

# Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

We welcome Mary Lou Jansen, Synodically-Authorized Minister, today;  
Pastor Adam is leading worship for Grace Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran Churches  
and doing a Ugandan presentation in Virginia.

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Sandi Watts*

## GATHERING

*\*Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Returning again to the waters of baptism, we begin in the name of the Father and of the  
+ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God and in the presence of one another.

*Silence*

P: Gracious and merciful God,

**C: We confess to you the truth of our broken lives. We have not trusted your promises  
or walked in your ways. We have hoarded and squandered the gifts of your  
creation. We have failed to welcome the stranger and the outcast, and to make  
room at the table for the homeless and the hungry. We have neither worked to  
release the oppressed nor admitted our own captivities. Forgive our sin, heal our  
lives, and set us free that we might live with your whole creation in the justice and  
joy of your promised future.**

P: God, who is merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, hears the  
cries of all who plead for mercy and, in these last days, has sent Christ Jesus to announce  
the good news of forgiveness and release to all who are bound by guilt or broken by  
shame, that they might praise God and serve the world with glad and generous hearts.

P: For freedom Christ has set you free.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*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” ELW 641, vv. 1, 3, & 4 (organ)*

1. **Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

*Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

3. **Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain**
4. **Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain**

*Children’s Sermon*

*Hymn of Praise: “Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life” (organ)*

*Refrain: Come and gather beneath the tree of life.*

*Come and gather beneath the tree of life –*

*Root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release.*

*Come and gather beneath the tree of life.*

**Flowing from this tree of grace and passion,**

**Oh how sweet the taste, how deep and rich the wellspring of your love. Refrain**

## WORD

*Reading:* Acts 10:1-17, 48

Reader: Carol VanderKloot

<sup>1</sup>In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. <sup>2</sup>He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. <sup>3</sup>One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' <sup>4</sup>He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' He answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. <sup>5</sup>Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; <sup>6</sup>he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.' <sup>7</sup>When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, <sup>8</sup>and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

<sup>9</sup>About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup>He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup>He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. <sup>12</sup>In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup>Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>14</sup>But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' <sup>15</sup>The voice said to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>16</sup>This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

<sup>17</sup>Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*Gospel Reading:* Matthew 9:36-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon: "Help Wanted"*

*Song of the Day – "Open the Eyes of My Heart" (piano)*

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You, I want to see You.**

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You, I want to see You.**

**To see You high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love, As we sing holy, holy, holy. Repeat**

*Coda: As we sing holy, holy, holy.*

**We sing holy, holy, holy.**

**We sing holy, holy, holy.**

**I want to see You. Repeat**

*\*The Apostles' Creed*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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*

*Stewardship Time*

"Yet Not I," by Robinson, Farren, & Thompson  
*Faith Singers*

*–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–*

## 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.**

### *\*Great Thanksgiving*

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 to the Lord our God.

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

### *\*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*

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" (WOV 671) (*piano*)

*Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the King of creation.** *Refrain*

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.** *Refrain*

**We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever.** *Refrain*

**God has proclaimed the just reward: life for all people, alleluia.** *Refrain*

**Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior.** *Refrain*

"Praise to You, O God of Mercy" ELW 208 (*organ*)

- 1. Praise to you, O God of mercy! Thanks be to you forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!**
- 2. From of old you loved and sought us! Thanks be to you forever!  
Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!**

**Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,  
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.**

- 3. Praise to you, O God of mercy! Thanks be to you forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!  
Thanks be to you forever!**

*\*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*

\*Song: "By Your Hand, You Feed Your People ELW 469 (organ)

1. **By your hand you feed your people, food of angels, heaven's bread.  
For these gifts we did not labor, by your grace have we been fed:**

*Refrain: Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'erflowing, life outpoured,  
Given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.*

2. **In this meal we taste your sweetness, bread for hunger, wine of peace.  
Holy word and holy wisdom satisfy our deepest needs. Refrain**
3. **Send us now with faith and courage to the hungry, lost, bereaved.  
In our living and our dying, we become what we receive: Refrain**

## 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 – "City of God" (piano)

1. **Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!  
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.  
The people in darkness have seen a great light.  
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.**

*Refrain: Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing!  
For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned the night into day!*

2. **We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.  
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.  
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be  
A light for his people to set their hearts free. Refrain twice**

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker  
Greeter: Hallie Mayner  
Reader: Carol VanderKloot  
Usher: Larry Kuster  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Pianist: Susan Roegge  
Organist: Sandi Watts  
Drummer: John Demien  
Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Greg Kimler  
Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe  
Coffee Host: Terri Kimler

### 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  
Gaylon & Marty Martin



### Song Credits

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## What's Coming Up at Faith?

- Monday, April 24, 12 noon: Potluck meal  
12:30pm: Movie: "A Man Called Otto"
- Wednesday, April 26, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group  
12 noon: Pastor's Pick Book Study  
6:00pm: Pastor's Pick Book Study
- Thursday, April 27, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting
- Sunday, April 30, 9:30am: Worship Ugandan Style!  
10:30am: Meal after the service
- Wednesday, May 3, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group  
5:30pm: First Communion Class
- Thursday, May 4, 5:00pm: Parish Worship Committee
- Saturday, May 6, 8:00am: Cooking  
9:00am: Men's Breakfast

## News Updates

### Faith and Film

Do you like the ways movies nurture and challenge our faith? Come check out this small group as we gather for fellowship and lunch, then watch a movie and have discussion. Our next potluck and movie will be on **Monday, April 24 at noon**. The movie will be *A Man Called Otto*.

### Worship, Celebration, and Dinner... *UGANDA STYLE!!!*

On Sunday, April 30, join us for a worship service that breaks us free from our typical Lutheran norm as we incorporate music and prayer from our Ugandan neighbors at Pillars of Africa. Afterwards, we will host a meal similar to the cuisine our team enjoyed. As you eat, we will tell stories and show pictures of our adventures and share more about opportunities to walk more closely with the programs at Pillars as we help them become more sustainable. And look for the crafts! We brought three suitcases back filled with crafts from their Pillars Empowerment Program that supports local crafters and gives them training to improve their skills.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays;  
Exaltation Ringers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays; all from 10:45-11:15am**

I hope to see you on Sunday mornings for rehearsal at 10:45am in the sanctuary!

Jean Welch, *Director of Music*

## Community Outreach Opportunity

Prairieland United Way has kicked off a community food drive that will continue through May 26. Community members are being asked to donate food to help kids in need of food through the summer months when school is out. Though participants may donate any nonperishable foods, items most needed include:

Juice	canned soups	jelly
Gatorade	Ramen noodles	breakfast cereal
canned chicken	canned pasta and meat	macaroni and cheese cups
fruit	peanut butter	oatmeal
Jell-O or pudding cups		

Faith members may put their donations in the Blue Box found in the Mission and Ministry area; the **deadline for donations is Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**.

## 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!*

## Faith Telephone Directory

A new Faith Directory is available in the gathering area on the Coffee Sales counter by the Mission & Ministry Center for all to take home (1 per household, please).

## Contribution Envelopes for 2023

are in the gathering area at the Coffee Bar. 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.

### **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; **\$6.25** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.