



GREEN TEAM/EARTH SUNDAY

April 21, 2024

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FLC Staff

Presiding Minister Today John Schleicher
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

PRELUDE

“Give Thanks”

Henry Smith, arr. Susan E. Geschke

FAITH BELLS

GREETING

“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be pleasing to him.” Psalm 104:33-34a

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.**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Lutheran Restoring Creation – Earth Day Virtual Worship

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

GATHERING HYMN – Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! (ELW 413)



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

PSALM 104

I PETER 1:17-23

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

“This is the feast of victory for our God...Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.”

This morning, we celebrate how all of creation reveals God's presence. This morning, we commit anew to join the Earth and all of its creatures in songs of praise and thanksgiving to God and the Lamb. This morning, we sing a song of lament for the deep pain and suffering and destruction of our common home. And this morning we sing a song of hope that God will use us, together with all who love what our Lord has made, to help heal and renew his ravaged and broken world.

Reader 1 (Jack Dingleline): Hear these words for Colossians, chapter 1:

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible...all things were created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together...For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Reader 2 (Cecelia Kramer): So we trust that Jesus Christ is the one through whom things are made, held together, and reconciled through the blood of his cross. In Christ we have been made new. Hear these words from 2nd Corinthians: *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation.*

Kim Winchell, former Diaconal Minister for Earthkeeping in our synod writes, citing Deuteronomy 30: “And what is reconciliation here, if not a restoration of right relationship between God and humankind yes. But also in our time and place a vital repair and restoration of ecological relationship, so that we and our descendants might live...There is healing work that each of us can do.

Empowered by the Spirit, we can bear witness to God's hope and unconditional love for the whole world."

Please join me in singing Hymn # 739, "Touch the Earth Lightly"

Reader 4 (Vicki Monroe): All of creation tells of the glory of God. Hear these words from Psalm 19: *The heavens are telling the glory of God, and firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day by day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

St. Augustine who lived in the 5th century after the birth of Christ wrote: "Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book; the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God whom you want to discover, never wrote that book in ink. Instead he set before your eyes the things that he had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?"

Reader 5 (Peggy Falk): And in the 7th century St. John Damascene wrote, "The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God." And in the 13th century Mechtild of Magdeberg wrote. "The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw, and knew, all things in God and God in all things."

Reader 6 (Ray Herek): In that same century St. Bonaventure wrote, "Every creature is by its nature a likeness of the eternal Wisdom. Therefore, open your eyes, alert the ears of your spirit, open your lips and apply your heart so that in all creatures you may see, hear, praise, love and worship, glorify and honor God." Please join me in singing hymn #556, "Morning Has Broken".

Reader 7 (Ellen Milne): In the 16th century our beloved Martin Luther wrote, "The power of God is present at all places, even in the tiniest tree leaf. Do you think God is sleeping on a pillow in heaven? ... God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you."

Reader 8 (Natalie Dingleline): I wonder if maybe the first step in our work of healing creation is to grow in our love for all that God has created, all that God loves. Perhaps these words of 18th century writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky will speak to your heart: “Love all creation, the whole of it and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of God’s life! Love the animals. Love the plants; love everything. If you love everything, you will soon perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.”

Reader 9 (Randy Royalty): Our congregation is in a covenant relationship with Michigan Interfaith Power and Light whose mission is “to inspire and equip people of faith to exercise stewardship of and love for all Creation.” Their staff have aided and encouraged us in our quest to be “green”, to be about of repairing and restoring our relationship with the Earth. We, members of this beloved community, are bearing witness to that quest most recently with the rain garden and our new solar array. In this election year they are bold to encourage us to vote with climate and Creation in mind. We invite you to take, sign, and send a Faith Votes card on the display table in our gathering space.

We want to end our “green team” sermon with a song of hope. Please join us in singing Hymn #726, “Light Dawns on a Weary World.”

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY - We Plow the Fields and Scatter (ELW 681)



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND INTERCESSIONS

PEACE

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

OFFERING

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Joel Raney

Chancel Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

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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.

