

Faith Lutheran Church

February 17, 2019

The Beatitudes

Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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Okemos, MI 48864
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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.

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

The Good Life

What does a good life look like, and how does one achieve it? That question has been asked by everyone from average people to the greatest philosophers for as long as humans have been around. Adults share their answers with children through moral tales. Advertisers promise it to consumers through carefully calculated stories and pictures. In both cases, the “blessings” of the right choice are contrasted with the “woes” of the wrong.

In today’s gospel, Jesus speaks his own series of blessings and woes that paint a counterintuitive picture of the good life. He stands among a crowd of people who have come to him to be healed of diseases and unclean spirits. People of Jesus’ time blamed ailments on individuals’ own poor choices and sins. But as Jesus looks around at the crowd, he calls them blessed: the poor, the hungry, the weeping, the hated, the reviled, and the defamed. They are blessed because their poverty, hunger, grief, and pain have brought them to Christ, through whom God’s power goes out to heal all people.

It can be easy to paint a version of the good life, or even the “good church,” based on worldly visions of prosperity, success, and righteousness. But the goodness of the church comes from the one who stands at its center: Jesus Christ. As we come together to worship, our Lord draws around himself a crowd with ailments, wounds, and worries, many of which the world has taught us to cover up and hide. But together we listen to Christ’s words of grace and receive his body and blood at the table. What does the good life look like? Broken people being healed together in the presence of Christ.

Sunday, February 17, 2019

6 Epiphany

Introduction to the day

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and the power to heal us all.

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, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

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

PRELUDE

“Blessed assurance”

arr. Matt Hyzer

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who creates us and forms us,
who redeems us and calls us,
who unites us and sends us.

Amen.

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty and loving God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We seek our own way.
We divide the body of Christ.
In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.
Let the words of our mouths,
the thoughts of our hearts,
and everything that we do
be filled with faith, hope, and love.
Amen.**

Hear the voice of Jesus:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
to proclaim release to the captives.”

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,
I proclaim to you
that your sins are forgiven and you are released.
The joy of the Lord is your strength,
and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

O Day of Rest and Gladness

ELW #521

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



☩ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☩ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



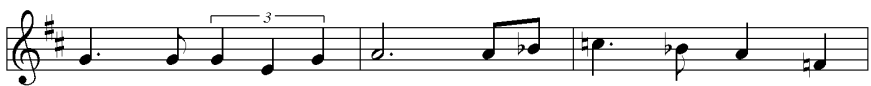
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☩ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

☐
☒ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings (17:5-11) that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁵Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

When the Poor Ones

ELW #725

The assembly is seated

PRESENTATION OF A NEW MEMBER

The presiding minister begins. Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for James Taylor united with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome into the life and ministry of Faith Lutheran Church.

APOSTLES' CREED

The presiding minister continues.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's

Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

The presiding minister addresses the new member.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for James as he lives his faith?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

WELCOME

Those being welcomed face the assembly. The pastor addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome our new member to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to the entire world.

The congregation gives acclamation and thanks.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those 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:*

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

“Blest Are They”

(Haas/Joncas)

Chancel Choir
Ryan Thompson, solo

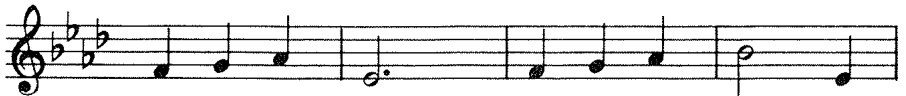
BLEST ARE THEY

The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:3-12

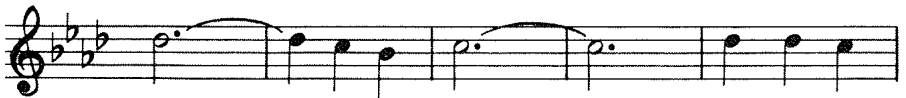
David Haas



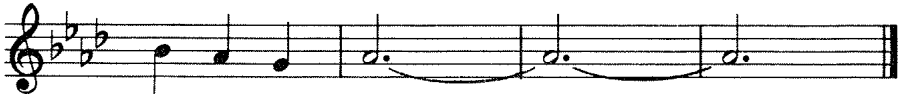
Re - jice! _____ and be glad! _____



Bless-ed are you, ho - ly are you, Re -



joice! _____ and be glad! _____ Yours is the



king-dom of God! _____

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OFFERING RESPONSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation,

all you have made is good,

and your love endures forever.

You bring forth bread from the earth

and fruit from the vine.

