



# **Faith Lutheran Church**

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ***

**The Third Sunday of Lent  
Sunday, March 19, 2017**

# **PRELUDE**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Temple Talk:**

**Chris Plummer, Thrivent Financial**

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one  
God, who forgives all our sin, whose  
mercy endures forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (A brief silence.)  
Gracious God,

**C:** **Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN “*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*”**

**Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness prove.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer:  
"Hither by thy help I've come";  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now like a fetter  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen.**

# INTRODUCTION

P: In today's gospel, the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter.

As we journey to the resurrection feast,  
Christ comes among us in word, bath,  
and meal - offering us the  
life-giving water of God's mercy  
and forgiveness.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray. (A brief silence.) Merciful God,

**C:** **The fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



## **FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7**

R: A reading from Exodus, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

**R:** Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 95 – A Responsive Reading**

**R:** Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**C:** **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

R: For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

**C: In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

R: The sea is yours, for you made it, and  
your hands have molded the dry land.

**C: Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our  
maker.**

R: For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

**C: "Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

R: There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

**C: Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

R: Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.' ”

## **SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

R: A reading from Romans, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

**P:** The holy gospel according to John,  
the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## ***~ Reader's Theater ~***

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# **SERMON**

***“Unlikely Preachers”***

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”*

**Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

***Refrain***

***In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.***

**Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me.**

***Refrain***

***In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.***

**Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day  
with its shadow o'er me.**

***Refrain***

***In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.***

**Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river.**

***Refrain***

***In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.***

# **THE APOSTLES' 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

**P:** Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need. (A brief silence.) O God, let your church on earth, justified and reconciled through Jesus Christ, be bold in its proclamation of the gospel.  
Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** In your hands are the depths of the earth and the sea which you made. Make us faithful inhabitants of this earth, caring for the waterways and their creatures.

Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Lead the nations of the world away from the wilderness of sin and evil, and toward the light of love and peace.

Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** To those who are thirsty for love, for justice, for peace, for belonging, give the water of life. For those who are suffering or in pain, bring healing balm and peace.

*(We pray especially for . . .)*

Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Lead this congregation in service to others. Embolden the faithful here with your promise and your presence.  
Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We give thanks for the witness and testimony of the saints who have gone before us into eternal life. Let us boast in the hope they have shared, a hope that does not disappoint us. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Into your hands, merciful God, we  
commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your steadfast love; through  
Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P:** The Peace of Christ be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**~VIDEO DURING OFFERING ~**

**“You’re Not Alone”**

**by Owl City**



## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray. By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

**C: We give you thanks and praise.**

# **DIALOGUE**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the  
Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and  
praise.**

# **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*COMMUNION*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# **BLESSING**

**P:** The God of all grace † bless you  
now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN “*Choral Benediction*”**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May it show us where to travel,**

**lead us back if we should stray.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.  
May the peace of God be with us today.  
May it guide us and protect us,  
as we go our separate ways.  
May the peace of God be with us today.**

# **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



Please stay after  
worship for  
coffee and donuts  
in the  
Fellowship Room.  
Chris Plummer, our  
THRIVENT rep is  
joining us today.



































