

**July 9, 2023**

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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 ..... Bruce Thorsen  
Music Director ..... Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist ..... Bruce Williams  
Office Manager ..... Connie Denbrock  
Youth & Education Director ..... Pam Williams  
Sound Technicians ..... Zachary Hereza & Raymond Herek  
Church email ..... [faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website ..... [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page ..... [facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)  
WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

## Introduction to the Day

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

## PRELUDE

"Softly and Tenderly"

arr. Dale Wood

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak.**

**We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN – JESUS SHALL REIGN – ELW 434



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

## 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


*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



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



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be




peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and




join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



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

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

A reading from Jeremiah.

...

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

## **Psalm 145:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

A reading from Romans.

...

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

### **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

...

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

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY – LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS – ELW 765



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

## **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**

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

...

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

## **OFFERING**

"The Gift of Love"

(Hal Hopson)

*Mike Eschelbach, Diane Hill, Linda and Rich Triemer, vocal quartet*

*Please stand if you are able.*



## OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

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

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

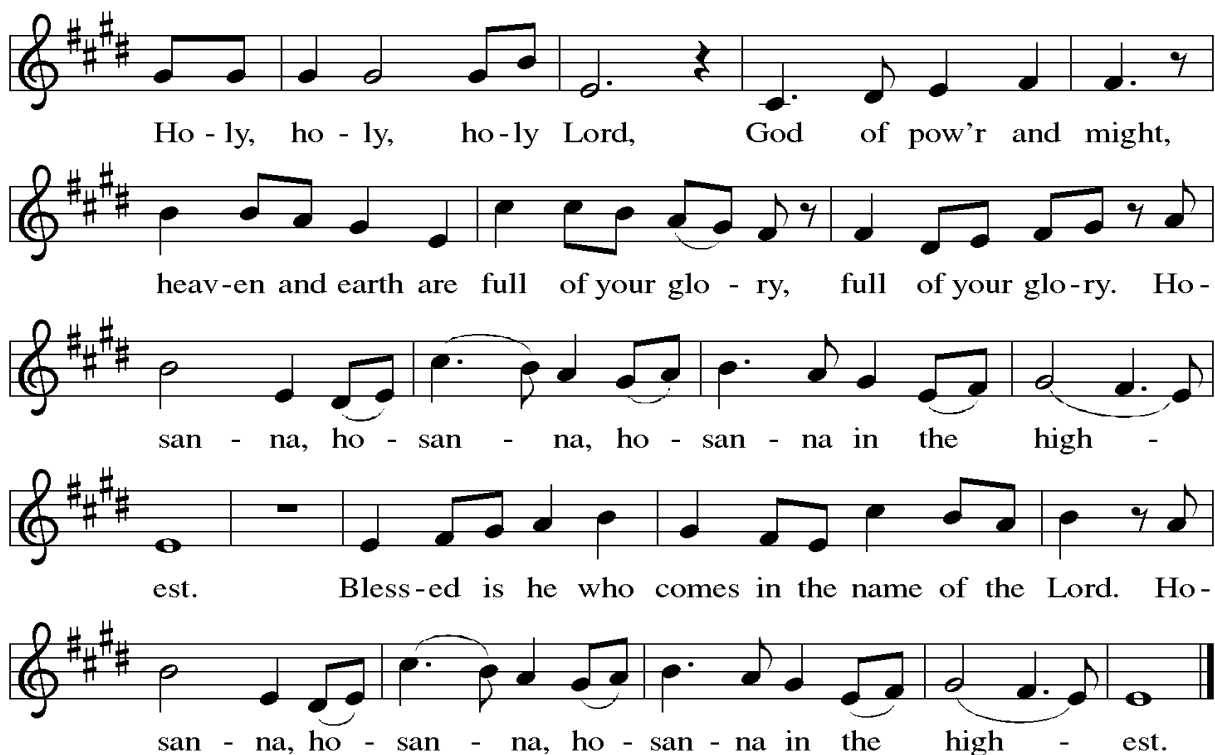
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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 ... join their unending hymn:

## 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, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

...

be all honor and glory, 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 kin[g]dom 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 kin[g]dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All people are called to Christ's table.

