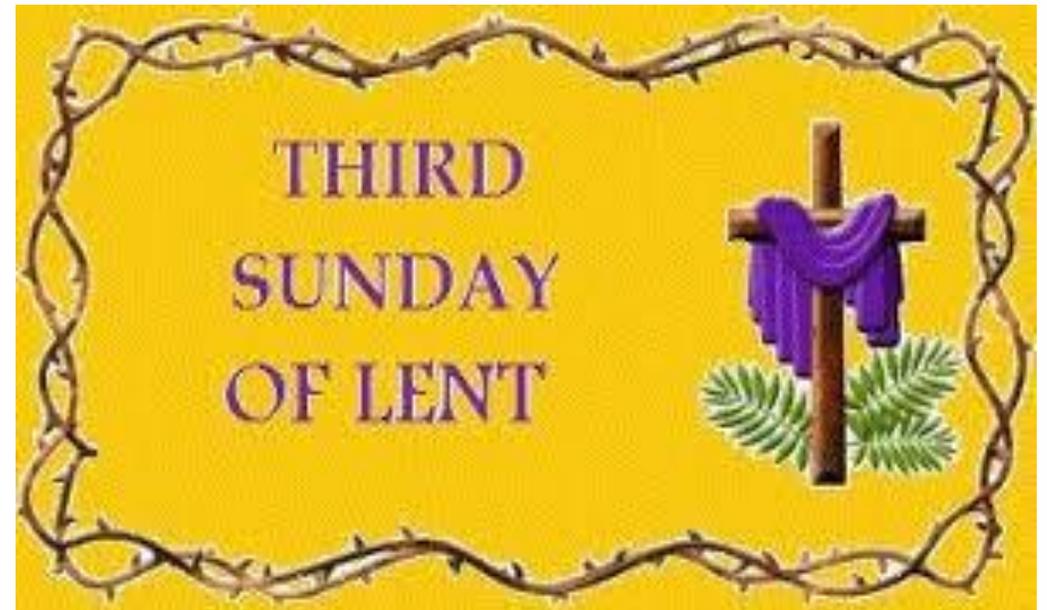




# Faith Lutheran Church

*Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ*

**Third Sunday of Lent  
Sunday, March 24, 2019**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity,  
✠ one God, who gathers us in the  
wilderness to redeem us, anoint us,  
and make us new.

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

**P:** In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy. *(A brief silence.)*  
Gracious God,

**C:** **we have wandered far from your home;  
again and again, we lose our way.**

**We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.**

**P:** Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of † Christ, leading you from death into life.

**C: Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN “O Jesus, Joy Of Loving Hearts”**

**O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,  
the fount of life, the light of all:  
from ev'ry bliss that earth imparts  
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.**

**We taste you, ever-living bread,  
and long to feast upon you still;  
we drink of you, the fountainhead;  
our thirsting souls from you we fill.**

**For you our restless spirits yearn,  
where'er our changing lot is cast;  
glad, when your smile on us you turn,  
blest, when by faith we hold you fast.**

**O Jesus, ever with us stay!  
Make all our moments fair and bright!  
Oh, chase the night of sin away!  
Shed o'er the world your holy light.**

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

**C: And also with you.**

# INTRODUCTION

P: The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live."

The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**C:** **your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's  
Church

I AM A  
Child  
OF  
God

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah, the 55<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and  
without price. Why do you spend your money for  
that which is not bread, and your labor for that  
which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me,  
and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in  
rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **A Responsive Reading From Psalm 63:1-8**

**R:** O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**C:** **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

R: For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

**C: So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

R: My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**C: when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

R: For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**C: My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone.

