



March 26, 2023

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love
Youth & Education DirectorPam Williams
Sound Technicians.....Justin Brown, Zachary Hereza & Raymond Herek
Pastor's email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Church email:.....faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website:.....www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page:.....facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

Introduction to the day

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unending promise in our baptism.

PRELUDE

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✝ forgives you in Christ’s name,

and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

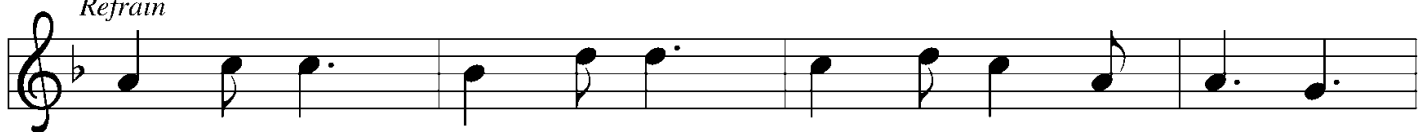


- 1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
- 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

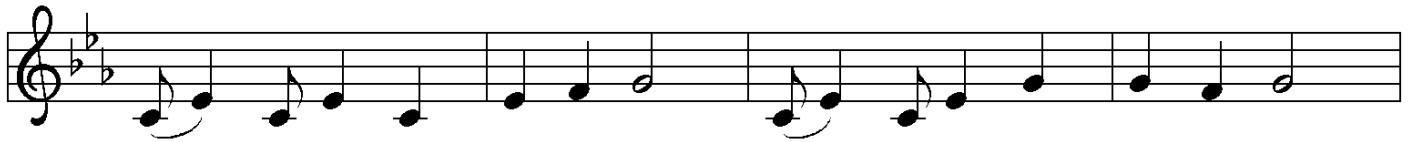
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring

you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel**

from all their sins.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

A reading from Romans.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The Pantry Ministry is an important and vital part of our community. Today we will be taking an offering for the Pantry Ministry.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

67

I love you, Lord

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear." The guitar chords are: F², Gm/F, F, Bb, F/A, Gm⁷, F/A, C⁷_{sus}, C, Bb/D, C/E, F², Gm/F, F, F⁷, Bb, F/A, F_{sus}/G, C⁷, Bb²/F, F².

GOSPEL READING: John 11:1-45

Due to the length of today's reading, today's gospel is presented as reader's theater.

The gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

Narrator: A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. This is the Mary who poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. So, the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him,

Mary & Martha: Lord, your dear friend is very sick.

Narrator: But when Jesus heard about it he said,

Jesus: Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.

Narrator: So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, he stayed where he was for the next two days. Finally, he said to his disciples,

Jesus: Let's go back to Judea.

Narrator: But his disciples objected.

Disciples: Rabbi, only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?

Jesus: There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.

Disciples: Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!

Narrator: The disciples thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. So, he told them plainly,

Jesus: Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him.

Narrator: Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples,

Thomas: Let's go, too—and die with Jesus.

Narrator: When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus,

Martha: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.

Jesus: Your brother will rise again.

Martha: Yes, he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?

Martha: Yes, Lord, I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.

Narrator: Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her,

Martha: The Teacher is here and wants to see you.

Narrator: So Mary immediately went to him. Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said,

Mary: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Narrator: When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.

Jesus: Where have you put him?

Narrator: They told him,

The people: Lord, come and see.

Narrator: Then Jesus wept. The people who were standing nearby said,

The people: See how much he loved him!

Narrator: But some said,

The people: This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?

Narrator: Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.

Jesus: Roll the stone aside.

Narrator: But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested,

Martha: Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.

Jesus: Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?

Narrator: So, they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said,

Jesus: Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.

Narrator: Then Jesus shouted,

Jesus: Lazarus, come out!

Narrator: And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: Unwrap him and let him go!

