

Faith Lutheran Church

February 24, 2019



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.

Overflowing Love's Limits

Who do you find hardest to love? Maybe it is a family member or coworker who grates on your nerves. Maybe it is a group of people in our society whose party affiliation, different cultural habits, or lifestyle you find irksome. Maybe it is people whose race, hygiene, or mental abilities make them hard for you to approach or understand. Sadly, we are all limited in our capacity to love others because of our culture, history, hurts, and experiences. From unconscious biases to open disdain, our strength for love is constrained and wounded by the effects of sin.

Jesus' words in today's gospel show his deep acquaintance with our deficits in regard to loving. We tend to keep our love confined to limited pools of people and to measure it out far more sparingly to others. If your worship today includes confession and forgiveness, take a moment to trace some of the limits on your own ability to love others, and bring them before God.

The good news that Jesus shares with us today is that God's love is not under the same constraints as ours. God measures out love lavishly on all people regardless of worldly markers of identity, histories of harm and wrongdoing, or some human-derived preference. Against the backdrop of limited human love, divine love consumes us in its abundance. Words like *unconditional* and *limitless* only begin to point to the mystery of the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. We come to worship seeking to be inundated with that love so that our loving might become more generous through God's excess, spilling over the limits our sin has placed on it. In your prayers in worship today and throughout your week, let the thirst in your heart be quenched by God's overflowing love so you can in turn share it with others.

Sunday, February 24, 2019

7 Epiphany

Pastor Darrell Neves, Presiding Minister

Introduction to the day

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of the glory of God revealed in the Christ.

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

“Awesome God”

Joyful Noise Choir

Mullins

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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW #631

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;



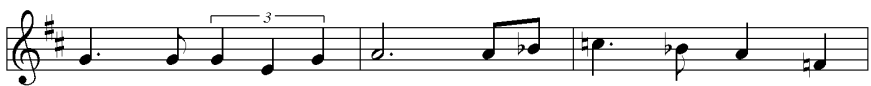
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☩ 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: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good, to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

A reading from Genesis.

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles Creed, we speak of the “resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ’s perfect life into eternity.

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

ELW #656

INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

The offices and names of those who are to be installed are read by a representative of the congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

The presiding minister continues.

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission

of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected*?

**All Officers / Council Members:
I will, and I ask God to help me.**

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders,
and will you share in the mutual ministry
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Congregation: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as *officers / council members* of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

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

“Masterpiece For Handbells”

(Mourete)

Faith Bells

OFFERING RESPONSE



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



bles - 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 image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of five staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests. The lyrics are: "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 score ends 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.**

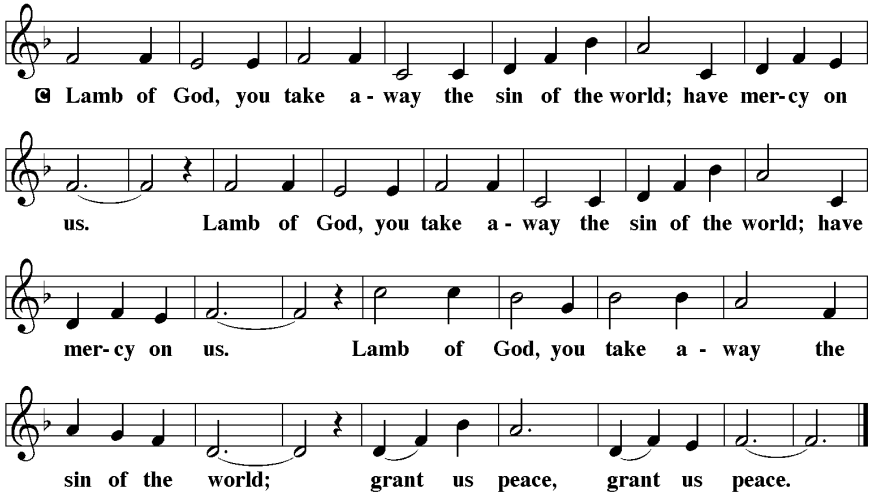
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

ELW #608

A New Commandment

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as

I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.

By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if

you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know

you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

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

O Christ, Our Hope

ELW #604

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

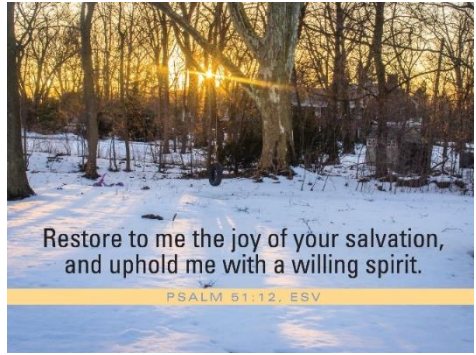
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà in F major”

Franz Xaver Murschhauser

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 17 Attendance: 94

Serving Faith	February 24	March 3
Acolyte	open	open
Altar Care	Peggy Crum	Tammy Heilman & Melinda Schultz
Communion Assistants	open	open
	Warren Heilman	Elaine Harrison
	Maddie Wosinski	Kim O'Brien
Greeters	Gail & Lowell Barricklow	Mike Eschelbach
Readers	Warren Heilman	Elaine Harrison
Lay Assistant	Maddie Wosinski	Kim O'Brien
Ushers	Jon & Elaine Harrison	Doug & Linda Hirt
Nursery	Jennifer Coe	Heidi Bowers
Coffee Hosts	open	Holste/Robinson

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, February 24:

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Walter, Brenda, Katy, Amy, Becca and Austin in celebration of Ciara's birthday.

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

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