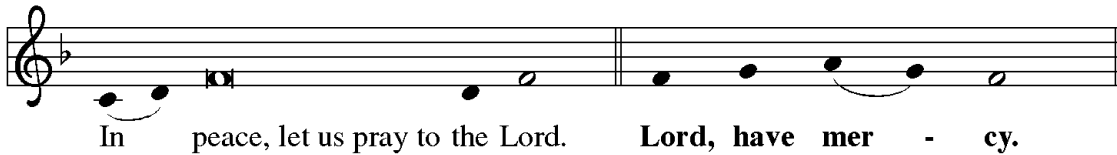
de - stroy - ing all sys - tems that keep closed the door.  
we pass laws a - gainst them to prove our dis - dain.  
a re - fuge for out - casts that all may come in.  
af - firm - ing the im - age of Christ on each face.  
to seek trans - for - ma - tion, your Kin - dom to raise.

## GREETING

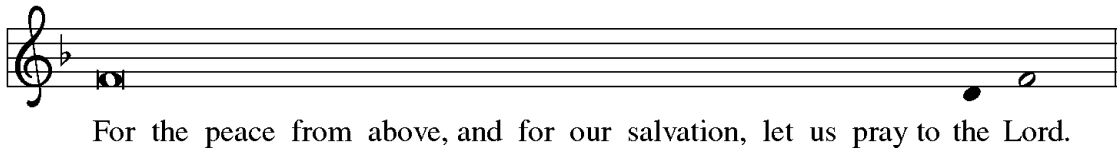
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

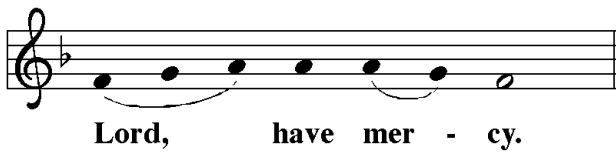
## KYRIE



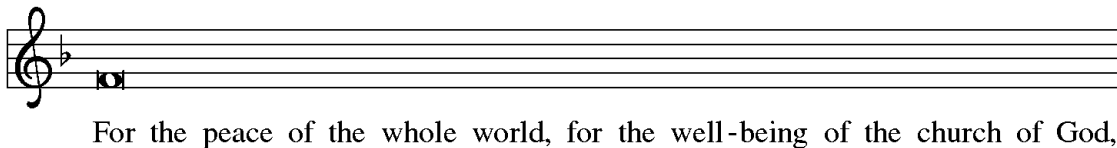
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



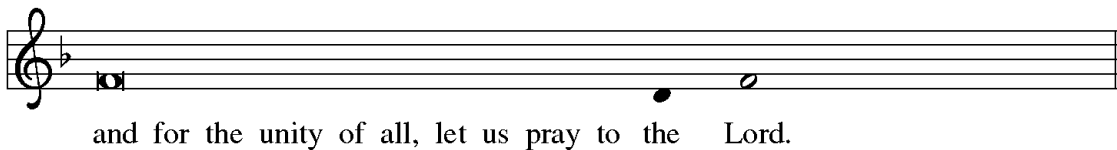
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



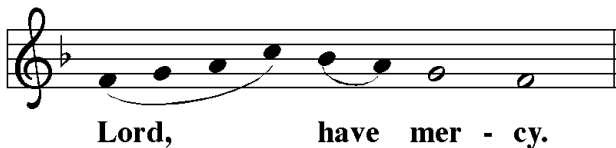
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



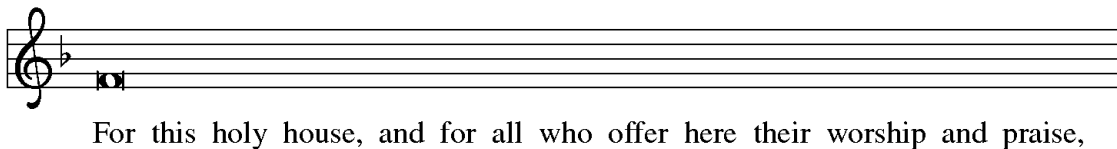
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



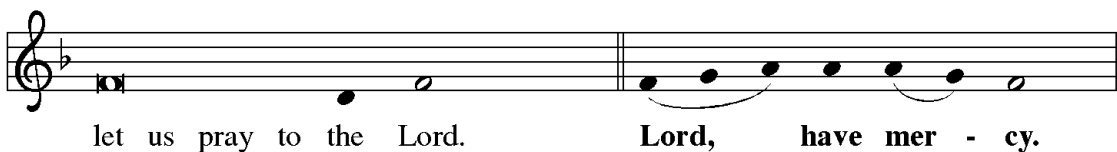
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