Nourish us with these gifts,

that we might be for the world

signs of your gracious presence

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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;
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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en 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.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major and 4/4 time. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ties. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of 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.**

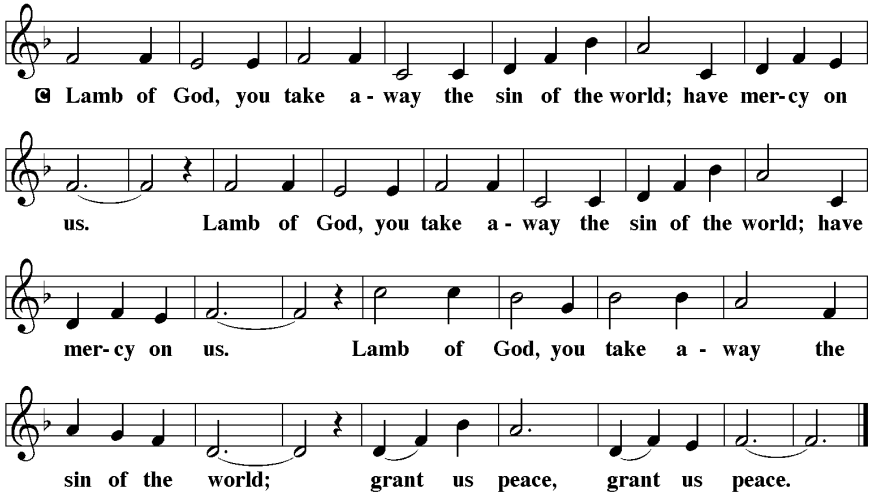
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Hunger no more. Thirst no more.
Come to the banquet of life.

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, grant us peace.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Blessed Assurance

ELW #638

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW #479

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank you, O God,
that you have fed us at your banqueting table
with bread and wine beyond compare,
the very life of Christ for us.
Send your Spirit with us now,
that we may set the captive free,
use your gifts to build one another up,
and in everything reflect your glory
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

ELW #534

DISMISSAL

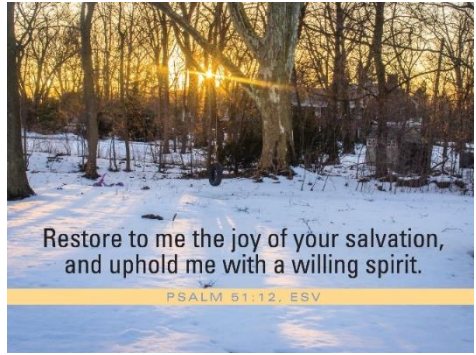
Go in peace. Christ is your light.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Sortie in F major”

Cesar Frank

Siblings 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
High School Director		Katie Love
Trinity/Middle School Director		Maddie Wosinski
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

February 10 Attendance: 73

Serving Faith	February 17	February 24
Acolyte	Austin Jones	open
Altar Care		Peggy Crum
Communion Assistants	Austin Jones	open
	Lois Neves	Warren Heilman
	Rich Weingartner	Kim O'Brien
Greeters	Bill & Pam Williams	Gail & Lowell Barricklow
Readers	Lois Neves	Warren Heilman
Lay Assistant	Rich Weingartner	Kim O'Brien
Ushers	Harrisons	Harrisons
Nursery	Williams	Jennifer Coe
Coffee Hosts	Ballegeer/Steinke	open

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, February 17:

Vase 1: Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Carl & Kathy Richardson in celebration of the birth of Henry Thomas Brown on Feb 6 and the birthday of Emily Brown.

Vase 2: Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Deb Borton-McDonough in celebration of Izzy and Danny Loewen's birthdays.

Altar Flowers are provided by Al-Lins of Okemos

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday Services – Wednesday, March 6

12:00 Noon Service at Faith Lutheran followed by Soup Luncheon

7:00 PM Service at Haslett Community Church

This will be a combined service with the following churches participating: Okemos Presbyterian, Okemos Community, Faith Lutheran and Haslett Community Church. A joint choir will be singing at this service and the offering taken at this service will go to the Meridian Township Division for Human Services.

Weekly Wednesday Night Soup Suppers and Lenten Services

Beginning on Wednesday, March 13, we will again hold weekly Lenten services at Faith Lutheran. We will worship as we sing the music of Holden Evening Prayer and experience the poems and reflections of *Forty Days: A Journey Through the Desert of Lent*.

Wednesday Eve Schedule 3/13-4/10 No Dinner or Youth Activities on 4/3

5:30-6:00	Joyful Noise Rehearsal
5:45-7:00	Dinner is Served
6:15-7:00	Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30-7:05	Pk/Trinity/Confirmation and Adult Classes
7:15-7:45	Lenten Services
7:45-8:15	Cantata Rehearsal
8:15-9:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Maundy Thursday Service – April 18

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Faith Lutheran, April 18

Good Friday Services – April 19

12:00 Noon Service at Okemos Community Church

This will be a combined service with the following churches participating Okemos Presbyterian, Okemos Community, Faith Lutheran and Haslett Community Church. A joint choir will be singing at this service and the offering taken at this service will go to the local area food banks.

7:00 PM Service at Faith Lutheran Church

Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church will join us for this service as our choirs shares *Once Upon a Tree*, a musical version of Luke's account of Jesus' passion. Join us for this deeply meaningful experience.