

Welcome to Faith Lutheran

March 11, 2018



FOURTH SUNDAY
In Lent

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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4515 Dobie Road
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.

Sunday, March 11, 2018

4 Lent

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

Introduction to the day

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

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

“God Loved the World”

arr. Robert Farley

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.

Merciful God,

We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence.

Merciful God,

We acted when we knew better.

Silence.

Merciful God,

We were still when we know we should have moved.

Silence.

Merciful God,

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

Lift High the Cross

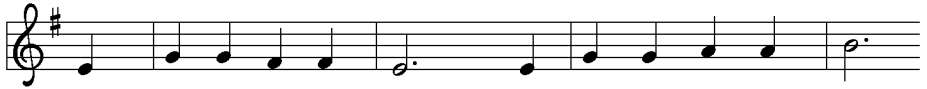
ELW #660

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: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

A reading from Numbers.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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 Loved the World

ELW #323

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

"Once Upon a Tree"

(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 consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The first system ends with a semibreve note in the treble staff and a half note in the bass staff.

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

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It ends with a quarter note in the treble staff and a half note in the bass staff.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"God So Loved the World" (Stainer, arr. Goss)
Beth Ballenger, Deb Borton-McDonough, John Borton,
Ryan Thompson, vocal quartet

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

"What Wondrous Love is This" arr. Virginia Halberg

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

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

ELW #321

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Lift High the Cross”

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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A Warm Welcome



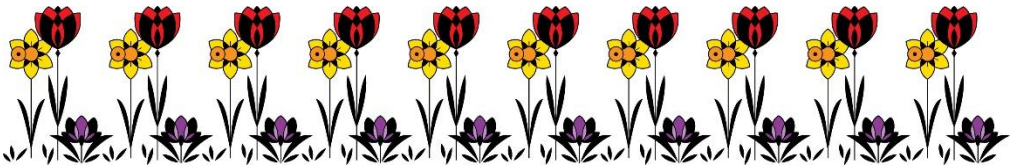
Sisters & brothers in Christ, welcome to
worship! May your time in the Lord be rich
and blessed.

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

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

March 4, 2018 Attendance 78

Serving Faith	March 11	March 18
Acolyte	Isaac Webb	Adelle Dingleline
Altar Care	Gretchen Bills & Gail Barricklow	
Communion Assistants	Isaac Webb	Adelle Dingleline
	Dane Webb	Alyssa Magyar
	Linda Hirt	Brenda Kopf
Greeters	Jeff & Melinda Schultz	Mark & Molly DeHate
Lay Assistants	Dane Webb	Alyssa Magyar
Readers	Linda Hirt	Brenda Kopf
Ushers	Williams Family	Williams Family
Nursery	O'Briens	Melinda and Lauren Schultz



2018 EASTER FLOWER DEDICATION

Order deadline: March 18th

I would like to order the following flower(s) to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday:

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>FLOWER(S)</u>	<u>ORDER TOTAL</u>
_____	Daffodil(s) \$10 ea.	_____
_____	Tulip(s)* \$10 ea.	_____

*Color selection for tulips: Purple Pink Yellow Red

Please PRINT your dedication(s) below:

Name person(s) dedicating:

In memory of:

In honor of:

In celebration of:

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church
Place this dedication form in Katie Love's mailbox or office.

*Please pick up your flower(s)
after worship service Easter Sunday*