



## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16, 2025

10:00 AM

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Pastor ..... Megan Floyd  
Administrative Assistant.....Kalea Sanford  
Music Director ..... Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist ..... Bruce Williams  
Sound Technicians ..... Cody Boyan & 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

## **WELCOME STATEMENT**

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as God's beloved child, "for in Christ Jesus... [we] are all children of God through faith." (Galatians 3:26). No matter your age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, neurodivergent status, faith background, political leanings, or mental, intellectual or physical ability – you are welcomed here just as you are. In this church, we commit to pursue gender and racial equity in all that we do, and to support one another as chosen family, being parents and siblings for each other regardless of who we have as biological family (Mark 3:31-35). For 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 as we strive to serve our world.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

## **PRELUDE**

"Jesus Shall Reign"

arr. Timothy Albrecht

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. Luke 6:17

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act  
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;  
we resist your call to oppose injustice;  
we give in to scarcity and fear;  
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults  
and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

**Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine.”

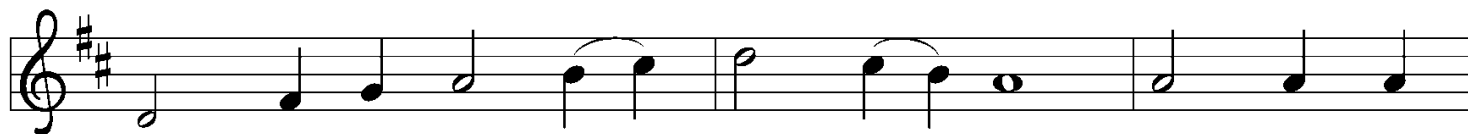
In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

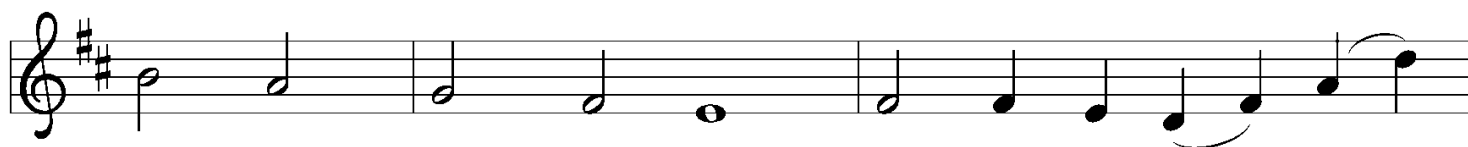
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN- Jesus Shall Reign (ELW 434)



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

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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 - Great is the Lord (WP 53)

C Dm G/B C

Great is the Lord, he is ho - ly and just, by his

F/A G F C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> C C Dm

pow - er we trust in his love. Great is the Lord, he is

G/B C F/A G

faith - ful and true, by his mer - cy he proves he is

F C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> C B $\flat$ /C F/C B $\flat$ /C F C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> C

love. Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry.

B $\flat$ /C F/C B $\flat$ /C G/C C B $\flat$ /C F/C B $\flat$ /C

Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of praise. Great is the Lord, now

D G E Am Dm G<sup>sus</sup> G

lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great is the

Am Am<sup>7</sup>/G Dm G<sup>sus</sup> G C C<sup>sus</sup> C

Lord! Great is the Lord!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly will be seated.*

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

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

## PSALM: Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with  
leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

## GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

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

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.



<sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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

*The assembly will be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY – I Will Delight (W&P 72)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "I Will Delight" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: "I will de - light in the law of the Lord; I will med - i - tate day and night. Then, like a tree firm - ly plant - ed, I'll be ground - ed in your word. Bless - ed is the one who fol - lows the way of the Lord; bless - ed is the one."

Chords: G, D/F#, Em, Bm, C, G, D/F#, Em, Bm, C, D, G, D, C/D, D, Am/G, G, D/G, G, D, C, D, G.

