

Faith Lutheran Church - Worship and Communion

March 30, 2025 at 9:30 AM

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

To join with video, go to our website and follow the video link  
([www.faithlutheranreno.org](http://www.faithlutheranreno.org)) or find us on youtube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@faithlutheran-reno>



**Welcome!** We are a family of faith and so glad you are here! Our worship this month turns to **Setting Four** of the ELW Hymnal, beginning on pg 147. Congregation responses appear in bold throughout the bulletin.

**Children's Bulletins** are available in the narthex (entrance area), providing activities on today's scripture readings. Please enjoy.

God is present in **Holy Communion** and welcomes all who are hungry. You are welcome to the table. Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing. Let an usher know if you would like communion at your seat.

Our **Candle Lighting station** is available during worship if you are moved to light a candle as a part of your prayer for someone or something or in the thanksgiving or sorrows of your heart. You're welcome during communion as we sing and pray.

**In Worship on the Fourth Sunday in Lent:** The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

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**Serving Today:** Greeter, Betty T / Acolyte, Pesis Family / Reader, Davyann S / Asst Minister, Todd M / Cantor, Todd M / Ushers, Matthew R & Tom L / Altar Guild, Annette W & Betty T / Tech Support, FLC Tech Team / Counters, Sigrun C & Davyann S / Coffee after Worship, Annette W & Betty T

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## -GATHERING-

### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

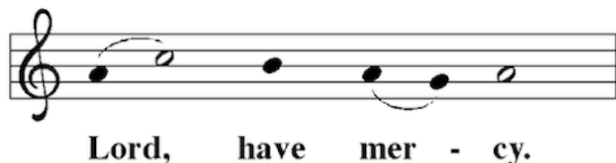
### KYRIE

*moment of centering*

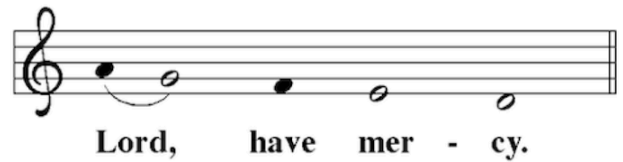
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



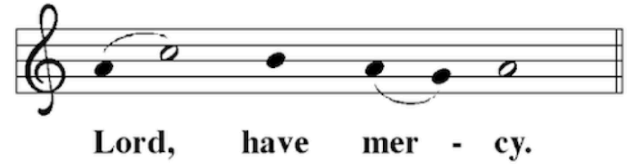
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house, and for all who offer  
here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.



## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**  
**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**  
**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**  
**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**  
**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**  
**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
 God's arms are always stretched open wide  
 to welcome the wandering ones home.  
 In † Christ your sins are forgiven.  
 You have a place in God's house forever.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Amazing Grace\**

**ELW #779, vs1-4**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**-WORD-**

**FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12**

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 32**

Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
 and whose sin is | put away!

**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,  
 and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
 because of my groaning | all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;  
 my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the  
 guilt | of my sin.

**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;  
I will guide you | with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

**SERMON***Jesus, Friend of Sinners*

Rev. Shaun O'Reilly

**HYMN OF THE DAY***What Wondrous Love is This\**

ELW #666

**RESPONSE OF FAITH****A:** Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.****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.****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**

God of belonging, receive our prayer.

**PEACE**The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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**- MEAL -****OFFERING**

In all things, O God, you are our way, our truth, and our life.

**Reveal through us your life-giving work.****MUSICAL OFFERING*****"When It's All Been Said and Done"***

Faith Lutheran Chancel Choir

By James A Cowan, from: "Revival in Belfast"

**PRESENTATION HYMN*****Create in Me a Clean Heart*****ELW #186***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

**OFFERING PRAYER****GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

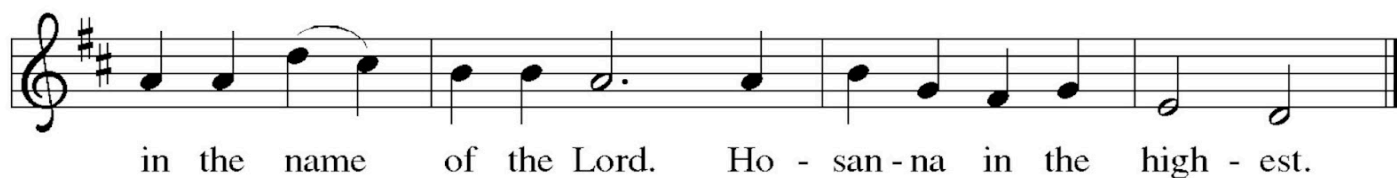
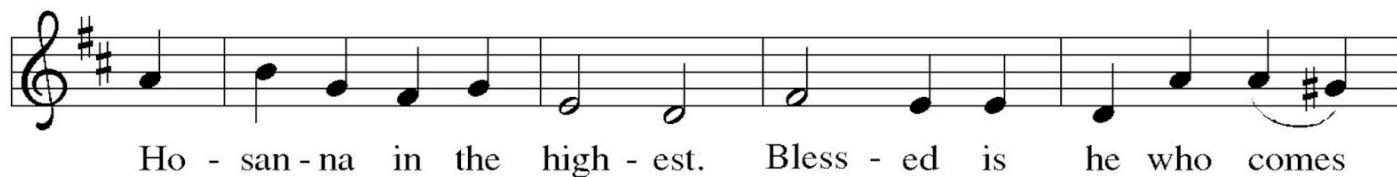
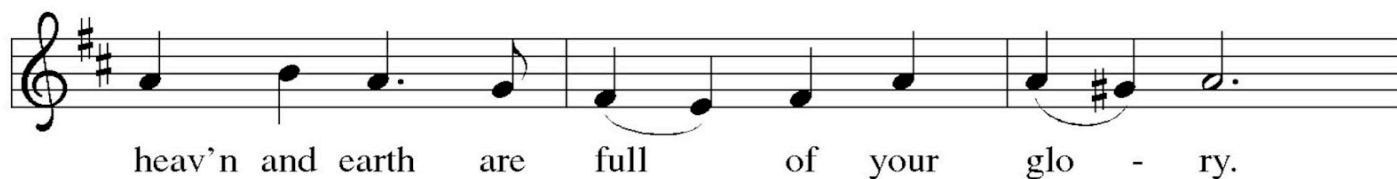
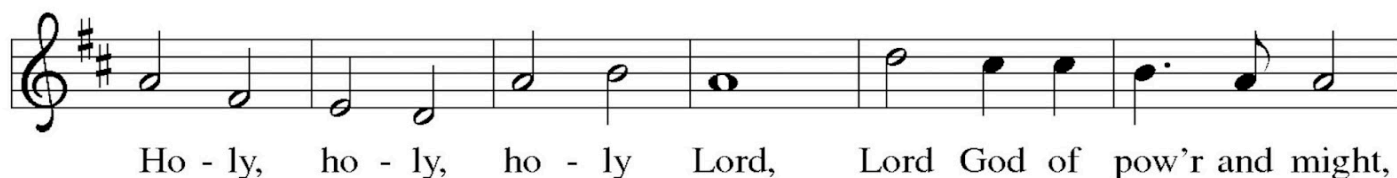
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION****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.**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**



