November 13, 2016

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

*We’re glad you’re here!*



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**Prediction and Promise**

The tone of today’s gospel is ominous. “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes” (Luke 21:10). These words are ominous not because what they describe will happen, but because these things are happening right now—and have been since these words were written down almost two thousand years ago.

Our tendency to focus on the difficult portions of today’s gospel text causes us anxiety at best and paranoia at worst. Following today’s worship, we might reasonably predict that a few people will be looking for signs of the end of all things!

If we listen with trusting hearts instead of fearful ones, we can hear hope even in this text. Although Jesus describes what may befall his disciples in the end time—arrest, persecution, imprisonment, betrayal, hatred, death—he assures his disciples and us that God will not let these things be the final word. We hear promise more than prediction.

When we pay attention to the signs that Jesus gives through his life, we will more fully understand where Christ eventually goes: the cross. At the cross Jesus will be betrayed, his friends will abandon him, his name will be hated with shouts of “Crucify him!,” and there will be an earthquake. At the cross the temple of Christ’s body, the dwelling place of God, will be left in ruin, and then buried in a cave sealed with a stone.

That stone will topple at the resurrection, thrown down by the power of life and love, and we receive the assurance that even death cannot hold the Crucified One. Even while the nations rage, we are safe in Christ’s resurrection, down to the hair on our head.

**Sunday, November 13, 2016**

26th Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion

**Introduction to the day**

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today’s texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the “meantimes.” The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: “Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.”

*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.*

Flutes of Faith

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee Ludwig Van Beethoven

Crown Him With Many Crowns George J. Elvey

**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.*

In the name of God the Father of glory;

in the name of God the ☩ Son, our Redeemer;

in the name of God the holy and life-giving Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Sun of righteousness shall rise

with shining beams of healing.

Let us gather under the wings of God’s mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**we acknowledge that we are sinners**

**and we confess our sins—**

**those known to us that burden our hearts,**

**and those unknown to us but seen by you.**

**We know that before you nothing remains hidden,**

**and in you everything is revealed.**

**Free us from the slavery of sin;**

**liberate us from the bondage of guilt;**

**and work in us that which is pleasing in your sight;**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

With a heart full of mercy and compassion,

God saves us and ☩ forgives us all our sins.

Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us

and by the light of the Holy Spirit

guides our feet into the way of peace.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song*#597***

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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.**

**Kyrie**



**Canticle of Praise**



**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Word**

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

**First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a**

Malachi, whose name means “my messenger,” warns that the day of the Lord is coming. On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the “sun of righteousness” will shine on those who fear God.

A reading from Malachi.

1See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2aBut for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 98** *\*Passage taken from the Message*

*The psalm for the day is read responsively*

1 Sing to GOD a brand-new song.

He’s made a world of wonders!

**He rolled up his sleeves,**

**He sets things right.**

2 GOD made history with salvation.

**He showed the world what he could do.**

3 He remembered to love us, a bonus

To his dear family, Israel - indefatigable love.

**The whole earth comes to attention.**

**Look – God’s work for salvation!**

**4 Shout your praises to GOD, everybody!**

**Let loose and sing! Strike up the band!**

**5 Round up an orchestra to play for GOD,**

**Add on a hundred – voice choir.**

**6 Feature trumpets and big trombones,**

**Fill the air with praises to King GOD.**

**7 Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause,**

**With everything living on earth joining in.**

**8 Let ocean breakers call out, “Encore!”**

**And mountains harmonize the finale-**

**9 A tribute to GOD when he comes,**

**When he comes to set the earth right.**

**He’ll straighten out the whole world,**

**He’ll put the world right, and everyone in it.**

**Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ’s return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. Paul warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

A reading from 2 Thessalonians.

6Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. 7For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, 8and we did not eat anyone’s bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. 9This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. 10For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. 11For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. 12Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 13Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.***

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel: Luke 21:5-19**

As history moves toward God’s fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and shall be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

5When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, 6“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”  
  7They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” 8And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.  
  9“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” 10Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; 11there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.  
  12“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; 15for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. 16You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17You will be hated by all because of my name. 18But not a hair of your head will perish. 19By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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 Lord of our life #766**

**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.**

**Operation Christmas Child Dedication Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for your blessing of these shoeboxes for the mission of Samaritan’s Purse “Operation Christmas Child.”

