

Faith Lutheran Church

April 28, 2019



Pastor Ellen Schoepf
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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.

Sharing a Precious Peace

Take a moment to consider what is most precious to you. Most of us will be reminded of the people close to us. We may even think of our most treasured possessions, which bring to mind moments in our lives we can never forget. These are not merely our favorite things; the things we cherish say a lot about what has helped us become who we really are.

Easter is a season filled with gifts that show us the many ways people can encounter the risen Christ. As we gather in worship today, Jesus stands among us, reminding us that we are precious in his sight. He has promised that the priceless gifts of the Holy Spirit will continue to appear. As we sing and pray, as we hear God's saving word, as we baptize, and as we share the bread and cup, we are celebrating what God has done to remind us who we really are.

These holy gifts come alive as well through the peace that Jesus offers us as he stands in our midst and as we share that peace with one another. Peace be with you! Receive this sign of God's amazing grace. This peace is meant to comfort, heal, encourage, and protect us as we engage in ministries that make known the power of the holy gospel. Although we can never fully understand everything that this kind of peace makes possible, we continue to turn to one another and speak these words: "Peace be with you!"

We can trust in the gifts we receive because Jesus lives. We are called to share this peace in all the ways God makes possible for us. Living in this precious peace, we discover who we really are.

Sunday, April 28, 2019
Second Sunday of Easter
Earth Day Service

Introduction to the day

In spite of all we have heard and all that we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the Lord Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of the holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

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

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

GATHERING

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

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

A reading from the Psalms:

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters. O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. (*Psalm 29:3, 11*)

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD. (*Psalm 98:7-8*)

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

We give you thanks for the Great Lakes that surround us, and for Lake Lansing, the Grand River and the Red Cedar that are nearby us.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection. Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for this Faith Lutheran community whose members have faithfully walked wet in your baptismal water for sixty-three years.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

The Risen Christ

ELW #390

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.



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

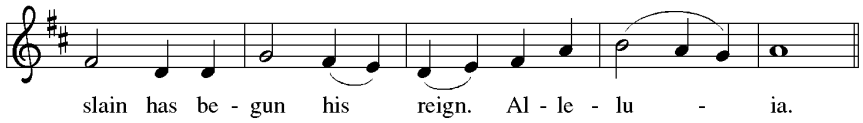


Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

A reading from Acts.

²⁷When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 118:14-29

The psalm for the day is read responsively

You are my God, and I will exalt you. (*Ps. 118:28*)

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵**Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷**The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

²⁸You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹**Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ, experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

A reading from Revelation.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

PRAYER AT THE END OF SERMON

“Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us coworkers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence to use the resources of nature so that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Earth and All Kin”

(Verse 1)

Earth and all kin! Loud clapping sea waves!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Wind through the trees, mountains and green fields,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain: *Earth contains marvelous things!*

I, too, will praise God with a new song!

(Verse 2)

Plankton and krill, colorful coral,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Seaweed and sponge, seahorse and blue whale,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

(Verse 3)

Microbes in soil; earthworms and beetles,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Spiders and bees; ants and all insects,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

(Verse 4)

Lizards and frogs, reptiles of all scale,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Eagle and wren; ostrich and penguin,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

(Verse 5)

New lambs in spring; puppies and kittens,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Horse and giraffe; God-fashioned humans,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

Lyrics Copyright 2013 by Leah D. Schade (with thanks to the original lyricist, Herbert F. Brokering)

Sung to the tune of “Earth and All Stars” by David N. Johnson

(Permission for use of lyrics in worship is granted with proper attribution.)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

**Women: We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

**Men: We believe Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with our kin.**

**Women: We believe that God became flesh and blood,
became a part of Earth,
a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross,
for all human beings and for all creation.**

**Men: We believe that the risen Jesus
is the Christ at the core of creation
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation, and filling the cosmos.**

**Women: We believe the Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.**

**All: We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered together as the body of Christ, 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:*

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of 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.