## COMMUNION AND HYMNS

### AGNUS DEI

ELW pg. 154

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.*

### *In the Cross of Christ I Glory\**

ELW #324

In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.

All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

### *The Kingdom of God*

from the Taize community

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and joy in the Ho - ly  
Spir - it. Come, Lord, and o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom. The

### *Lord, Listen to your Children Praying\**

ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.



- **Order your Easter Altar flowers!** - See inserted order form. Instead of mums your worship team will be offering a variety of spring flowers to adorn the altar. The cost of the flowers is \$15.00. Please return the form with your \$ to the office or drop in the collection plate by April 13th. *Extra order forms are in the Narthex.*
- **Kids' Place** - Sundays, 10:50am
- **Adult Forum Schedule** - Sundays @ 11am, Our Adult Forum in Lent will focus on scriptural, traditional, and experiential approaches to prayer and service. How do our lives communicate with God, the Divine? How do we hear from God? What do we say?  
*Today we'll focus on the Graciousness of the Parable of the Prodigal son. We'll wonder together: what kind of thankfulness does a Gift of Grace stir up in us. How are we transformed into GIVERS through the Gift of God's grace? Come and join us!*
- **Remember our members and friends** going through intentional **Spiritual Faith Formation – the Way – during this Lenten season.** Pray for and support Wes, Matthew, Annette, and Sophia. God bless our journey in faith!
- **Shared Harvest Volunteer Needed!** - Please see the Outreach Chair, Judi Hein
- **LOST & FOUND-** A silver ring was found Sun, Mar 16th, on the communion rail. Please come to the office after worship to claim it.

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### **-Shared Harvest in April-**

For April we need **28 boxes of Cold Cereal, 42 cans of Canned Fruit, 42 cans of Chicken Noodle Soup, 42 cans of Tuna,** and **shampoo** in unlimited quantities.  
Packing is April 17th, 1pm @ Good Shepherd, Reno.

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### **Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses**

If it were just anyone telling us this story of the good and kindly father, we could only laugh. We could only say, "How do you know there is a God who seeks me, who takes interest in my lostness, who, indeed, suffers because of me?" But this is not just "anybody." This is Jesus himself who is speaking. And he is not merely telling us about this father: the Father is in him. Does he not seek out the lost? Is he not the very voice of the Father's heart that overtakes us in the far country and tells us that incredibly joyful news, "You can come home. Come home!" The ultimate theme of this story is not the prodigal son, but the Father who finds us. The ultimate theme is not faithlessness of human beings, but the faithfulness of God.

—Helmut Thielicke

[in 20 Centuries of Great Preaching, ed. Clyde E. Fant, Jr., and William M. Pinson, Jr. (Waco, TX: Word, 1971), XII, pp. 267-69.]

## WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

	<b>Apr 2025</b>			
<b>Task</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	Judy C	Richard S	Welmerinks	Linda Z
<b>Acolyte</b>	Pesis'	O'Reillys	Welmerinks	O'Reillys
<b>Reader</b>	Pam S	-----	Wes G	Jean C
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Louis L	Judi H	Erica W	Todd M
<b>Cantor</b>	Louis L	Choir	Sam W	Todd M
<b>Usher</b>	Matthew R & Dorothy B	Tom L & Annette W	Zach W & Dorothy B	Tom L & Lukas B
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Eileen W & Betty T	Betty T & Annette W	Sharon S & Friends	Betty T & Annette W
<b>Tech Support</b>	The FLC Tech Team!			
<b>Piano/Organ</b>	Heinz Denoyo			
<b>Accompanying Musician</b>	Olivia Knock, Cellist			
<b>Counters</b>	Theresa W & Linda Z	Sigrun C & Davyann S	Stan P & Davyann S	Mary W & Linda Z
<b>Coffee after Worship</b>	?	Jim & Cindy T	Easter Breakfast	?

*Thank you for your hearts of service!*

Come to Worship. Go to Serve. Embrace the Community.  
[www.faithlutheranreno.org](http://www.faithlutheranreno.org)