



PENTECOST

July 7, 2024

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FLC Staff

Pastor Bruce Thorsen
Music Director Deb Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams
Custodian Kelly Nickols
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

Welcome Statement

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26) We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability – you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the “between”: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

PRELUDE

“God Bless Our Native Land”

Wilbur Held

Verse of the Day

[Read in Unison]

To God-whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine-to
God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end.

Amen Ephesians 3:20-21 The Inclusive Bible

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

[Silence is kept for reflection]

God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG – Gather Us In (ELW 532)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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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



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

A reading from Ezekiel:

¹ [A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.² And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³ He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." ⁵ Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

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

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 123 (read responsively)

¹ To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.
² **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.
³ Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
⁴ **too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,**
and of the derision of the proud.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

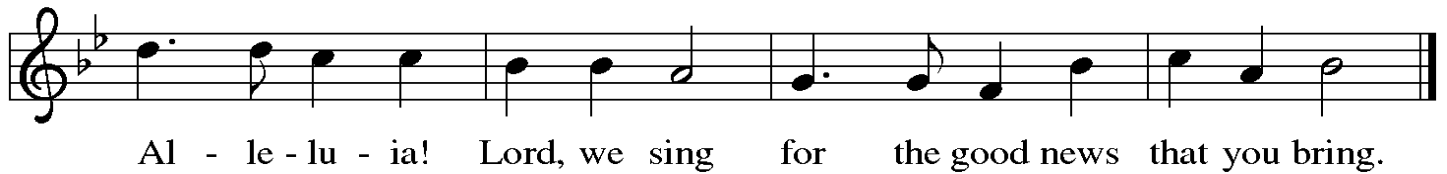
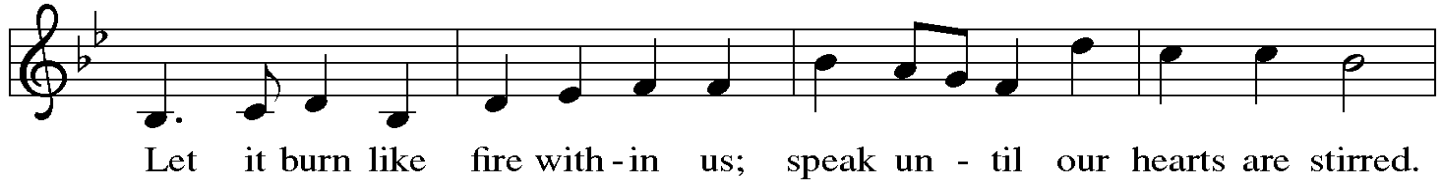
A reading from Second Corinthians:

² I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³ And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵ On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶ But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷ even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸ Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹ but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

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

¹ [Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean

spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – Open Your Ears, O Faithful People (ELW 519)



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
 they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

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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

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

"Kingsfold"

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Elaine Harrison, Brenda Kopf, Matt Schnizlein and Addie Thompson, Handbells
Kathy Richardson, Piano

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

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, 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-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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 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.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

There are gluten free wafers available, just let the pastor know when you are at the altar rail. As you receive communion, in the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine.

If you would prefer only a blessing, please have your hands folded and the pastor will give you a blessing.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

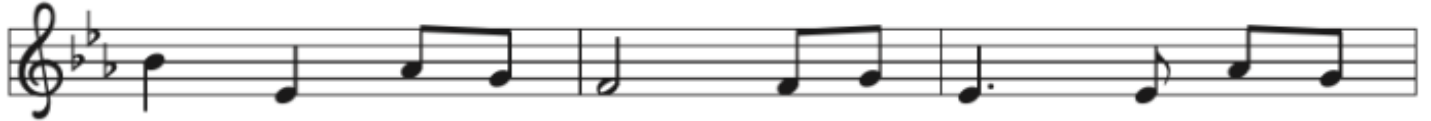
COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG – Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken (ACS 966)



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



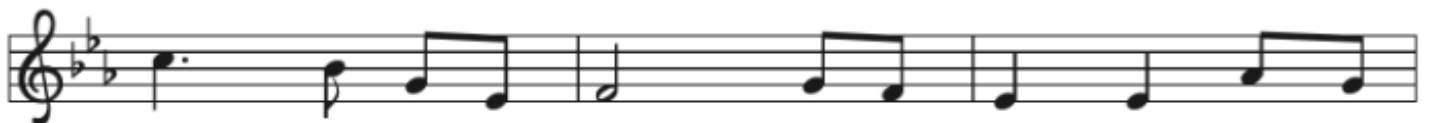
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“How Beautiful”

Paris/Keveran

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG – We Are All One in Mission (ELW 576)



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Toccatina in a minor”

by Johann Anton Koblach

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PRAYER PARTNERS

Please see the bulletin board entitled “Prayer Partners” in the Narthex. We have received several cards and letters from other churches that are praying for us. We are also participating in this activity, so **please be sure to sign the letter on the table under the bulletin board.**

FLC SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 7:

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **7th Sunday after Pentecost**

Monday, July 8:

- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 6:15 pm in Old Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 9:

- Bible Study @ 12:00 pm – Hybrid Call

Wednesday, July 10:

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am

Sunday, July 14:

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **8th Sunday after Pentecost**

Thank You, Kathy Richardson for sharing your musical gifts with us this morning!

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

July 7

Greeter(s): Mike Eschelbach
Reader: Brenda Kopf
Lay Assistant: Harold Sollenberger
Ushers: The Heilmans
Altar Care: Diane Hill
Coffee Hour: Kathy Mace

July 14

Greeter: Connie Nelson
Reader: Alexa Warwick
Lay Assistant: Ryan Thompson
Usher: M. Eschelbach & J. Bachman
Altar Care: Diane Hill
Coffee Hour: The Backmans

STAFF NEEDED FOR VBS

To grow our church and God's Kingdom, we need to work together. We are looking for helpers for Vacation Bible School this summer. It will be held July 29 to August 2nd from 9:00 a.m. until noon. We need you even if you can only help on one day. **Please let Pastor Bruce know if you can help. There will be cards that you can fill out at church ... on the table in the Narthex.**

Faith Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran is offering VBS "*Son Games***"**

When: Monday, July 29th to Friday August 2nd

Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Who: Ages 4 thru going into 6th grade

Best of all –It is FREE!

Come and celebrate the victory we have in Jesus!

If you had signed up last month online, please reregister.

Sign up to attend below (QR code) or by calling the church office or going to our website or e-news.

(Held at Faith Lutheran-4515 Dobie Rd)

**For questions, email Pastor Bruce at
pastorbruce@faithlutheranokemos.org**