Narrator: Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

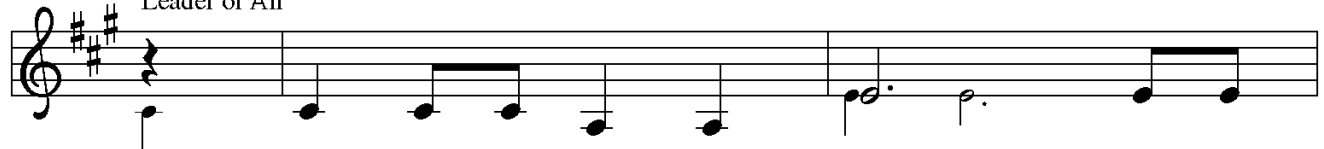
SERMON

KIM O'BRIEN


HYMN OF THE DAY

I Am the Bread of Life

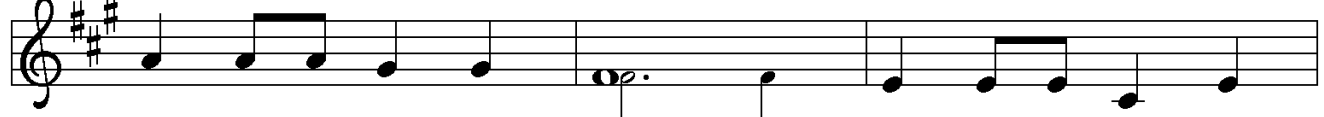
Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
3 "Un - less you eat of the
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, and if you
flesh of the Son of Man and . . .
I am the life. If you be -
you are the Christ, the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat of this bread, you shall . . live for -
drink of his blood, and drink of his
lieve in me, e - ven . . though you
Son of God, who have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die, you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to the world.

Refrain
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day.”

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

(Lloyd Larson)

Chancel Choir

Michael Fox, clarinet

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

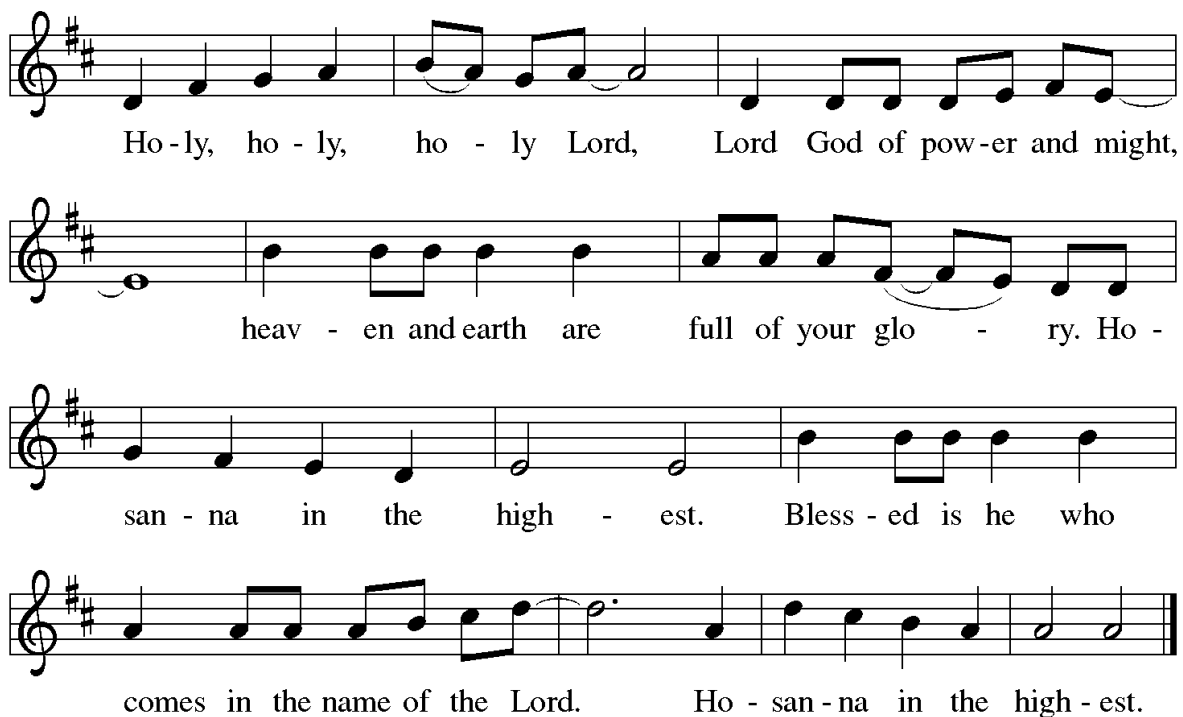
PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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. **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

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

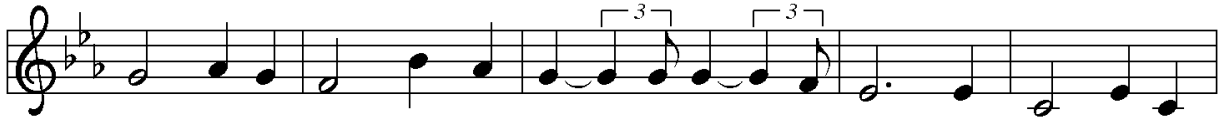
COMMUNION

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.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“People Bemoan Your Grievous Sin”

J.S. Bach

Please stand if you are able.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