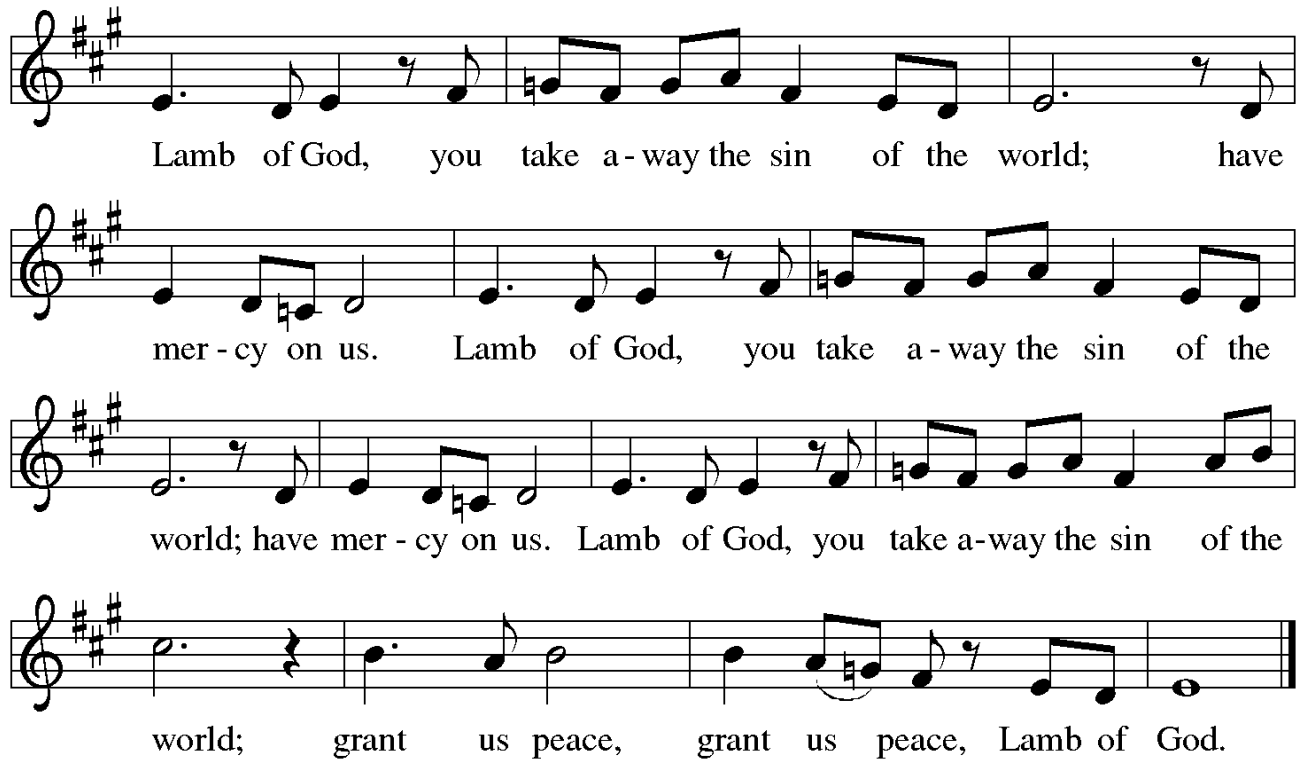
Come, eat what is good.

## **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, Lamb of God.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. James Pethel

*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. We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG – JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE – ELW 697



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;

2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal-ter, Lord, who cares?

3 When my fee-ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share and receive the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“Toccata in Seven”

John Rutter

Reader: Jon Harrison  
 Lay Assistant: Kim O'Brien  
 Ushers: Brenda/Walter Kopf  
 Acolyte: Open

Greeter: Karen Fraser  
 Altar Care: Diane Hill  
 Nursery: Open, but not staffed  
 Coffee Hour: Laurie Hereza

January 1 - May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
 Income                    \$140,373  
 Expenses                \$138,404  
 Net Income (Loss)    \$ 1,969

### Weekly Offering Reports

<u>June 25</u>	
Loose Cash	\$ 10.00
General Fund	\$ 4,550.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 357.21
Parish House	\$ 2,435.19
Youth VBS	\$ 50.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 7,402.40</b>
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 746.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.50
Parish House	<u>\$ 50.50</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 847.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,249.40</b>

<u>July 2</u>	
Loose Cash	\$ 40.00
General Fund	<u>\$ 2,820.00</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 2,860.00</b>
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 550.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,460.00</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Singing Sinners Summer Choir will be singing during worship on Sunday, July 30! If you like to sing, we hope you will join the fun. We will rehearse on Wednesday, July 26th at 7:00 p.m., then head out for refreshments and fellowship! Please e-mail Deb B-McD (lalaladyB@comcast) if you have any questions. See you then!
- Mailboxes:  
Please be sure to check your physical mailbox for paper mail. All mailboxes are in front of the old sanctuary ... down the hall passed the church office.
- Food Pantry:  
Vacation replacements: Please secure your replacement. If you leave your box at the church for your replacement, please label the end of your box, so your substitute can get the correct box. For example: "Friday, Evening".
- Vacation Bible School:  
Please see the Friday E-news for items that we will need. If anyone has any of these items we could borrow, please let me know, or bring them to the church to put in my office. I will return the items.  
  
There is also a sign up genius for foods needed for VBS. Please use the link in Friday E-news to donate.

## Copyright Information

Liturgy: © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission under Sundays and Seasons. License #SAS000803; OneLicense #A-708005

“Softly and Tenderly”, Dale Wood, The Sacred Music Press, 1992, One License #30034

“Give Me Jesus”, James Pethel, Lillenas Publishing Co., 2003, Onelicense #1151050

“Toccatina in Seven”, John Rutter, 1975, Oxford University Press, Onelicense #101430

“The Gift of Love”, Hal Hopson, Words: 1972 Hope Publishing Company; Music: 1972, 2015, 2018 Hope Publishing Company, One License #111454

“Lord of all Hopefulness”

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional  
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator. OneLicense #A-708005

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

OneLicense #A-708005

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Text: North American traditional  
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

OneLicense #A-708005