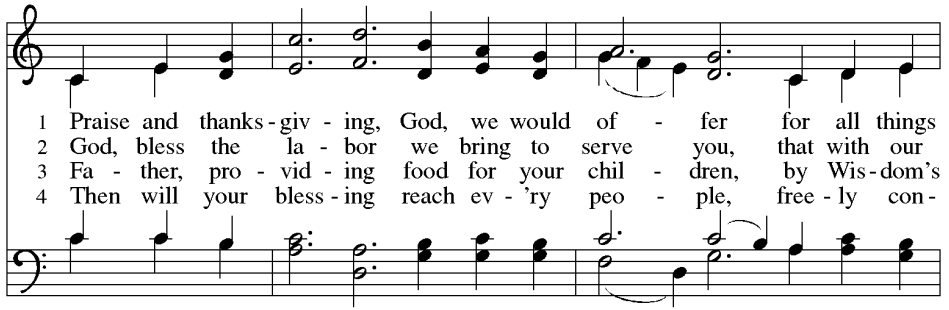
OFFERING

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

(Handel)

Ryan Thompson, soloist

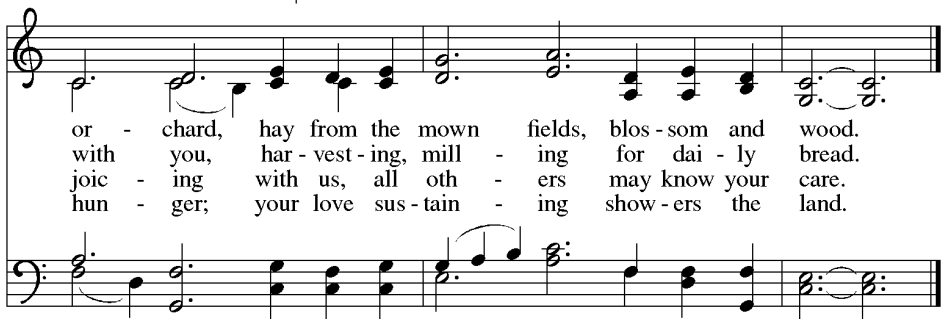
Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSÁN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

Arr. © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,

as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore,
 meet us now in this meal.

Nourish us to follow you,

using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary,
 and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Creator be with you and all creation.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to join creation in thanking God.

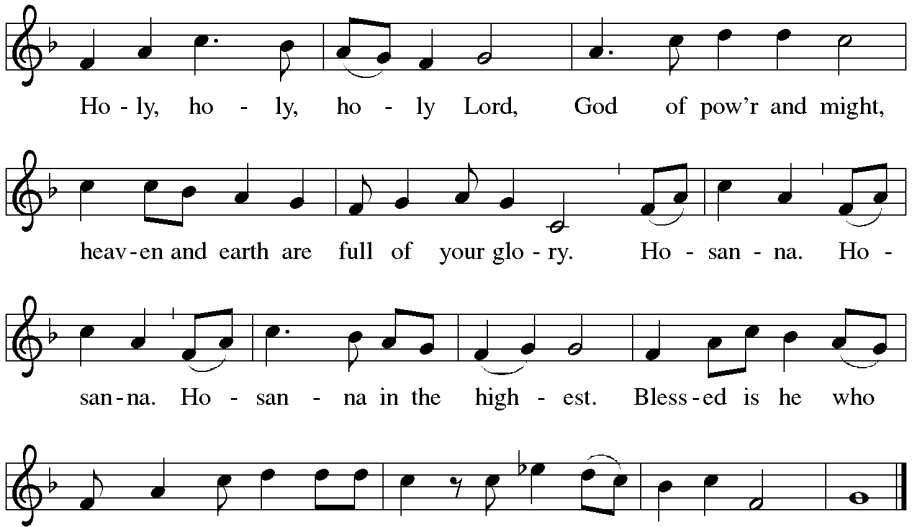
It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator.
Your Word is the impulse for all things to be,
for space, stars, and stardust to appear,
for Earth to emerge from the deep,
for life to be born of Earth,
and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being,
to become a part of Earth,
to suffer, die, and rise from death
to redeem humankind, renew creation,
and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things,
the Christ deep among us,
filling Earth—land, sea and air;
filling every element and place;
filling the grain and the grape
we share with you this day.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,
ancient voices in the forest,
high voices from the sky,
deep voices from the sea
and the whole company of creation,
we proclaim your presence among us.....