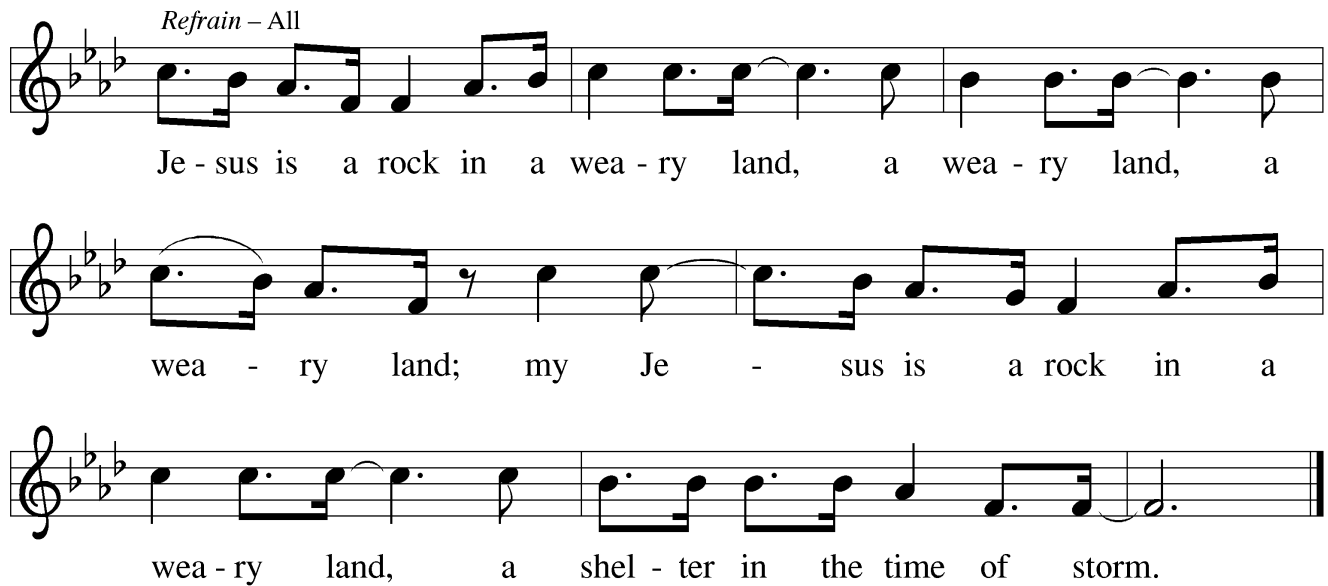
BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

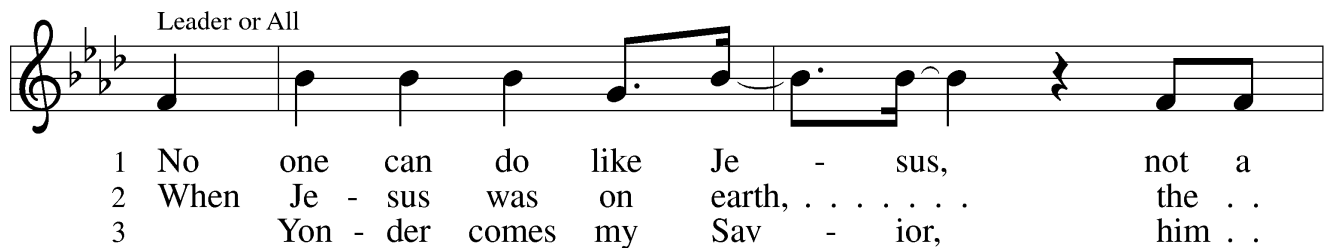
Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