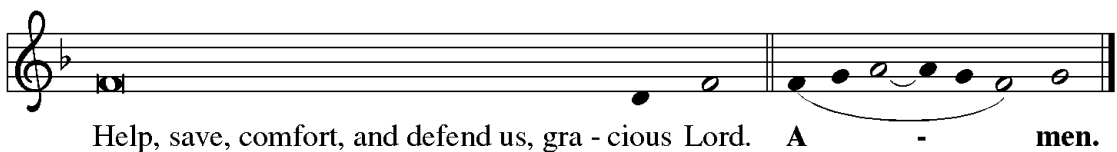
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

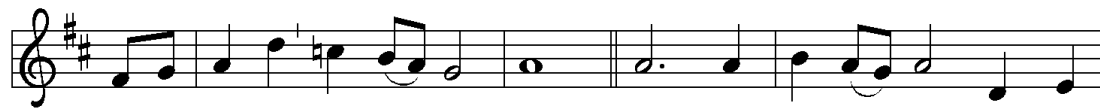


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

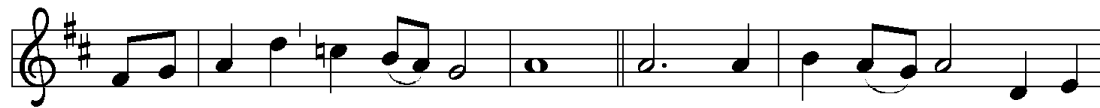


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

*Final refrain*

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious and liberating God, who in Jesus knows what it's like to be an oppressed person, knows what it's like to live in a world as a rejected soul, cut off from the community, and to experience state sanctioned violence just for being oneself, guide us to be fierce advocates for our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ and all those oppressed.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:1-4**

**Reader: Melinda Schultz**

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.*

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>10</sup>Now I appeal to you, siblings, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my siblings. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Footprints in the Sand

(Angerman)

Chancel Choir

### GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

*Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Pastor Ellen Schoepf**

## **SERMON**

**Rich Weingartner**

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Christ, Be Our Light***

***ELW #715***

## **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**

Called together through water and the Word, we boldly pray for the church, the world, and all who long to hear God's voice.

*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:*

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, 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

### OFFERING

“For Everyone Born”

(Murray and Mann, arr. Trenney)

Chancel Choir

#### FOR EVERYONE BORN (Shirley Erena Murray)

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.  
And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy.

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and color,  
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace.

For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong.

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.  
And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy.

## OFFERING RESPONSE

# 592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH LM

Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709

Genevan Psalter, 1551

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise \*Him, all crea-tures  
here be-low; Praise \*Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;  
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of wonder,  
you formed us in our mother's womb,  
and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine.  
We place them on your table,  
together with our lives and all that you have made.  
Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit.  
We wait for your mercy;



we long for your peace;  
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,  
our banquet of life.

**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,

God of justice and accompaniment,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You made us all in your image;

in the Spirit of abounding love and creativity you formed us.

