October 2nd 2016

Welcome to

Faith Lutheran Church



4515 Dobie Road

Okemos MI 48864-2203

517-349-0620

Pastor Ellen Schoepf

prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

**Weak Faith? Strong God.**

Athletes spend time in the weight room to build up their strength so they can run faster, jump higher, hit harder, avoid injuries, and improve their endurance. Want to get better at your game and increase your ability to outperform your opponent? Train hard. Get in the weight room.

Sometimes we talk about faith that way. We say things like “Have a little more faith,” or “She has such a strong faith.” The disciples ask Jesus to “Increase our faith!” Jesus has just told them, “If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive” (Luke 17:3b-4). No wonder they feel as though their faith isn’t adequate. Forgiveness is challenging, especially when someone is a repeat offender.

But Jesus doesn’t send them to the faith-training weight room to strengthen their faith. Instead, Jesus seems to encourage them to use the little faith they have and God will do wonders with it. After all, it isn’t a matter of how strong our faith is but how strong God is. God can do the impossible. God can help someone who has been hurt forgive the one who hurt them.

When hurts are deep, forgiveness seems impossible. The desire to lash out, seek revenge, or crumble under the weight of the hurt all seem much more probable. But God can do what we find hard to do. God can help us not excuse the hurt but free us from the desire to exact more hurt.

How can Jesus ask this of us? Because from the cross he forgives the ones who put him there. He knows that new life comes through forgiveness. Drink deeply of his forgiving strength at the table today.

**Sunday, October 02, 2016**

20th Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting Nine

**Introduction to the day**

A little faith goes a long way is our Lord’s point in the gospel. A mustard seed’s-worth has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in water and the word (holy baptism), bread and wine (holy communion), the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

*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

Temple Talk Melinda Schultz

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.*

"O Master. let me walk with Thee," arr. Albin Whitworth

Gathering

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

*The assembly stands.*

Gathering Song #531

**

Text and music printed under CCLI license 720217

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



Canticle of Praise



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of 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: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

*Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the wicked will perish, but the righteous will live by faith.*

A reading from Habakkuk.

1The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.  
  
 2O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
  and you will not listen?  
 Or cry to you “Violence!”  
  and you will not save?  
 3Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
  and look at trouble?  
 Destruction and violence are before me;  
  strife and contention arise.  
 4So the law becomes slack  
  and justice never prevails.  
 The wicked surround the righteous—  
  therefore judgment comes forth perverted.  
  
 2:1I will stand at my watchpost,  
  and station myself on the rampart;  
 I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,  
  and what he will answer concerning my complaint.  
 2Then the Lord answered me and said:  
 Write the vision;  
  make it plain on tablets,  
  so that a runner may read it.  
 3For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
  it speaks of the end, and does not lie.  
 If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
  it will surely come, it will not delay.  
 4Look at the proud!  
  Their spirit is not right in them,  
  but the righteous live by their faith.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

*This message written from Paul to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

A reading from 2 Timothy.

1Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,  
  2To Timothy, my beloved child:   
  Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.  
  
  3I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. 4Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. 5I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. 6For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; 7for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.  
  8Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, 9who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, 12and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. 13Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

5The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” 6The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.  
  7“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? 8Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? 9Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? 10So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”

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*#633*



Text and music printed under CCLI license 720217

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,**

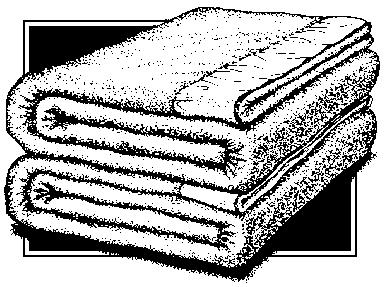
**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**



BLANKET DEDICATION

P: We give thanks for and seek your blessing for these blankets we lay before you, the work of our hands and our hearts, and the generosity of our congregation.

**C: We give thanks for compassion.**

P: We pray for the ministry of the City Rescue Mission and the care and refuge that they give the individuals and families with the most need in our community.

**C: We give thanks for shelter.**

P: We dedicate these blankets to your service, trusting that your love will go with each recipient, making it more than just a piece of material, but a symbol of Christ’s love to those who suffer, a reminder that everyone is a beloved child of God.

**C: We celebrate hope in the midst of hardships.**

P: We know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people.

**C: Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the Spirit’s work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those 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:*

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **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

Chancel Choir First Song of Isaiah (White)

**

*The assembly stands.*

OFFERING rESPONSE #691 vs. 1-2

****

Text and arrangement printed under OneLicense.net license A-708005

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills

were gathered together to become one bread,

so let your church be gathered together

from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,

for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**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;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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



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

Take hold of the life that really is life.

Come, take your place at the table.

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 #818

****

congregational SOng #810



*The assembly stands.*

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

**Amen**

Prayer after Communion

We come again to you, O God,

giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy

you have embraced us and healed us,

making us one in the body of Christ.

Go with us on our way.

Equip us for every good work,

that we may continue to give you thanks

by embracing others with mercy and healing;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Sending

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

Blessing

God Almighty send you light and truth

to keep you all the days of your life.

The hand of God protect you;

the holy angels accompany you;

and the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Sending Song*#537*



Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Concerto No. 13, Allegro," G.F.Handel, ed. Rollin Smith

Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000803.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Clipart copyright © 2016 by Communication Resources. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The psalmist urges us: “Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful” (Psalm 149:1, NRSV). And so we shall! Welcome.

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

September 25th Worship Attendance:127

Serving Faith Today October 9th

Acolyte Clayton Wenzel

Altar Care Rich Weingartner & Kay Showers

Communion Assistants Molly Hereza Clayton Wenzel

Melinda Schultz Doug Hirt

Kadin Bowers Jack Dingeldine

Greeters Alexis Hereza Harold Sollenberger

Lay Assistant Melinda Schultz Doug Hirt

Reader Kadin Bowers Jack Dingledine

Ushers Sam Kadrofske Doug & Linda Hirt

Owen Dingledine

Lauren Schultz

Brielle Bowers

Nursery Drew & Pam Williams Connie Nelson