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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**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

"Above All"

Paul Baloche and Lenny LeBlanc

Chris Lewis, soloist

## OFFERING RESPONSE - As the Grains of Wheat (ELW 465)

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## LITURGICAL HAND WASHING

Pastor and assisting ministers sanitize and wash their hands

*I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud  
a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. – Psalm 26:6-7*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always. **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 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**

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*All are invited to come to the table to receive what the Lord offers. If, however, you would prefer not to receive communion, you may come to the table for a blessing.*

# COMMUNION SONG – Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet (WP 144)

*Refrain*

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be -

side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end.

2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for - ev - er is

wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and

I will love you to the end.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

“Resignation and Thaxted”

arr. Thomas Keesecker

*Please stand as you are able.*

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God  
✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.  
**Amen.**



## SENDING SONG – Let the Streams of Living Justice (ELW 710)



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” (based on ELW Hymn 841)

arr. Calvin Taylor

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## FLC SCHEDULE

### Sunday, February 16

- Sunday School @9am in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **6th Sunday after Epiphany**
- Panel Discussion and Potluck in Fellowship Hall following service

### Monday, February 17

- Boy Scouts @7pm in Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, February 18

- Bible Study @12pm in Library – Hybrid
- Girl Scouts Meeting @5:30pm in Sunday School/Youth Room

### Wednesday, February 19

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- FLC Staff Meeting @10:15am
- Lunch Bunch @11:45am
- Faith Bells rehearsal @ 6:30pm
- Chancel Choir rehearsal @ 7:30pm

### Sunday, February 23

- Sunday School @9am in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **7th Sunday after Epiphany**
- Worship Committee Meeting following worship service in Library

## FAITH VOLUNTEERS

### February 16

Greeter(s): Lois Neves  
Reader: Brenda Kopf  
Lay Assistant: Paul Hereza  
Ushers: John McCracken/Ken Milne  
Altar Care: Cecilia Kramer  
Sunday School: No School  
Coffee Hour: Potluck  
Counters: Kay Hilberg/John McCracken  
Acolyte: Andrew Derek

### February 23

Greeter(s): Ken & Ellen Milne  
Reader: Megan Nyquist  
Lay Assistant: Brenda Kopf  
Ushers: Jon & Elaine Harrison  
Altar Care: Cecelia Kramer  
Sunday School: John McCracken  
Coffee Hour: Hereza  
Counters: Jack Dingleline/Randy Royalty  
Acolyte: Owen Thompson

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For safety reasons, please do not allow your children to wander unsupervised past the coat racks or downstairs during the church service.

### Faith Lutheran Church Prayer List

*We invite you to hold these people in your prayers each day this week.*

We pray that your healing and life will be with all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and overall health and wellness, especially **Samantha**, Chad, Susan, Helen, Marla, Gene, Trudy, Harry, Lois, Mara, Helen, Marilyn, Todd, Eric, Allyson, Rex, Katy, Ledith, Grant, Rick, Stella, and Joyce

We pray for those who are grieving, including the family and friends of **Tina**, , Michael Shoemaker's family, and Michelle's family.

We pray for all those in military service, especially those connected to our community: Lani, Jon, Landon, Hannah, Melody and Adam, Joe, Reuben, Lane, and Aiden.

We pray for the larger church, especially our synod prayer partner St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cheboygan, and their pastor, Rev. David Hueter.

***\*New additions to our prayers are listed in bold. Please contact the church office or Pastor Megan to be added to the prayer list.***

## Prayer Partners

We are also participating in this activity and would love for you to add your signature. The letter is located on the table under the bulletin board entitled Prayer Partners.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **TOBY MAC CONCERT in Grand Rapids**

There is a Toby Mac concert at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids on **Sunday, March 2, at 6:30 pm**. If anyone interested in going, contact Mark Kadrofske, and we can organize a group and carpool together.

### **SHROVE TUESDAY**

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is **March 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm**. The youth will be cooking and serving a delicious pancake dinner in the fellowship hall. Sausage, applesauce, beverages and other great food will be provided. A free will offering is appreciated and will help fund the youth's confirmation retreat. Bring your appetite!



### **EUCHRE**

If you are a Euchre player, mark **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar for our next tournament. Do you need a refresher or haven't played before? Sign up at 6:30pm! The tournament begins at 7:30pm. A signup sheet is available in the narthex.