You sent us your Advocate

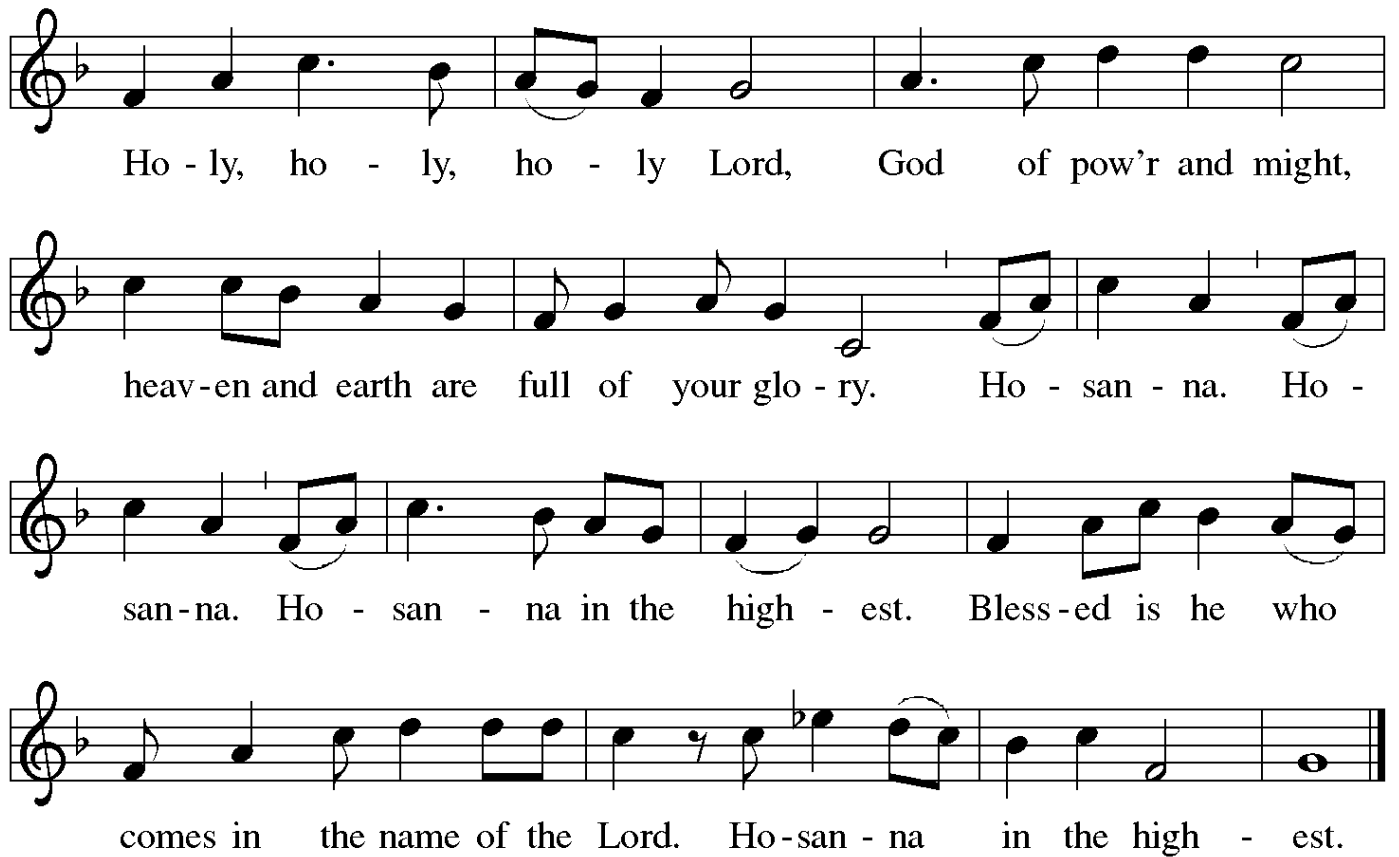
so that we can know how to advocate for our beloveds

as you strengthen us to love and uphold one another.

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:



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

On the night before Jesus was tried and executed by the state, he dined with his friends, even the one who would betray him. Jesus took bread, broke it, and gave it to his friends. Take this bread, the Word made flesh, to feed you to speak words of justice and truth.

He then took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his friends to drink. Take this wine, the blood of Christ, to quench your throats parched by forced silence.

Let all who hunger for justice, eat. Let all who thirst for mercy, drink. Let this meal strengthen and encourage you. Let this meal remind you, you are not in debt to Empire.

We are to seek the new reality of the realm, the Kin-dom of God in this world. We are to advocate for our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We are to advocate for one another, as Christ advocated for us, his arms outstretched in love for all.

Let this table be the place where the spark of the Spirit is ignited, to fuel us from this place into the world, embodying a justice and peace setting the world ablaze.

