
March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Listening • Caring • Serving

Come as you are. All are welcome.



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

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 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through 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

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

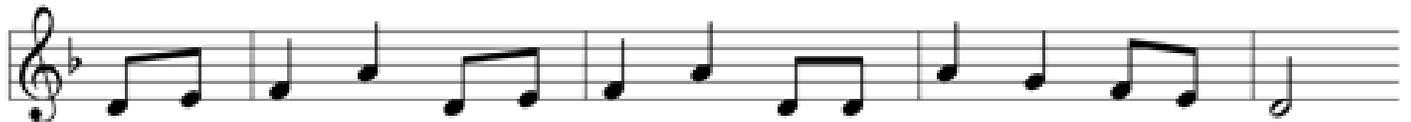
⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L The word of God.

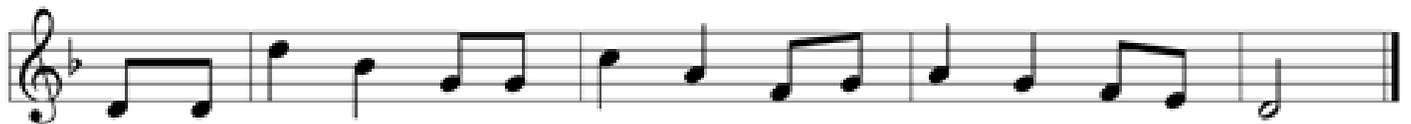
C Thanks be to God.

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

John 3:14-21

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

Music Ministry (10:30 am) *Come Unto Me from Messiah G.F. Handel*
Sandy Despreaux, soloist

SERMON

LOOK AND LIVE

PASTOR ARMEN

HYMN

My Hope is Built

ELW 596



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

Drawn to the Light

ELW 593



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -



lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

Refrain



Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a



sight to be drawn to the light of God.

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 John and Laura Kohler.

We Still Need Help

We still need ushers for the next 3 Lenten Wednesday services and Good Friday. If you can help with one or more, 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) tomorrow 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 pasta and sauce.

Vacation Help

Our secretary, Barbra, is taking vacation from March 29 through April 6. If you are available to fill in for her on one or more of those days, please call her (697-3313).

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: 95

WE PRAY FOR...

Larry Bennett
Marcia Wilkins
Rita Wolfe
Lois Deitrich

Elaine Claussen
Rick Luckow
Madison Mougalian

Barb Neilson
Jackie Magee
Eric Montesi

[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	8:00 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks
	11:00 am	Council
Wednesday	Noon	Lenten worship
	3:00 pm	OLT

Serving Today

Altar Guild: Mary Lou Fitzgerald & Debby Porter

First Service:

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Jay Fisher

Usher: Harold Schultz

Second Service:

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Ellen Lindhurst

Ushers: Gary & Marcia Wilkins

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