



September 24, 2023

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Seventeenth 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
Administrative Assistant Connie Denbrock
Youth & Education Director Pam Williams
Sound Technicians Raymond Herek
Church email faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos
WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

Introduction to the Day

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRELUDE

"Praise Him"

arr. Mike Springer

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:

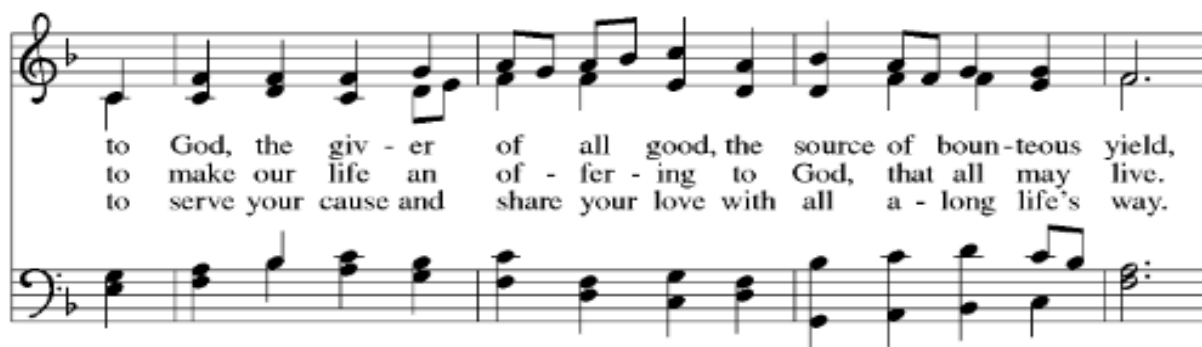
you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

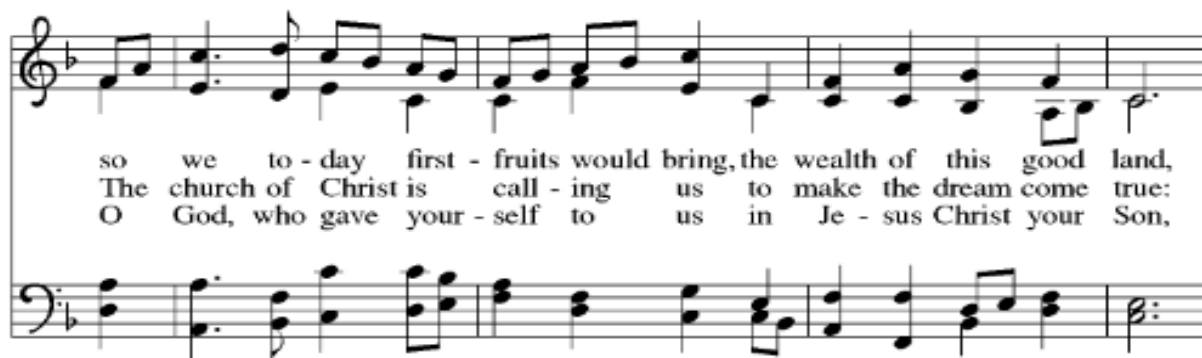
GATHERING HYMN – *As Saints of Old* (ELW 695)



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900-1996, alt.
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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.



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.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

A reading from Jonah.

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

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

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

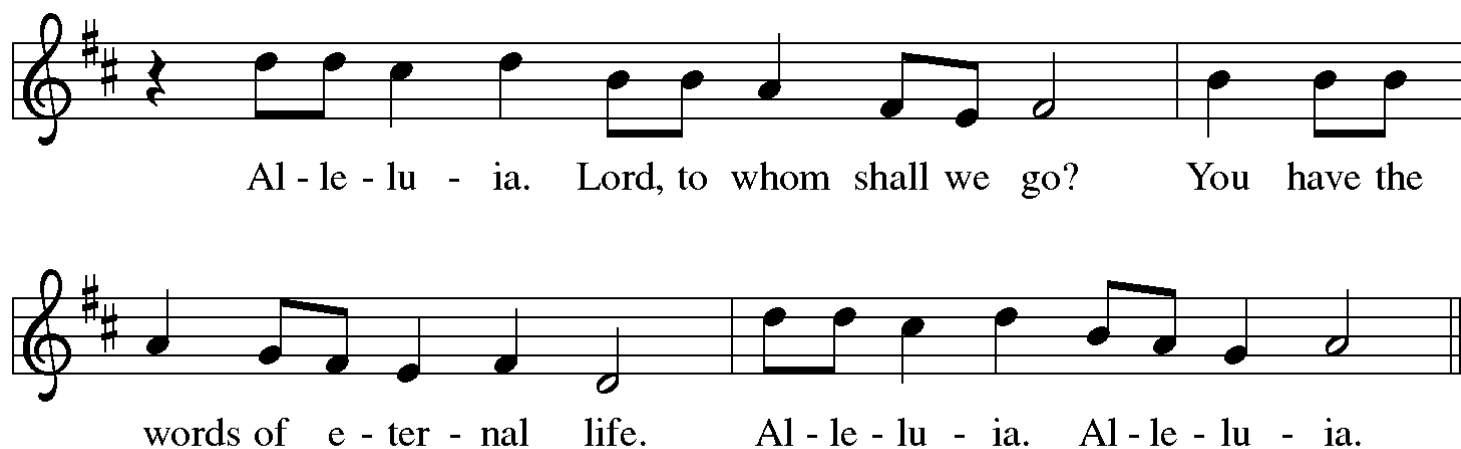
²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.


¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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


SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Take My Life, That I May Be* (ELW 583)

Refrain/Estrillo




To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas Last time




y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
 1 Take my hands and let them move
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
 3 Take my voice and let me sing
 4 Take my will and make it thine;




con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
 at the im - pulse of thy love;
 not a - mite would I with - hold;
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
 take my feet and let them be swift and
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
 take my lips and let them be filled with
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estrillo



pul - so de tu a - mor.
 beau - ti - ful for thee.
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 mes - sag - es from thee.
 be thy roy - al throne.

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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

...

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

"Whoever Would Be Great Among You"

arr. Ron Nelson

Chancel Choir

²⁶It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:26-28

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and 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; 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'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



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are 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 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.

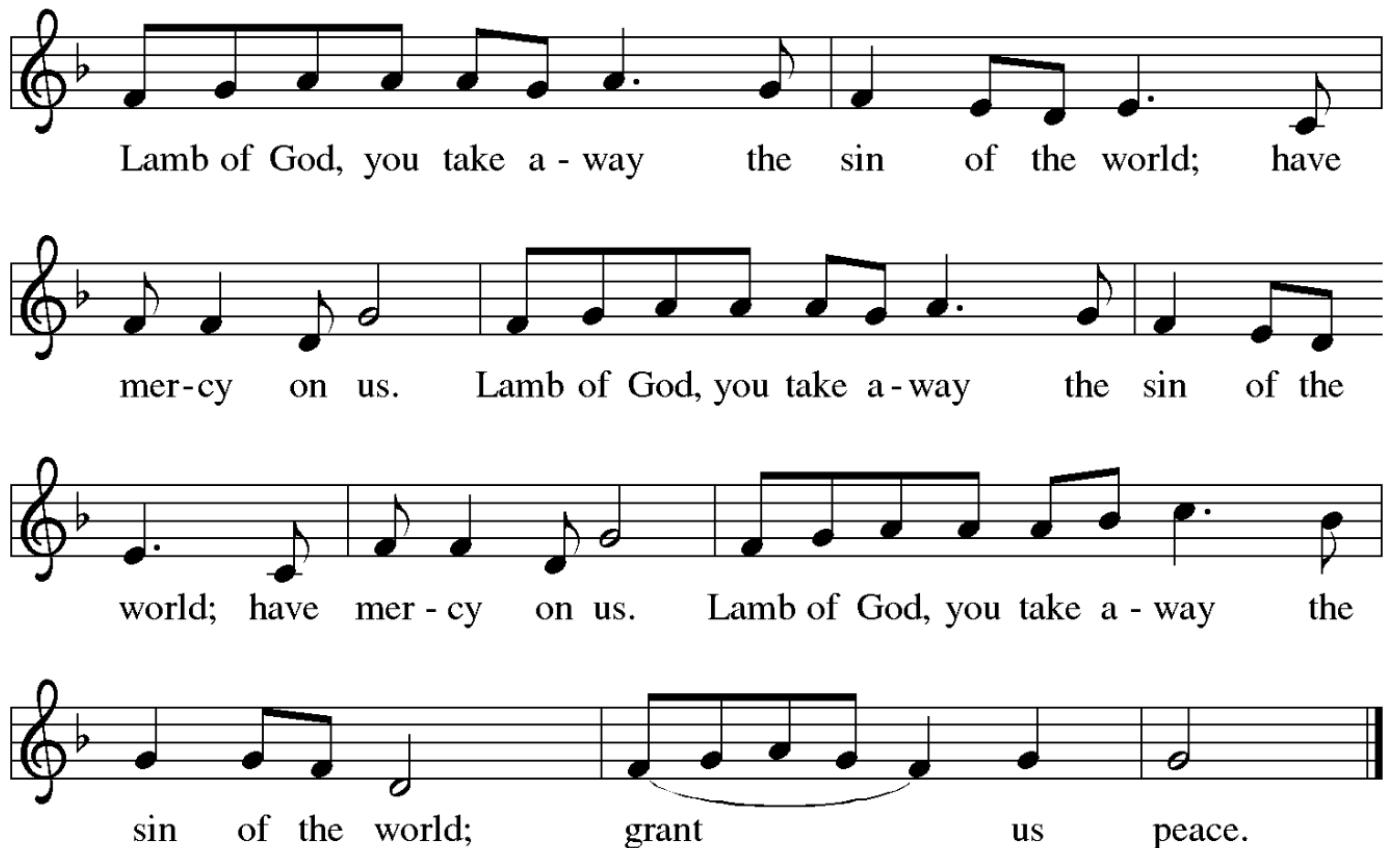
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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

