



**November 12, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

## Twenty-Fourth 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](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**

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

## **PRELUDE**

“Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying”

arr. Paul Manz

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.  
**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**  
**We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.**  
**Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus,  
our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN – Come, We That Love the Lord (ELW 625)



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;  
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets  
4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur - round the throne.  
heav'n - ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.  
heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.  
man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

### *Refrain*



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain  
Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

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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

## You Are Holy *Du är helig*

1\*



*Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer*  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



*än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.*  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



*Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,*  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



*väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.*  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



*Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,*  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



*du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!*  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



*Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,*  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



*ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.*  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

\* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945  
Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling  
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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

A reading from Amos.

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. <sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

## PSALM: Psalm 70

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON & NOISY OFFERING

*The Pantry Ministry & the Parish House Ministry are an important and vital part of our community. Today we will be taking an offering for the Pantry Ministry.*

## 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 25:1-13**

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

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

<sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

## **STEWARDSHIP II – Community Outreach**

Today, for our Stewardship message, we talk about some of our Community Outreach activities:

- Caring Committee – Natalie Dingleline
- Community Picnic – Brenda Kopf
- Quilters – Mavis Halvorson

## **SERMON**

# HYMN OF THE DAY – Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (ELW 436)



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite  
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
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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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

...

God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

"Keep Your Lamps"

arr. Andre Thomas

Chancel Choir, Nick Hirshenberger - Percussion

*Please stand if you are able.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

## 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**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

arr. Phillip Keveren

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

arr. Phillip Keveren

*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**

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

# SENDING SONG – SOON AND VERY SOON (ELW 439)



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 3 No more dy - in' there,  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945  
 Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch  
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## POSTLUDE

“Prelude and Fugue in F Major”

J. S. Bach

## DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer  
Lay Assistant: Bob Nelson  
Ushers: Elaine & Jon Harrison  
Acolyte/Crucifer: Maddie Haven

Greeter(s): Karen Fraser  
Altar Care: Elaine Harrison  
Nursery: Open, but not staffed  
Coffee Hour: Ray & Angie Herek

January - September 2023  
Income                   \$ 227,994  
Expenses                 \$ 251,959  
Net Income (Loss)   \$ (23,965)

## WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

### October 29

Loose Cash                   \$ 70.00  
General Fund               \$ 7,160.00  
Capital Repairs             \$ 200.00  
Pantry Fund                 \$ 550.00  
Youth: CHARGE Trip       \$ 25.00

**Subtotal**                   \$ 8,005.00

#### Vanco

General Operating         \$ 121.00  
World Hunger               \$ 50.50  
Pantry Fund                 \$ 100.50  
**Subtotal**                   \$ 272.00

**TOTAL**                     **\$8,277.00**

### November 5

Loose Cash                   \$ 60.00  
General Fund               \$ 1,780.00  
Pantry Fund                 \$ 200.00  
Parish House               \$ 50.00  
Youth: CHARGE Trip       \$ 170.00

**Subtotal**                   \$ 2,260.00

#### Vanco

General Operating         \$ 4,655.00  
Building                    \$ 125.00  
Caring Committee         \$ 50.00  
Pantry Fund                 \$ 50.00  
Parish House               \$ 50.00

**Subtotal**                   \$ 4,930.00

**TOTAL**                     **\$7,190.00**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Sunday, Nov. 12:**

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am – **Noisy Offering**
- Return from CHARGE @ 6:00 pm

You can view the Worship Service on our Facebook page (click the link below) <https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos/videos/>

## **Monday, Nov. 13:**

- Boy Scouts Meeting @ 7:00 pm – Fellowship Hall

## **Tuesday, Nov. 14:**

- WLNS TV Interview w/Legacy Adoption Services @ 10:30 - Library
- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call

## **Wednesday, Nov. 15:**

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- FLC Staff Meeting @ 10:15 am – Pastor's Office
- Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am – Fellowship Hall
- Christian/Parish Education @ 3:00 pm – LIBRARY
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30 pm

## **Thursday, Nov. 16:**

- Mutual Ministry @ 7:00 pm – Pastor's Office

## **Saturday, Nov. 18:**

- Private Event @ 11:00 am to 7:00 pm – Fellowship Hall + Kitchen

## **Sunday, Nov. 19: Stewardship Sunday + Thanksgiving Sunday**

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am – **PLEDGE CARDS offered during Service**
- Worship Committee Meeting @ 11:00 am – LIBRARY
- Confirmation @ 11:30 – Fellowship Hall



**Pledge Cards** should be brought to Stewardship Sunday on **November 19<sup>th</sup>**. If you are not able to be in worship on November 19<sup>th</sup>, feel free to drop your card in the Offering basket at any Service after that. You can also mail your card to:

Faith Lutheran Church  
c/o Financial Secretary  
4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

Feel free to contact Connie at the office if you have any questions  
– 517.349.0620.

The Property Committee wishes to thank all those who helped last Sunday with the Fall Cleanup. The yard looks great for our members and visitors. We appreciate your efforts.

**TEACHERS NEEDED for SUNDAY SCHOOL – NOVEMBER 19th  
and December 3rd**

Please click the Sign-up Genius link, here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AA23A2FAC07-iwantto#/>

Youth 6th grade and up are welcome to come to Sunday School to meet in the Youth Room for snacks, games and discussion. Pam

\* \* \* \* \*

**LUNCH BUNCH**  
**Everyone is Invited!!**

FLC Wednesday, November 15, 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

**November Host is Cecelia Kramer**

This is an opportunity for fellowship and food. If you would like to host a month, please let Bob Nelson or Tammy Heilman know. Hosting would involve providing sandwiches, drinks, set up, and clean up. For anyone attending, please feel free to bring a salad or dessert. You can also bring your own lunch if you wish. We hope you can join us. Come and go as you need to during lunch.

## **MICRO PANTRY – NOVEMBER Challenge**

A wonderful opportunity has presented itself to our Micro-Pantry. A generous, anonymous, donor has offered to match any donations up to \$1000 during November to the Micro Pantry Fund. If you would like to meet this challenge to help keep our Micro Pantries Food Budget funded, please make your check to Faith Lutheran with “Micro Pantry Challenge” on the Memo line.

## **WANTED ... USHERS**

A few of your duties would be to pass out bulletins and greet people, fill out the usher’s report, direct people for communion, and collect the Offering. All are welcome from high school on up. Training will be provided (TBA). Please contact Brenda Kopf – call or text 517-927-1800 or email [bjktchr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjktchr@sbcglobal.net).

## **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. Join us once - - or every month - - we’d love to see you!

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

**See you then!**

- **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.

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