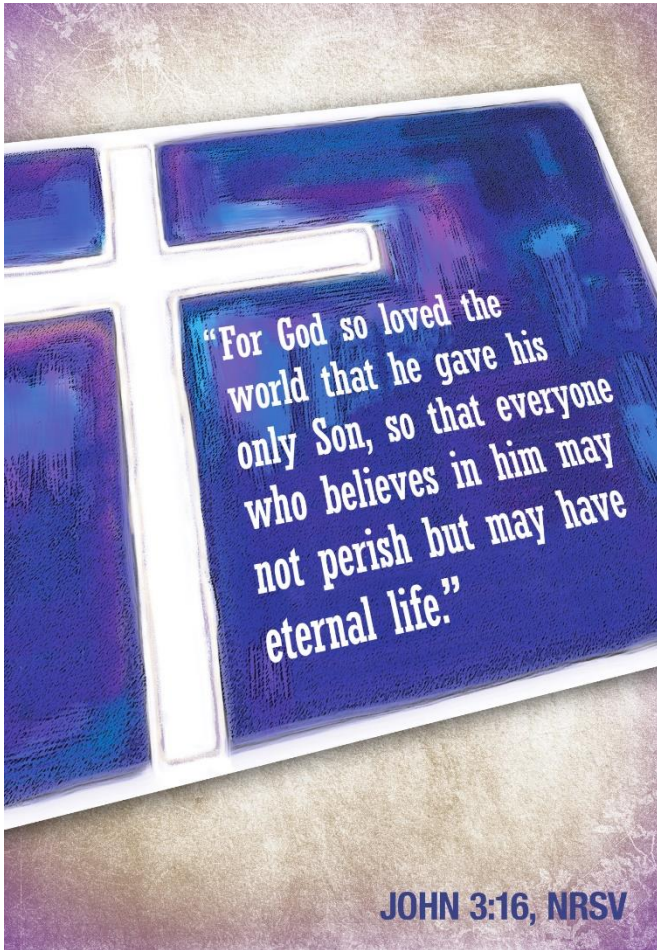


Faith Lutheran Church

May 27, 2018



Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
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

In a Word, Believe

At the airport the young man's father and mother hugged him, stamped unremovable kisses on his unshaven cheek, draped "I love you" eyes upon him, mouthed "be safe" and sent him off to volunteer in Argentina, where he later disappeared. Did he perish?

Earth trembles, wind howls, fire refines. Do we perish? Famines devour by day, plagues creep by night, wars shriek. Do we perish?

"For God so loved the world . . .

Shamefaced in prisons, shivering on street corners, lonely in crowds, invaded all alone. Do we perish? At the top, exhausted; at the bottom, despairing; at the edges, ignored; at the center, shrinking. Do we perish?

. . . that he gave his only Son, . . .

Washed out memories, built up distances. Do we perish? Love discarded, hatred hoarded. Do we perish?

. . . so that everyone who believes in him may not perish."

Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark. This is what he said: "no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God" (John 3:2). An unsteady, fitful confidence flickered like a sputtering wick in the dark. "How can these things be?" Riddled about the kingdom of God, flesh and Spirit, heaven and earth, he didn't hide inside of **cautious** silence or avoid heavy darkness.

Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark. There he found God's answer in a word. Believe. Believe not in a world without death or disaster, not in a world without suffering or loss, not in a world without devastation or humiliation, not in a world without defeat or shame. Believe in God who refuses to abandon such a world. Believe in the sign of God, Jesus himself, God's love for this world where joys do agonize, flowers do fade, springs do thirst. Believe in God in the dark night hour.