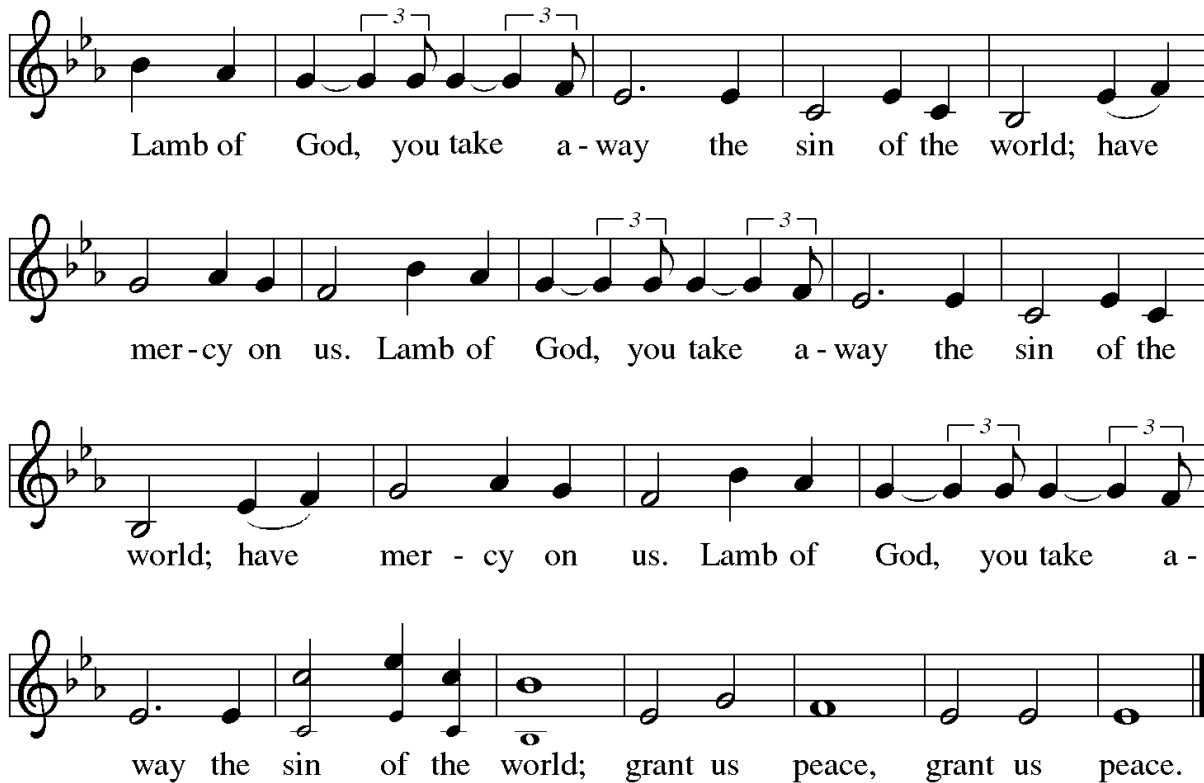
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's 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, grant us peace.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

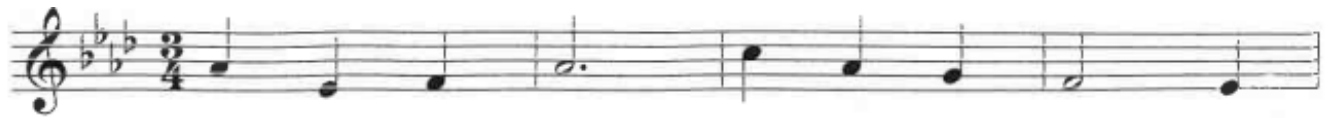
“Morning Has Broken/We Plow the Fields and Scatter” arr. Thomas Keesecker

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "EARTH AND ALL KIN!"



1. Earth and all kin! Loud clap - ping sea waves!
 2. Plank - ton and krill, col - or - ful co - ral,
 3. Mi - crobes in soil, earth - worms and beet - les;
 4. Li - zards and frogs, rep - tiles of all scale:
 5. New lambs in spring, pup - pies and kit - tens;



Sing to the Lord a new song!



