

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

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Georgetown, TX 78628

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK: The Gideons

INVOCATION:

Vicar: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 142:1, 3a, 5*

Vicar: With my voice I cry out to the LORD;

People: with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

Vicar: When my spirit faints within me, You know my way!

People: I cry to You, O LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

Vicar: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “Christ, the Life of All the Living” (LSB, #420, verses 1, 5, 6, 7)

Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:

Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: LSB, page 167, absolution—right column

Vicar: *Friends in Christ, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Vicar: *Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.*

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Vicar: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Vicar: Let us pray:

People: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE: "*Beautiful Savior*" (LSB 537), arranged by Larry Sue, © 2018
Larry and Carla Sue

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 42:14–21*

For a long time I have held My peace;
I have kept still and restrained Myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.
I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”

Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
Who is blind but My servant,
or deaf as My messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as My dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the Lord?
He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
The Lord was pleased, for His righteousness' sake,
to magnify His law and make it glorious.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *Ephesians 5:8–14*

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39*

As [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him Who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then He anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He Who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped Him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near Him heard these things, and said to Him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Nicene Creed.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN: "O Son of God, in Galilee" (LSB, #841, melody: Azmon)

O Son of God, in Galilee
You made the deaf to hear,
The mute to speak, the blind to see;
O blessèd Lord, be near.

O listen to the silent prayer
Of Your afflicted ones.
O bid them cast on You their care;
Your grace to them make known.

The speechless tongue, the lifeless ear
You can restore, O Lord;
Your "Ephphatha," O Savior dear,
Can instant help afford.

Meanwhile to them the list'ning ear
Of steadfast faith impart,

And let Your Word bring light and cheer
To ev'ry troubled heart.

Then in Your promised happy land
Each loss will prove a gain;
All myst'ries we shall understand,
For You will make them plain.

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SERMON: "I Thought I Could See" (*John 9:39-41*)

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

DEDICATION OF PARACORD BRACELETS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared

to celebrate Easter with joy and gratitude. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS: LSB, page 178



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

Pastor: *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI: LSB, page 180



□ 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.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper will be distributed at the altar rail. Please follow the ushers' directions.

DISTRIBUTION SONG: "King of Kings"

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

DISTRIBUTION SONG: "All to Us"

Precious cornerstone, sure foundation,
You are faithful to the end.
We are waiting on You, Jesus.
We believe You're all to us.

(Repeat)

Let the glory of Your name
Be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God
Be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ
Be the measure of our lives.
We believe You're all to us.

Only Son of God, sent from heaven,
Hope and mercy at the cross.
You are ev'rything, You're the promise.
Jesus, You are all to us.

Let the glory of Your name
Be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God
Be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ
Be the measure of our lives.
We believe You're all to us.

When this passing world is over,
We will see You face to face,
And forever we will worship.
Jesus, You are all to us.
Jesus, You are all to us.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face” (LSB, #631)

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the_ eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav’n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv’n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav’nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
Another arm but Thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb’s great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “Jesus Comes Today with Healing” (LSB, #620)

Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off’ring pardon, grace, and peace.

He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
“Come and taste the blessed feast.”

Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv’n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav’nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.

On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.

Let me praise God’s boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.

Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev’ry terror,

Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

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COMMON DISMISSAL:

Vicar: Now may this true body and blood our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in faith unto life everlasting.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Vicar: Let us pray:

People: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION: *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

Vicar: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "When to Our World the Savior Came" (LSB, #551, melody: Tallis' Canon)

When to our world the Savior came
The sick and helpless heard His name,
And in their weakness longed to see
The healing Christ of Galilee.

That good physician! Night and day
The people thronged about His way;
And wonder ran from soul to soul,
"The touch of Christ has made us whole!"

His praises then were heard and sung
By opened ears and loosened tongue,

While lightened eyes could see and know
The healing Christ of long ago.

Of long ago: yet living still,
Who died for us on Calv'ry's hill;
Who triumphed over cross and grave,
His healing hands stretched forth to save.

His sov'reign purpose still remains
Who rose in pow'r, and lives and reigns;
Till ev'ry tongue confess His praise,
The healing Christ of all our days.

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DISMISSAL:

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Liturgist: Vicar John Cotner

Proclaimer: Rev. Walt Pohland

Musicians: Adam Perez and Amanda Theilen

Handbell Ensemble – Director: Joyce Best

Organist: Karen Darby

8:15 Lay Reader: Perry Weirich

11:00 Lay Reader: Candace Ploetz

Children's Message: DCE Austin Angerman