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 142b



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: Luke 13:1-9**

**P:** The holy gospel according to Luke,  
the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.' ”

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

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

# **SERMON**

**“Seek the Lord, Bear Some Fruit”**

## **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.***

# **Martin Luther's Explanation to the The 2nd Article of the Creed: ON REDEMPTION**

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,  
begotten of the Father in eternity, and  
also a true human being, born of the  
virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed  
me, a lost and condemned human being.**

**He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him,**

**live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation. (*A brief silence.*)

Holy God, build up the body of Christ and cause the gifts of your Spirit to grow among us. Lead us to recognize your saving work through the spiritual practices you encourage.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Water the earth with gentle rains and melting snow. Provide clean water for drinking, washing, and nourishing plants that will bear fruit for your creatures.  
Hear us, O God.

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

**P:** Uphold people who speak your righteousness in the face of religious or political persecution. Receive martyrs into your everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

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

**P:** Provide relief for those suffering and in pain (*especially*). Grant wisdom to health care workers who seek to diagnose ailments, and bring healing to patients. Hear us, O God.

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

**P:** Promote unity within your church and among the nations. Uncover the common threads in our shared humanity, and keep us from making hasty judgments about others. Hear us, O God.

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

**P:** Knit together the communion of saints, and bind us to Christ, our head. Through the diversity of gifts present in our communities, help us to overcome our limitations and increase our understanding of ourselves and others. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# **SHARING THE PEACE**

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

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

**OFFERING**

**~VIDEO DURING OFFERING ~**

***“Were You There When They  
Crucified My Lord?”***

**by Johnny Cash and Family**

## **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**We give thee but thine own,  
whatever the gift may be,  
All that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**May we though bounties thus,  
as stewards true receive,  
And gladly as though blessed us,  
to thee our first fruits give.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P:** Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

**C: Amen.**

# **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:** Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**P:** God, who fills the creations with abundance,  
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,  
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,  
✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

**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. Serve the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.





































**OPENING HYMN “*Lead Me To Calvary*”**

**King of my life, I crown Thee now,  
Thine shall the glory be;  
Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow,  
lead me to Calvary.**

***Chorus:***

***Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony;  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.***

**Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid,  
tenderly mourned and wept;  
Angels in robes of light arrayed  
Guarded Thee whilst Thou slept.**

***Chorus:***

***Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony;  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.***

**Let me like Mary, through the gloom,  
Come with a gift to Thee;  
Show to me now the empty tomb,  
lead me to Calvary.**

***Chorus:***

***Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony;  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.***

**May I be willing, Lord, to bear  
daily my cross for Thee;  
Even Thy cup of grief to share,  
Thou hast borne all for me.**

***Chorus:***

***Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony;  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.***

## **CLOSING HYMN**

***“The Church's One Foundation”***

**The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word.**

**From heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.**

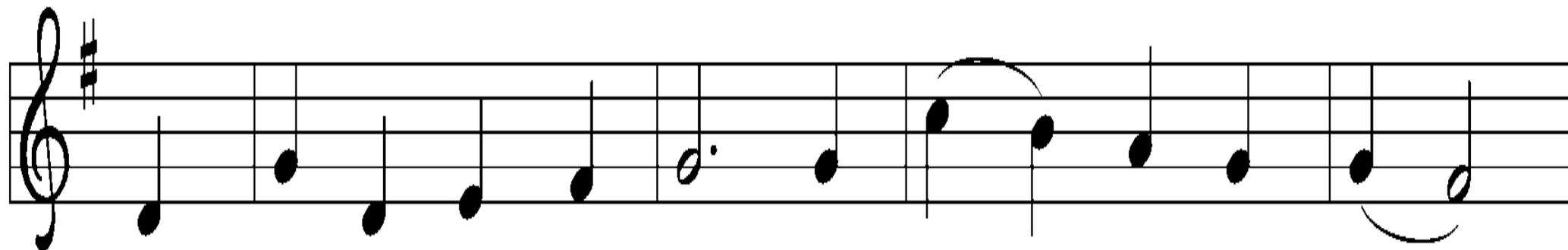
**Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder  
this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.**

**Through toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth has union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!  
Lord, save us by your grace,  
that we, like saints before us,  
may see you face to face.**

## Offertory Response



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

**To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.**

**Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!**