**Loving God, we ask for your blessing.**

We pray for the hurting children and their families whose lives will be impacted by these boxes and the contents we’ve packed with love.

**Loving God, we pray for your loving touch**

We pray especially that through these gifts the hearts of the children and their families will be opened to your love and the message of your grace through Jesus Christ.

**Loving God, we pray for your grace to be made known.**

We pray also for the children and their families who are suffering in the desperate circumstances of poverty, sickness or war, that you will meet their physical needs.

**Providing God, we pray for your bounty.**

We pray also that these shoeboxes will be useful tools to open doors for the proclamation of the gospel.

**Providing God, we pray for open doors.**

We pray, also for all those who are participating in some way to the mission of Operation Christmas, and for the process of collecting, processing, transporting and delivering of the boxes to their rightful destinations.

**Providing God, we pray that you would smooth the way for these shoeboxes to be delivered to the right people who need to know about your love. To this end, in faith, we ask for you blessing. Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession**

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*The presiding minister concludes the*

*prayers, and the assembly responds:*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear those who call upon your name. We commend all our spoken and silent prayers to you, trusting in your abundant mercy; through your 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**

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

**Offering**

**“**Andante con moto,” Op. 15, for Clarinet and Piano Heinrich Bading

Guest Clarinetist: Michael Fox

*the assembly stands*

**offering response**

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**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**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

surrounded by evil and bordered by death

we appeal to you,

our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace

and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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,

the sacrifice of his life and death

and the victory of his resurrection,

we await with all the saints

his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine

and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son:

teach us your mercy and justice,

and make all things new in 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**

Share in the inheritance of all the saints.

Come to the table prepared for you.

**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 #715**

*please use the hymnal next to you.*

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG #785**



*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 give you thanks, shepherding God,

that you have gathered your scattered flock again this day,

feeding us richly with the food of Paradise.

Accompany us as we serve you all the days of our lives,

and gather us with the saints in the day of our death;

through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

God who loves us,

who gives us eternal consolation and good hope,

comfort your hearts

and strengthen them in every good work and word;

and the blessing of almighty God,

Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song*#881***

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**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

“Let all Things Now Living,” arr. Carolyn Hamlin

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Christ is King of all creation, all time and season, all that we do as individuals and as the church.

Welcome as we gather to worship before the throne.



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

November 6th Attendance:140

Serving Faith November 13 November 20

Acolyte Juliana Lewis Clayton Wenzel

Altar Care Brenda Kopf & Kay Showers

Communion Assistants Juliana Lewis Clayton Wenzel

Ken Schoepf Harold Sollenberger

Linda Hirt Melinda Schultz

Greeters Chris and Jean Lewis Mark & Molly DeHate

Lay Assistants Ken Schoepf Harold Sollenberger

Readers Linda Hirt Melinda Schultz

Ushers Sally & Dick Knoll Sally & Dick Knoll

Nursery Alexis Hereza Corey & Kim O’Brien

**More about Pastor Nik**

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack (Pastor Nik) serves as the Director of Church Relations for Samaritas (formerly known as Lutheran Social Services of Michigan – LSSM).  He was previously a pastor in rural Minnesota, a pastor developer in an exurban Michigan community, and most recently a pastor and head of staff in a suburban Detroit congregation.  A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, his degrees include a B.B.A. in Accounting from Eastern Michigan University, an M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and a D.Min. in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary.  Pastor Nik is married to Whitney, and they have two daughters, Alexandra Clare and Emery Anastasia.  He enjoys history, economics, travel, kayaking, and miniature golf.



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

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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

Podcasts

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STITCHER

http://www.stitcher.com/podcast/dad-spotlight/your-faith-journey?refid=stpr

You also can find the audio available

on Faith’s website under worship

Sermons

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