Wind through the trees, moun - tains and green fields:
 Sea - weed and sponge, sea - horse and blue whale:
 Spi - ders and bees; ants and all in - sects:
 Ea - gle and wren; os - trich and pen - guin:
 Horse and gi - raffe; God - fa - shioned hu - mans:



Sing to the Lord a new song!



Earth con - tains mar - ve - lous things!



I, too, will praise God with a new song!

Tune: DEXTER by David N. Johnson © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House.

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"The Cuckoo"

Claude Daquin

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Greeter(s): Matt Schnizlein
& Nick Hirschenberger
Reader: John McCracken
Lay Assistant: Randy Royalty

Altar Care: Heidi Bowers
Ushers: Brenda Kopf and John Backman
Acolyte: Andrew Herek
Coffee Hour: The Herezas

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT

April 7, 2024

Loose Cash	\$ 40.00
General Fund	\$ 1,940.00
Building Rental	\$ 175.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Subtotal	\$ 2,255.00
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 5,184.00
Building	\$ 125.00
Caring	\$ 50.00
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
Subtotal	\$ 5,459.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,714.00

April 14, 2024

Loose Cash	\$ 58.00
General Fund	\$ 8,060.00
Building Rental	\$ 50.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 231.62
Parish House	\$ 50.00
Subtotal	\$ 8,459.62
<u>Vanco</u>	
General Operating	\$ 121.00
Subtotal	\$ 121.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,580.62

FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 21:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **EASTER 4 / Green Team & Earth Sunday**
- 11:00 am – Worship Committee Meeting

Monday, April 22:

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

Tuesday, April 23:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Zoom Call
- Transition Team Meeting @ 7:00 pm – Library

Wednesday, April 24:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- FLC Staff Meeting @ 10:30 am
- Faith Bells Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Thursday, April 25:

- Capital Conference @ 9:30am – 12:00pm – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 28:

- 9:00 am – Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Worship Service: **EASTER 5/Compassion Sunday**
- 11:00 am -- Quarterly Congregational Meeting
- 11:30 am – Confirmation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a **Quarterly Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, April 28th, after Worship Service. Topics for discussion are forthcoming. Please plan to join.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): As our school year ends, we start thinking about summer. We will once again host VBS here at Faith. **The NEW dates are ... July 29 - August 2.** We will be meeting each day from 9:00 a.m. to noon. There will be more to come about the theme shortly! If you have any questions, or if you want to help, please let me know.

Thank you, Pam Williams

Pastor Bruce is on vacation and will return to the office on Tuesday, April 23rd. If there is a Pastoral emergency, you can contact the church office or Randy Royalty, the Council President. They will contact the Pastor on call.

Calling All Graduates!! Please inform Connie if we have any high school graduates or college graduates to celebrate in June. You can send some information about them ... what their plans are for the future, etc., to connie@faithlutheranokemos.org. Thanks in advance!

Faith Climate Action Week

Capital Area Chapter of MIPL has invited Faith Lutheran Church to collaborate with the Lansing Parks Dept., Ingham County Land Bank, and Capital Area Friends of the Environment to plant at least 100 trees on Saturday, April 27th. The trees will be planted on land surrounding the Fenner Nature Preschool, located at 1526 Mt. Hope Road. This is the former location of a golf driving range.

The committee invites volunteers to sign up for one or both planting shifts--9 am-1 pm and/or 1 pm-4 pm (rain or shine). Click on or copy and paste the link, <https://form.jotform.com/mblyon1/fenner-preschool-tree-planting>, to register for the event.

Please email Marc Lyon at mblyon1@gmail.com if you have any questions. The open grassland where the 10 ft tall trees will be planted is approximately two blocks west of Mt. Hope cemetery. Participants are encouraged to wear closed-toe shoes which are water and mud-proof. If possible, please bring your own shovels, pickaxes, hats, snacks and water (extra shovels, etc. will be available on site). Light snacks and water will be available as needed.