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness 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.**

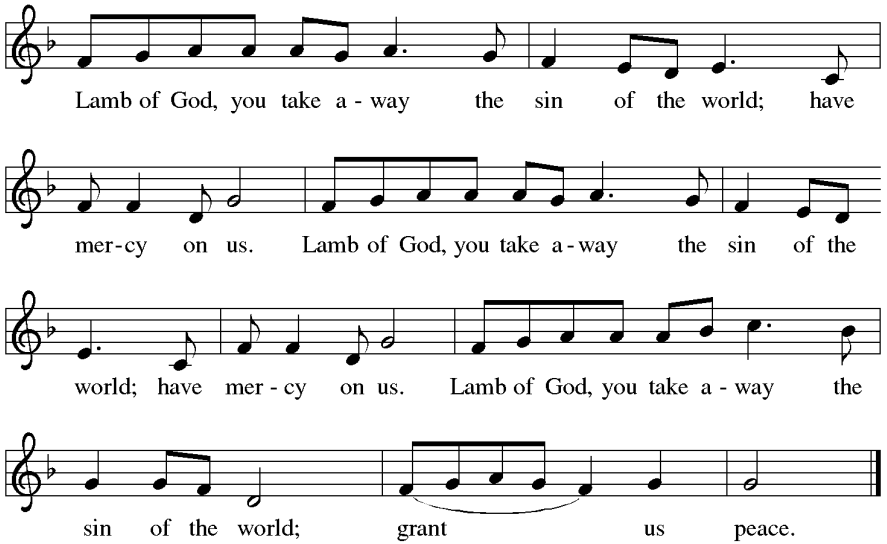
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has prepared the feast.
Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

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.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Alice Jordan

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW #733

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Living God,

you have greeted us in our brokenness

and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.

Risen to new life with you,

send us now to bear your healing love

into the wounded world,

in the name of our risen Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The blessing of the living God,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW #389

DISMISSAL

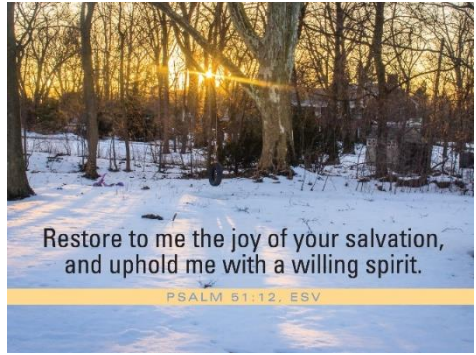
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune and March”

Jeremiah Clarke

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.

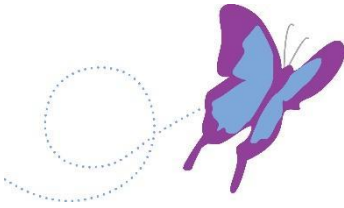
April 21st Attendance: 247

Serving Faith	April 28	May 5
Acolyte	open	Austin Jones
Altar Care	Gail Barricklow & Linda Gerard	Diane Hill & Brenda Kopf
Communion Assistants	open	Austin Jones
	Warren Heilman	Harold Sollenberger
	Ellen Holste	Kim O'Brien
Greeters	Jeff & Melinda Schultz	Lois Neves
Readers	Warren Heilman	Harold Sollenberger
Lay Assistant	Ellen Holste	Kim O'Brien
Ushers	Kadrofske Family	Gerard/Milne
Nursery	Lori Webb	O'Brien Family
Coffee Hosts	open	Tula's Graduation Luncheon

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, April 28

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Doug and Linda Hirt in celebration of the marriage of Daniel and Lindsey (Hirt) Kopechek.



Butterflies For Sale!

On Sunday, June 16, we will be releasing live butterflies outside by our Butterfly Garden. Butterflies are the symbol of new life. And, as we

celebrate the Pentecost season and the beginning of summer activities, we will be releasing painted lady butterflies to celebrate God’s gift of creation. The Green Team is inviting you to order a butterfly for \$12.00.

Following worship on June 16, you will be given your butterfly to release by our garden. This project is a Green Team fundraiser. A portion of the money earned from these butterfly sales will go to help with the purchase of new windows in our Parish House. Place your butterfly order by using the form below and turn it into the church office. ***All orders must be received by Sunday, May 26!***

Green Team Butterfly Order Form **Order Deadline: Sunday, May 26th**

Quantity

Total Cost (\$12/each)

Name: _____

Dedication (if any): _____

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church.

Please put “Butterflies” in the memo line.

Place this form in Katie Love’s mailbox or the church office.