Sunday, May 27, 2018

The Holy Trinity

1st Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

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

“Holy God, We Praise your Name”

arr. Wilbur Held

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

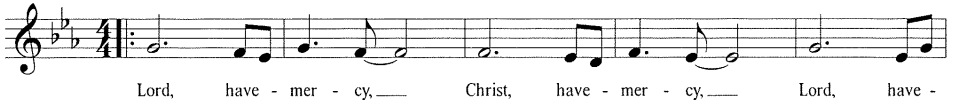
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

ELW #413

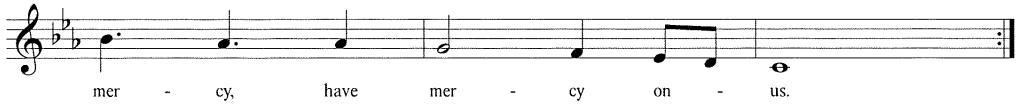
GREETING

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



Lord, have - mer - cy, — Christ, have - mer - cy, — Lord, have -



mer - cy, have mer - cy on - us.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God, we give you
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's
A - lone, O Christ, you on - ly



thanks and praise; of heav' - nly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
on - ly Son, you bore for us the load of this world's sin. —
are the Lord, at God's right hand in ma - jes - ty most high:



We wor - ship you, to you our hearts we raise, —
O Lamb of God, your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, —
who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - migh - ty Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
re - ceive our pray'r; grant us your peace with - in. —
with all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy. —

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, 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: Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from Isaiah.

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

A reading from Romans.

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and sisters and brothers with Christ the Son.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia, Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le - lu - ia,

4

you have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

8

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

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus’ miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these

signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And 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.”

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

Come, Join the Dance of Trinity

ELW #412

CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place,
praying for the world that God so loves.

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:*

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our
prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through 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

"In the Name of the Father"

(Pethel)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

Let The Vineyards

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful Lord, and

5 fill to the brim our cup of bles - sing. Gath - er the har -

10 - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the

15 bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u -

21 nite them in the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta -

26 ble with your pres - ence, Lord, and give us a fore -

30 - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

you open wide your hand

and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us.

Open our hands to receive it.

Open our hearts to embrace it.

Open our lives to live it.

We pray this through 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.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,

uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

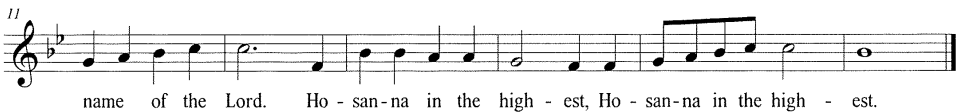
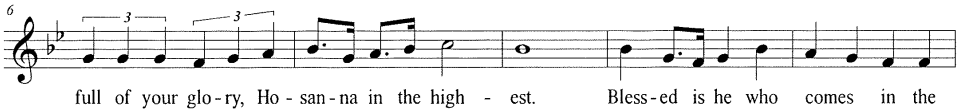
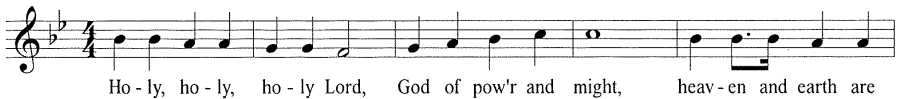
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of
the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Breath of life and Fire of love, with a mighty wind you brought creation into being, and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom. We praise you for the gift of your Son, who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.

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 death, resurrection, and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit, we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth. Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal: anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love, that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to your Son.

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

Now let us feast this festival day
on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

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 your _____ peace.

6

12

18

23

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

37

Father, I adore you

1* F Gm C F 2 Gm

1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,

C F 3 Gm C F

fore you; how I love you.

**may be sung in canon*

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Father Most Holy

ELW #415

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
Filled again by these signs of your grace,
may we hunger for your reign of justice,
may we thirst for your way of peace,
for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

This Is My Song

ELW #887

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“All Glory be to God on High”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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	kllove@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.

May 20, 2018 Attendance: 104

Serving Faith	May 27	June 3
Acolyte	open	open
Altar Care	Gretchen Bills & Becky Bills	Elaine Harrison & Diane Hill
Communion Assistants	open	open
	Bob Shorman	John McPhail
	Elaine Harrison	Gus Lulis
Greeters	Mark & Molly DeHate	Bob Scholle
Lay Assistants	Bob Shorman	John McPhail
Readers	Elaine Harrison	Gus Lulis
Ushers	Kopf's	Coe's
Nursery	Jennifer Coe	Williams

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, May 27th: Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ken Milne in celebration of Ellen's birthday.