“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

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG – ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA (WOV 671)

Refrain F Dm Gm C

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord;

F Dm Gm C F

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

F Dm B^b C

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth;
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ;
 4 God has pro - claimed the just re - ward:
 5 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

F Dm B^b C *Refrain*

he is the king of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 now we shall live for - ev - er.
 life for all peo - ple, al - le - lu - ia.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

Text: Donald Fishel, b. 1950
 Music: Donald Fishel, b. 1950; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928
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ALLELUIA NO. 1
 8 8 and refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in C Major”

Dietrich Buxtehude

Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer
Lay Assistant: Walter Kopf
Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt
Acolyte: Makayla Marquardt

Greeter(s): Doug & Linda Hirt
Altar Care: Rich Weingartner
Nursery: Open, but not staffed
Coffee Hour: Ryan & Addie Thompson

January - August 2023

Income	\$ 204,178
Expenses	<u>\$ 222,932</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (18,754)

Weekly Offering Reports

<u>September 3</u>	
Loose Cash	\$ 30.00
General Fund	\$ 2,250.00
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund*	\$ 1,200.00
Parish House	\$ 75.00
Subtotal	<u>\$ 4,005.00</u>
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 3,925.00
Building	\$ 125.00
Caring Committee	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 100.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Subtotal	<u>\$ 4,250.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$8,255.00</u>

<u>September 10</u>	
Loose Cash	\$ 85.00
General Fund	\$ 2,400.00
Living Water/Stony Lake	\$ 52.00
Building Rental:	
- CAMTA	\$ 175.00
- Megan Nyquist Ent.	\$ 200.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 20.00
Subtotal	<u>\$ 2,932.00</u>
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 1,050.00
Subtotal	<u>\$ 1,050.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$3,982.00</u>

*Friends of the Okemos Library

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pastor Bruce will be installed on Sunday, October 22nd DURING WORSHIP SERVICE. Mark your calendars!

• YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES!!

- NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING: \$150 (non-refundable)
8th graders and up -- Summer 2024
- CHARGE: \$95 (refundable)
6th graders and up -- November 10-11, 2023

Commitment and deposit are due by September 24th (for both).

Please reach out to Pam Williams if you have any questions!!
Email: pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org

SINGING SINNERS SUNDAY

You are invited to join the Singing Sinners! We will rehearse together on the first Wednesday of the month, then sing during worship on the following Sunday. We head to Buddie's after our rehearsal for fellowship time. Come join us once - - or every month - - we'd love to see you!

OCTOBER: Rehearsal on October 4; sing during worship on October 8

NOVEMBER: Rehearse on November 1; sing during worship on November 5

DECEMBER: Rehearse on December 6; sing during worship on December 10

See you then!

- **Lutheran World Relief** continues to give aid to refugees and persons displaced by natural and human disasters. **We are collecting items for Personal Care kits, during September. There is a Display Board and Collection Bin in the Narthex.**

Thank you - from the Stewardship Group - Women of Faith

- **FLC Calendar of Events**: All scheduled Sunday Services, church events, meetings, and facility use events are now posted on the FLC Website under About Us / Calendar. OR, you can click “Calendar” from the top right corner of the Home Page.

Here is the direct link: Faith Lutheran Church Calendar of Events.

Links to the Sunday Services (Recorded and Live), Tuesday Bible Studies (via Zoom), etc., are available within the individual calendar events.

- **CHRIST’S KALEIDOSCOPE**

Instructors: Samuel Brink, Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp intern and Pastor Bruce J. Thorsen, Faith, Okemos, Michigan.

Sundays for five weeks, September 24-October 22 on Zoom 4 -5 p.m. Eastern Time, 3-4 Central Time.

This five-week study focuses on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Together we will navigate media and text sources and engage in weekly group discussion as we seek greater awareness and Deeper understanding of these groups. The material for each week invites dialogue surrounding historical perspectives, contemporary realities, and implications for future action and advocacy. This is an extension of the 2023 Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge that was done in Northern Great Lakes Synod. Each week of the study is grounded in our Christian faith and Lutheran tradition. As a person signs up they will be sent the media and text sources as well as a zoom invitation.

Registration Link: [Registration Form](#)

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