



Listening • Caring • Serving

Come as you are. All are welcome.

Life Begins At the Cross

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Mark 8:34



WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

GATHERING

Prelude

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C **Amen.**

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Together we pray,

C **Fountain of living water, pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C **Amen.**



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

P Together we pray,

C **O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L The word of God.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Stg10 s198b

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind—
 slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

C Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

L The Gospel of our Lord. C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SETTING OUR MINDS

PASTOR ARMEN

HYMN

O God, My Faithful God

ELW 806

1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.

THE APOSTLES' CREED & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A Together we confess our faith,

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 into hell. 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 OF INTERCESSION

A Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

P We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

In thanksgiving for God's blessing, we respond with our tithe and offering

OFFERING IS RECEIVED

WOV 732



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and



take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the



joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

A Together we pray,

C Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD'S TABLE OF GRACE

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.

A Together we pray,

C 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.

*Instruction for coming to the table.
After communion, worship continues*

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

C Amen.

A Together we pray,

C God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you † that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C Amen.

HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

ELW 802



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Journey with Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

Faith's Weekly Announcements

Welcome to all of you attending in person this morning!
***Disposable face masks are required and available from
an usher.***

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this week were given by:

- ~ Larry & Linda Bennett to the glory of God.
- ~ Joyce Schultz in thanksgiving for her chairs

Officers for 2021

The following were elected as the 2021 church council officers: Jay Fisher, President; Gary Wilkins, Vice President; Debby Porter, Secretary; Lynn Beck, Treasurer.

We Need Some Seasonal Help

If you are willing to serve as an usher for one or more of the Lenten Wednesday or Holy Week worship services, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. This is a one-time opportunity, no long-term commitment!

Want to Join the Family?

If you would like to become a member of Faith, please call Barbra in the church office (941- 697-3313) this week for forms and to set an appointment to meet with the Pastor.

Tis the Season

Easter is just around the corner and, as usual, we would like to decorate the sanctuary with lilies – but we need your help. You may sign up to purchase a lily, which you can take home after the last service on Easter Sunday. Cost is \$9.00 each, and you can make a dedication if you wish. Note: dedications will be printed in the bulletin. Information will be taken from the sign-up sheet, so print legibly. Sheet is in the narthex by the flower chart.

Food Pantry

We have placed a plastic storage container on the ramp by the back door for your donations to the local food bank, or you can leave them in the box in the narthex. The food bank especially needs canned vegetables.

“Campers” Need Some Things

Our local homeless folks (campers) who live in tents in the area need a few special items. Can you help? Requested items include duct tape, men’s wallets (can be used) and bug spray (not wipes). If you can provide any of these, please leave the items in the blue “Campers” tub in the narthex.

Looking Ahead...

The Holy Week schedule is a bit different this year. Please take note of the changes: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at noon inside. Easter Sunday: 8:30 am sunrise service at the Memorial Garden, 10:30 am inside.

Attendance last week: 85

WE PRAY FOR...

Larry Bennett
Marcia Wilkins
Rita Wolfe

Elaine Claussen
Rick Luckow
Madison Mougalian

Barb Neilson
Jackie Magee

[Please note, when someone has a long-term issue, we keep them on this list for a time, but move them to the newsletter’s long-term prayer list for more daily prayer.]

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Every week day morning	6:30 am	AA meets at church
Monday	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
Tuesday	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	8:30 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks
Wednesday	Noon	Lenten worship
	1:00 pm	OLT

Serving Today

Altar Guild: Margaret Murphy & Debby Porter

First Service:

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Jay Fisher

Usher: Art Hanson

Second Service:

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Jim Taylor

Ushers: Larry & Linda Bennett

Electronic Giving

To contribute to support God's work, you may 1) Scan the QR Code with your phone, or 2) visit our web page

<https://alivingfaith.org> and use the "Give" button.



Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda

551 Rotonda Boulevard West – Rotonda West, FL 33947
(941) 697-3313

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Pastor Brian Armen, Cell (814) 248-0133

Secretary: Barbra Davis

Choir Director: Charlene Howe

Organist: Candace Montesi

Custodian: Cyndy Hoops

Secretary Office Hours: 9:00 Am – Noon (M-F)

PASTOR'S OFFICE: 10:00 – 1:00 (M-TH) AND BY APPOINTMENT

www.alivingfaith.org

office@alivingfaith.org

Our Guiding Principle: GOD'S GRACE WINS....

As we WORSHIP Jesus as our Lord and Savior

As we LOVE one another, welcoming everyone

As we SERVE, inspired by the Holy Spirit

As a deep FAITH is taught and caught

As we make WITNESS and MISSION our life