

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Chancel Choir – “Heaven’s Prince of Peace,” arr. Smith

GATHERING

**Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Jesus came both to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Our readings throughout Lent confront us with challenging teachings, reminding us of our sin and need for God's forgiveness. Together, let us come before God, confessing our sin and resting in the gift that is God's grace.

P: 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

**Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Gathering Song – “All Are Welcome”

(piano)

*Refrain: All are welcome, friend and stranger, at the banquet of the Savior.
All are welcome. All are welcome here.*

1. **From the woman who comes crying, leaving tears at Jesus’ feet,
To the man who knows the right way but cannot see. Refrain**
2. **From the ones who feel forgotten, those who sense their place is gone,
To the ones who live in hunger, here you belong. Refrain**
3. **Go into the streets and cities, to the farms and families,
Tell about the splendid table, God’s mercy. Refrain**

Children’s Sermon

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 18:15-35

Readers: Liddy Stark & Pastor Adam

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ ²²Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So

the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – “Lessons Learned: Forgiveness”

Song of the Day – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” ELW 836, vv. 1 & 3 (*organ*)

- 1 **Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 3 **Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

“Words for the Beginning of Your Christian Life”

(adapted from a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed)

Malia Ruth, if we could give you words for the very beginning –
for this journey we make together,
for the celebrations and the sorrows,
we would say, “Oh, dear child, how you are loved.”

But the thing about love is that you can't stop there,
So, we would go on to say, "You are strong, stronger than you think.
And you are not alone – look at these parents who adore you,
Godparents who pray for you, and this congregation that surrounds you.
Know that you are enough, already enough."

You haven't done anything yet.
You've just been here, breathing, sleeping, laughing, playing –
and already you are enough.
And then we might say, "This world is a mess, but it is our home,
and you can make it better, so always try to make it better."

And maybe most important of all:
"There is love that is bigger than our understanding,
that moves through this world, and that love is called God.
That love is here, here in this room, and that love knows your name by heart."

Those are the words we would say to you
as you laugh and cry, stretch and splash in these waters on this day,
the first day of your Christian life.
Let God be your foundation.
Let love be your beginning.

P: God is our foundation. Love is our beginning. And in God's great love, we are given a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the Word, God frees us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. In the waters of baptism, God proclaims to us who we are. We are beloved children of God.

Presentation

Parents: We bring Malia Ruth to this Christian community and to the waters of Holy Baptism.

P: Malia, you are a beloved child of God and today you are given the name Christian. To help you grow into your name, your parents are called to make promises.

Kelsey and Nic, as you bring Malia to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Michayla and Harry, as godparents, you have a responsibility to pray for Malia and help her always remember that she is a beloved child of God. Do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The congregation stands.

P: People of God, you have a responsibility to support and surround Malia with Christian love, praying for her, discipling her, and serving with her. Do you promise to support Malia and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Profession of Faith

P: There is evil in this world that we name devil and brokenness we call sin. We are powerless to overcome them, but the grace of God gives us strength to stand against them and forgiveness when we fall. Together, we profess our desire to live in this grace and in opposition to this brokenness.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: As we live together in Christ, we are made one in baptism and profess one faith. It is this faith that centers us on the grace of our Triune God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Water is poured into the font.

P: We give you thanks, O God. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. In the waters of the flood you called Noah and brought forth new life. By Moses, you called the people of Israel to follow you through the waters and led them from slavery into freedom. You nourished them with water from the rock and brought them to the promised land. At the river your Son was baptized by John and you proclaimed to all that he is your "beloved child." In the waters of baptism, you create, you bring forth new life in us, you set us free from the power of sin, and you proclaim that we too are your beloved Children.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Holy Baptism

The congregation sits

P: Malia Ruth, in this water, God calls you by name. Beloved child of God, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Laying on of Hands

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Malia with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen

Anointing with Oil

P: In the Old Testament, oil is used to anoint and set people apart. In baptism, we are set apart as God's beloved children to live lives of love, justice, and mercy. Malia, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

Giving of a Candle

Congregational Representative: In John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said, "You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven." Kelsey and Nic, we give you this candle to light again and again as Malia grows up. Remember this day and always know that she is and will always be a beloved child of God.

Welcome

Welcome Song – "Jesus Loves You"

*As Malia is brought into the midst of the congregation, we welcome her
as God's beloved child as we sing...*

Jesus loves you, this we know, for the Bible tells us so.

Little ones to God belong, you are weak but God is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you!

Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells us so!

P: Together we say:

C: Malia Ruth Lee, you are beloved and blessed. By the grace of God that flows in the waters of baptism, we are drenched in our love for you, washed in our delight for you, and born anew by the grace that flows from the heart of our God who bore you to us. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and in bearing God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

Every day we are to remember our baptism and remember that God's promises are for us as well. We have just heard the proclamation that Malia is God's beloved child. Now it is time for you to hear it for yourself. Turn to your neighbor and exchange the sweet assurance that you are also God's beloved child as you say, "Jesus loves you!"

Stewardship Time

"Baptized In His Name," arr. Schmid
Melissa Street, Vocalist

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are gifts of God's grace to claim and sustain us in our lives as disciples of Jesus. Baptism proclaims our identity, that we are beloved children of God, called to love God and our neighbors. Holy Communion reconnects us to the Body of Christ and nurtures our lives of faith with forgiveness and life.

