



February 4, 2024

10:00 AM

HEALING SERVICE

All of us desire to be whole. As Christians we believe that only happens when we are connected to God in Jesus Christ. There are always things that separate us from God. Thus, our brokenness is calling us to be healed and be brought back into a right relationship with God.

Everyone is invited to come to the communion rail for the laying on of hands. You may have a specific need which you are welcome to share with Pastor Bruce and he will incorporate that into the prayer. The general prayer that he will use without a specific need is:

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.

The response is AMEN.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

FLC STAFF

Pastor Bruce Thorsen
Music Director Deb Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams
Administrative Assistant Connie Denbrock
Youth & Education Director Pam Williams
Sound Technicians Cody Boyan & 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

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

PRELUDE

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

arr. George Brandon

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

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

[Silence is kept for reflection.]

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.

Remember your covenant. Renew your creation.

Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken:
 The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the
 authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN - We Come to You for Healing, Lord (ELW 617)



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
 Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824
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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from Isaiah.

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3) (spoken)

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

R - The LORD heals the brokenhearted.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

R - The LORD heals the brokenhearted.

⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

R - The LORD heals the brokenhearted.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

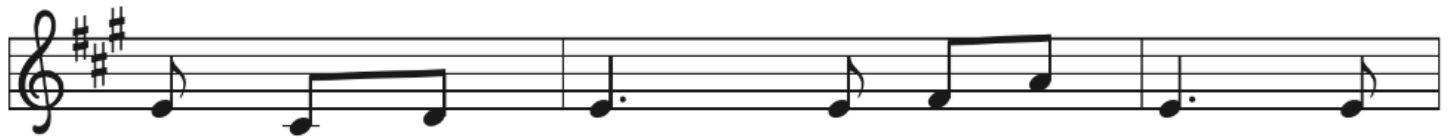
³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – O God, I Cry to You in Pain (ACS 1021)



1 O God, to you I cry in pain when
2 Give me the strength to face my ill, to
3 With - in the com - fort and the love that
4 Al - low my mind to rest in you, and



sick - ness makes me weak, when mind and bod - y
trust in skill and care, to bless the hands that
hu - man touch can give, re - store in me a
let your peace per - vade to hold me in your



out of tune bring fears I can - not speak.
help me heal and find your spir - it there.
larg - er sense of what it is to live.
great - er pow'r and not to be a - fraid.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Loving God, our source and our final home, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth, for our human bodies and all you have created.

In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring your saving health to all people.

In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Holy God, your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism and brought us into the communion of saints. Renew in us the grace of baptism, by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection.

In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Mighty God, your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair.

In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer, bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress, especially Andrew Funk, Walter Kopf, Helen Dersch, Dale Halvorson, Marla Holle, Gene Miller, Mavis Halvorson, Alice Hendrickson, Chip Pittman, Trudy Cook, Harry Nawrock, Lois Neves, Mara Lusic, Charlotte Rasmussen, Helen Brinkman, Bob Shorman, Joy Costar, Marilyn Hogan, Todd Barricklow, Eric and Karen Casler, Kenley and Allyson, and Richard Kemmler.

In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care.

In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Loving God, our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of those who suffer.

In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all for whom we pray. Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

HEALING

Introduction

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer and the laying on of hands. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God ...

[Those who wish to receive the laying on of hands may approach and, as conditions permit, they may kneel.]

Bruce will be playing ELW 612 and ELW 614. You are welcome to read the text as he plays them.]

BLESSING

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

“They Shall Soar Like Eagles”

Laura Manzo

Chancel Choir, Gwynne Kadrofske - flute

OFFERING PRAYER

For the gift of unconditional love, **we give thanks.**

For the way in which these offerings will become gifts of love embodied, **we give thanks.**