**Amen**

### **THE LORDS 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**

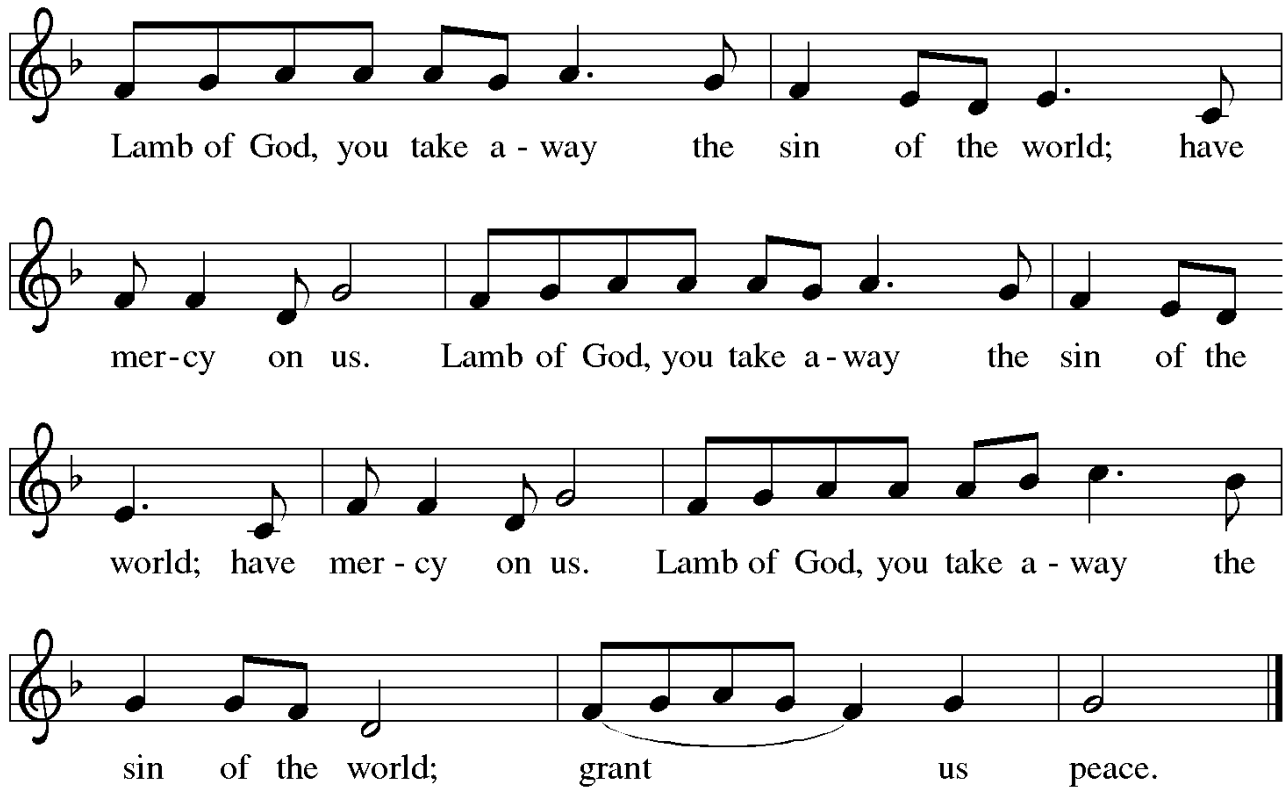
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **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.

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*All Are Welcome*

***ELW #641***

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG

*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*

***ELW #651***

*The assembly stands.*

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

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Faithful God,  
you have kept your promise to us in this meal,  
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.  
Now send your servants forth in peace,  
that we may testify to your goodness  
and share the hope that is ours  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

May the Holy Parent ignite the fires of advocacy in your heart  
May the Spirit place the scroll of knowledge on your tongue in tough  
conversations.  
May the Son walk with you as you march with your queer siblings.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG**

*We Are Called*

*ELW #720*

### **DISMISSAL**

Go out into the world and shout from the rooftops that all means ALL and  
that God's love is for ALL!  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **POSTLUDE**

"All Are Welcome"

arr. Ron Schmoltze



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January 19, 2020 Attendance: 85

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***Serving Faith February 2***

*Ushers: Jeff & Melinda Schultz*

*Greeters: Bill & Pam Williams*

*Altar Care: Peggy Crum & Marla Holle*

*Acolyte: Serena Ngasala*

*Reader: Jack Dingledine*

*Lay Assistant: Dane Webb*

*Nursery: Melinda & Lauren Schultz*

*Sunday School Teacher: Elizabeth Edberg*

*Coffee Hour Hosts: open*

***Altar Flower Dedications***

***Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>***

***Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by...***

***Vase 1: Ken & Karen Whitmyer in celebration of Kadin Bowers birthday.***

***Vase 2: Pastor Ellen in honor of Paul Hereza and his gifted leadership as president of this congregation over the past year.***

**Annual Meeting TODAY!**

The Annual Meeting will take place today following worship. The Middle School Youth are hosting a Souper Bowl Luncheon and the meeting will take place *during the luncheon*. The youth will also be providing an Ice Cream Sundae Bar for dessert. All of this will be done as a fundraiser, and the money raised will help to support their experience at CHARGE, our Synod Middle School Youth Event in March.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



## 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](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)

### Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

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