C: We give thanks to God as we receive this gift of grace anew today.

**Words of Institution*

P: 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.

**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 Songs

"Child of the Water" *(piano)*

Refrain: **You're a child of the water, child of the Word,
guided by promise and stories you've heard.**

God of the wounded knows you by name and carries you home ev'ry day.

**From your first breath to the last step, all of the dance;
Down deep in your laughter, whatever your fears, try to remember. *Refrain***

**Life is a gift, time carries on, and you will grow;
Amidst your believing and throughout your doubt, something is sure. *Refrain***

We journey together as children of God, sealed by the cross. *Refrain*

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" ELW 836 *(organ)*

- 1 **There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.**
- 2 **There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.**
- 3 **For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.**

- 4 **'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “He Has Clothed Us in His Righteousness”* (piano)

1. **He has clothed us with his righteousness, covered us with his great love.
He has showered us with mercy, and we delight to know the ... glorious favor,
wondrous favor of God.**

*Refrain: We rejoice in the grace of God poured upon our lives,
loving kindness has come to us because of Jesus Christ.
We rejoice in the grace of God, our hearts overflow.
What a joy to know the grace of God.*

2. **He’s brought us into his family, made us heirs with his own Son.
All good things he freely gives us, and we cannot conceive what ... God’s preparing,
God’s preparing for us. Refrain**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner
Greeters: Hallie Mayner & Liddy Stark
Reader: Liddy Stark
Usher: John Williams
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Pianist: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Drummer: John Demien
Financial Assistants: Kelly Street & to be determined
Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert
Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth
Marilyn Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Melissa Street
Rigby Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Carol VanderKloot

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Mike Oldenettel	Kelly Street

The plants at the altar today are donated by Kelly & Melissa Street and Jenny Smith
in celebration of Malia's baptism

Song Credits

"All Are Welcome," by Hans Peterson and Larry Olson, © 1999 Dakota Road Music. CCLI#973583

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"He Has Clothed Us with His Righteousness," from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, February 26, 9:30am: Baptism – Malia Ruth Lee
10:45am: Pastor's Pick Book Group
Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal
5:30pm: Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 1, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
6:00pm: Lenten Soup Potluck
6:45pm: Lenten Service
Thursday, March 2, 5pm: Parish Worship Meeting
Saturday, March 4, 8am: Cooking for
9am: Men's Breakfast

News Updates

Music Rehearsal Time Changes

Our Exaltation Ringers and Chancel Choir are trying out a new rehearsal schedule to encourage more to be a part of the music program here at Faith.

**Chancel Choir will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays;
Exaltation Ringers on the 2nd and 4th Sundays; all from 10:45-11:15am**

Why should you consider joining us? How about free singing/ringing lessons, do something for yourself, and learn something new? Music is a gift of God... wouldn't it be a boring world without it? Making music together also relieves stress, stimulates the immune system, increases pain threshold, may help snoring, improves lung function, develops a sense of belonging and connection, enhances memory, helps with grief, improves mental health. (*Source: Healthline*)

I hope to see you on Sunday mornings for rehearsal at 10:45am in the sanctuary!
Jean Welch, *Director of Music*

Central/Southern IL Synod Assembly

The schedule for the **2023 Synod Assembly** of our Central/Southern IL Synod is:

Session 1: Saturday, March 25 via Zoom

Sessions 2-6: Thursday-Saturday, June 1-3 in person in East Peoria

Faith is entitled to two (2) lay voting members, plus the pastor. If you are interested in serving as one of the voting members, please contact Pastor Adam.

Prayer Partners

As Pastor Adam, Benen Dichsen, Melissa and Kelly Street, Patty Nelson, and Kevin Krohe prepare for their trip to Uganda, we are looking for helpers to cover them in prayer. Retired pastor Glen VanderKloot will be coordinating a group of volunteers to pray for each of them, multiple times each day, for the duration of their trip. He will provide five short

prayers that can be used to help. More information will be shared today in worship. If you would like to participate, please contact Glen at pastor@faithlutheran.com.

Financial Statements

2022 Financial Statements are available at the tall table outside of the office at church. If there is no envelope with your name on it, please let Pam Devlin know or contact the church office.

Faith Telephone Directory draft

A draft of a new Faith Directory is available in the gathering area on the Coffee Sales counter by the Mission & Ministry Center — please make any corrections/additions/deletions on that copy. A new directory will then be available on March 5 for all to take home (1 per household, please).

Free Spring Concert to Support Green Pastures

The popular Christian quartet TWO BY TWO and K's Creek Golf Club are hosting a Free Spring Concert on **Sunday, March 19 at 6:00pm** at K's Creek, 1265 Sandusky Rd. in Jacksonville. Featured performers will be TWO BY TWO, Hope Cherry, The Benz Trio, Roger Wainwright, Rod Nicholson, and John Love. There is no cost to attend – free-will donations to benefit Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call 217-473-4735.

Contribution Envelopes for 2023

will be available soon in the gathering area — the printing has been delayed, but the company will get them to us as soon as they can. After they come in, if you don't see a box with your name on it, please mention this to Barb Davenport, Pam Devlin, or Kris Roth. We will happily provide you with a box. If you would like to register for our easy, **automatic online giving service**, contact the church office. There are no fees, and it saves you from remembering to write that weekly check!

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50**

regular; **\$7.50** decaf & flavored; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **\$5.50** coffee pods). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.