For the gift of this community bound and working together, **we give thanks.**

DIALOGUE

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

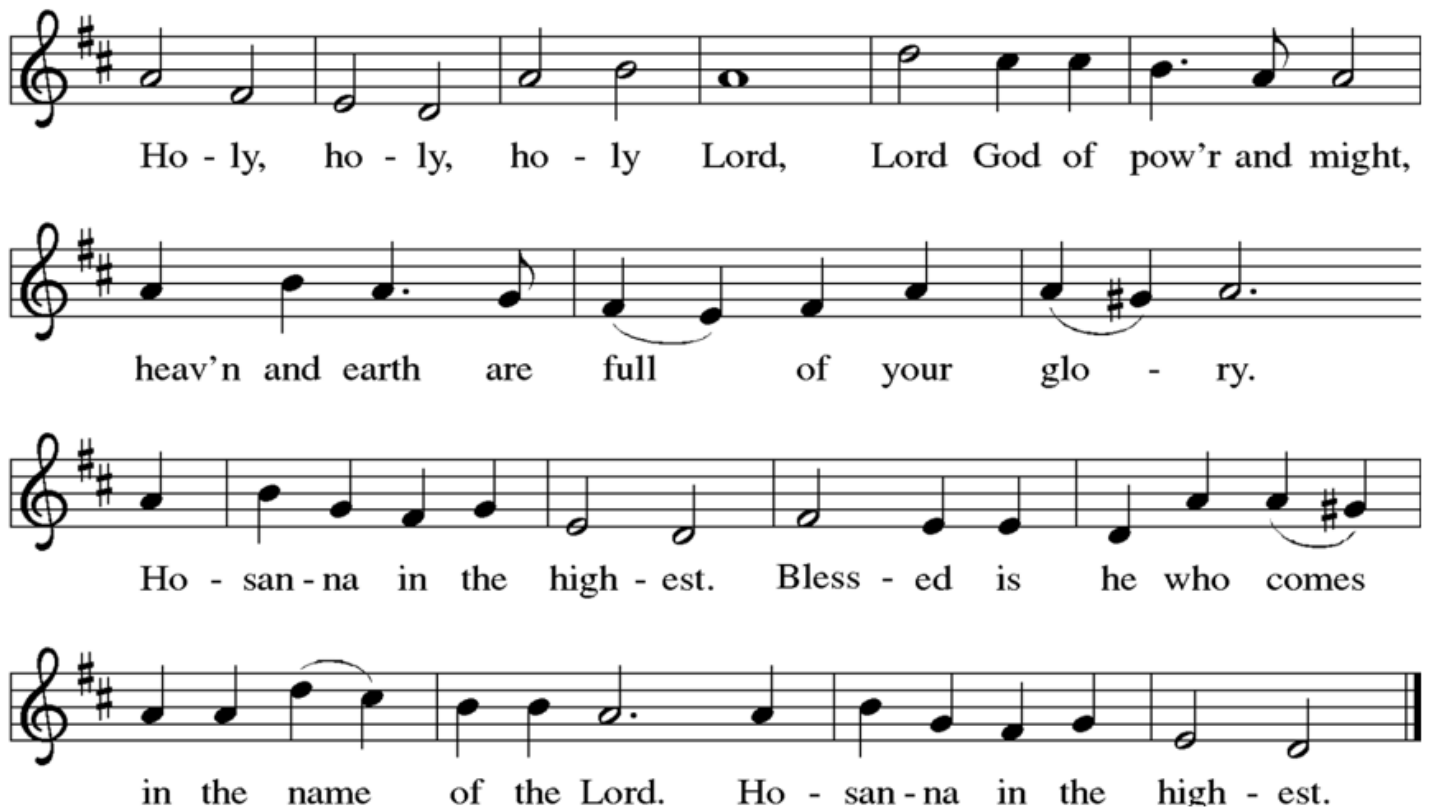
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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: our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings. 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'r and might,
heav'n 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

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. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, 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 Creator 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

God knows what you need. Come and receive it; be inspired to offer it to the world! Everyone is welcome at the table of God.

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

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

arr. Joseph Martin

[Please stand if you are able.]

May you deeply trust the nourishment provided to us by our Savior Jesus Christ, and may it urge you forward, with renewed strength and life, to be God's love in, to, and for the world.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,

Merciful God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of all consolation bless you in every way, grant you hope all the days of your life, restore you to health and grant you salvation, fill your heart with peace, and lead you to eternal life. Almighty God bless you, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING SONG - I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me (ELW 860)



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

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DISMISSAL

Go now in wholeness to love and work for the justice of God.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

arr. Matt Hyzer

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: Jamie Royalty
Lay Assistant: Randy Royalty
Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt
Acolyte: Maddie Webb

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

OFFERING REPORTS

January - December 2023

Income	\$ 323,834
Expenses	<u>\$ 330,915</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (7,081)

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORTS

January 21

Loose Cash	\$ 41.00
General Fund	\$ 2,105.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
Parish House	\$ <u>100.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 2,296.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 1,945.50
Building	\$ 25.00
Youth	\$ <u>25.25</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,995.75
TOTAL	\$ 4,291.75

January 28

Loose Cash	\$ 10.00
General Fund	\$ 5,025.00
Building Rental	\$ 100.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
World Hunger	\$ 80.00
Parish House	\$ <u>932.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 6,197.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 360.00
Pantry Fund	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 410.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,607.00

Culver's Fundraiser A Success!!

On Monday evening, we had our fundraiser at Culver's. Based on our excellent sales for the evening - Culver's will be donating \$363.42 to our micro-pantries. We also had a donation box out that collected \$40.79. Thus we raised a total of \$404.21 from the evening!

Thank you to everyone who came out to eat, helped promote the event, and especially to those who volunteered and were excellent servers to bring the food to everyone and shared information about our pantries with people!

In communicating with the Outreach and Engagement Manager at Culver's, they gave us this message: "We THANK YOU for all YOU do for the community as well! I have seen your food pantry first hand, and it is second to none!"

FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, Feb. 4:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship / **Healing Service**
- 11:30 am – Confirmation

Monday, Feb. 5:

- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 6:15 pm – Old Fellowship Hall
- Boy Scouts Meeting @ 7:00 pm – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 6:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call

Wednesday, Feb. 7:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30 pm

Friday, Feb. 9:

- CAMTA – Sanctuary @ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sunday, Feb. 11:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **Transfiguration Sunday**
- 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Private Event in SANCTUARY (Recital Rehearsal)

FYI - I (Connie) will be on vacation February 20 - March 6. I had a Caribbean cruise scheduled prior to accepting the position with the church. Thank you for understanding! 😊 ✈️ 🌴 🚢 🏠

PARISH HOUSE NEEDS

We have **5 new youth living in our Parish House.** They need some basic clothing/shoes! Please use the sign-up link if you are able to help them out. **Meijer gift cards are always appreciated as well!**

[Gifts](#)

With much gratitude, *Natalie, Kathy, and Laurie*

EVERYONE IS INVITED!!

[YOUTH SPONSORED]

Shrove PANCAKE Supper**

Tuesday, February 13th; 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church



Two Options:

1. You can come into the church and eat your supper with your family. You can have all the pancakes you would like.
2. You can have your pancake supper to go. You can pull up and we will have a person who can bring you your food.

THE YOUTH will be serving pancakes (let us know if you are gluten free), sausage, applesauce, and drinks (for the people inside)

****We will be taking a free will offering which will go to our Youth programs.**

* * * * *

Save the Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024*

A Conversation with the Congregation: (following service)

Subject: Who are we?

**The meeting will include a Chili Cook-off and a Cookie Bake-off.*

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