Refrain - All

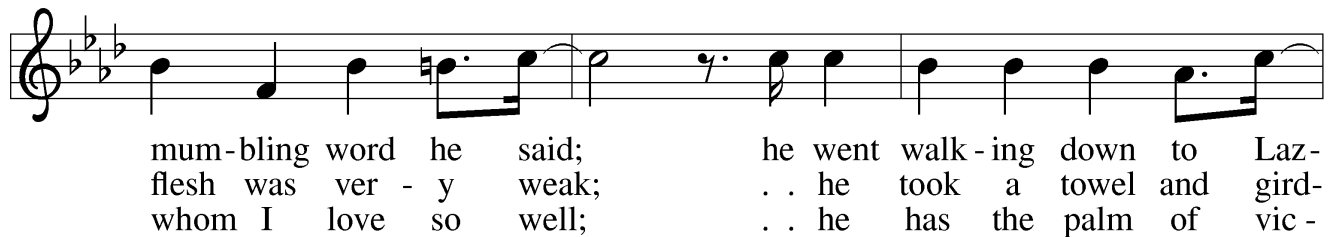


Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

Leader or All

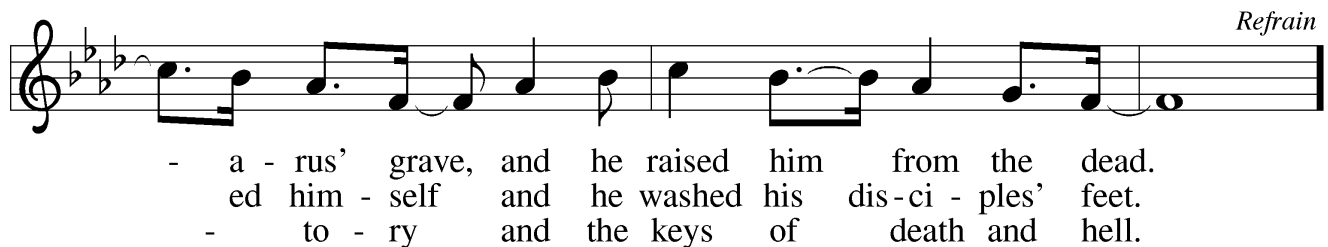


1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum - bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

Refrain



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Flute Piece”

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William Hine

Offerings

3/5

Loose Checks	\$ 45.00
General Fund	\$ 15,345.00
Green Team T-Shirts	\$ 65.00
Solar Power Project	<u>\$ 550.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 16,172.64
Vanco	
General Building	\$ 5,001.40
Building	\$ 125.00
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 100.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total	\$ 21,499.04

3/12

Loose Cash	\$ 35.00
General Fund	\$ 725.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 122.00
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 232.35</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,164.35
Vanco	
General Operating	<u>\$ 675.90</u>
Total	\$ 1,840.25

3/19

Loose Cash	\$ 27.00
General Fund	\$ 1,755.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 68.00
Solar Project	\$ 50.00
Samaritas Easter Baskets	\$ 20.00
Green Team T-Shirts	\$ 130.00
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 307.00
Parish House	\$ 175.00
Youth	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 2,632.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 2,291.90
Building	\$ 25.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 25.25
Parish House	\$ 25.25
Youth	<u>\$ 25.25</u>
Total	\$ 5,024.65

January 1-February 28 th , 2023	
Income	\$50,508.00
Expenses	<u>\$56,221.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (5,713.00)

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison
Reader: Brenda Kopf
Lay Assistant: Walter Kopf
Ushers: McCracken/Milne
Nursery:
Greeters: Mike Eschelbach
Acolyte: Open
Coffee Hour: Kopf

Let's Celebrate Easter
Saturday, April 8th, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Easter Egg Hunt (at 10:30)
Games, Crafts, Snacks & Fun!
All are welcome!!

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Rd. Okemos
Contact: pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org or call us at 517-349-0620.



8:45 A.M. on Easter Sunday Easter Continental Breakfast

Membership Development invites everyone to an Easter morning continental breakfast at Faith. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex at the church.

A promotional flyer for Culver's. At the top left is the Culver's logo with the tagline "Welcome to delicious." Below it, the text reads "Visit Culver's of Okemos North from 5-9 pm MONDAY, APRIL 17TH, 2023 and we will donate a percentage of sales to: FAITH LUTHERAN MINI PANTRIES". To the left of the text is a small image of a wooden sign for the mini pantry. To the right is a large image of a Culver's Concrete Mixer drink. Below the text, it says "Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over." and provides the address: "Visit Culver's of Okemos North 5140 Times Square Dr. Okemos, MI 48864". It also includes the note "Online Ordering, Drive-Thru or Dine-In (No flyer or code required)". At the bottom left is the Faith Lutheran Church logo and name. At the bottom right is a large image of a Culver's burger and fries.

There will also be a signup sheet for **Wharton Tickets to Jesus Christ Superstar** (thank you Rich Weingartner). The date for this show is Sunday, June 18th (Fyi- this is Father's Day) at 1:00 pm. Rich was able to get a group rate for tickets so the price is \$82 per ticket. A \$1 handling fee per order will also be charged. Orders and payments must be made by May 5th. What a great opportunity for Faith friends to see this rock opera that has wowed audiences for over 50 years!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
W H A R T O N
C E N T E R



2023 EASTER FLOWER DEDICATION

Order deadline: March 26th

If you're interested in purchasing flowers, please designate \$17 for the flower fund along with your dedication by March 26th.

Please use this dedication form, or one found in the Narthex, if you would like a dedication included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Name person(s) dedicating:

In memory of:

In honor of:

In celebration of:

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church (memo: Easter flowers)

Place this dedication form in Katie Love's mailbox or office.