



February 28, 2021

***2nd Sunday in Lent
Tree of Life***

***We welcome you with
open arms and open
hearts!***

Faith Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered, Bible-reading, welcoming spiritual home for seekers, believers, and everybody between. We're a family of God "because God first loved us." (1 John 4:19) Because you're here, you're part of the family—welcome.

If you are new to Faith, we would like to be in touch with you. Please share your contact information with the church office, 406-363-2964, or office@faithlutheranhamilton.org.

Welcome to Faith and thank you for worshipping with us!

God Gathers the Body of Christ

Prelude

Amber Richardson, Accompanist

Call to Worship

Deidra Markette

Welcome

AM: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

AM: Any prayer requests? Please notify the church office to submit names of those you wish to be included in the prayers.

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Tree of Life

PM: Returning again to the waters of our baptism,
We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination

PM: Gracious and merciful God,

All: 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, or 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 justice and joy of your promised future.**

PM: 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.

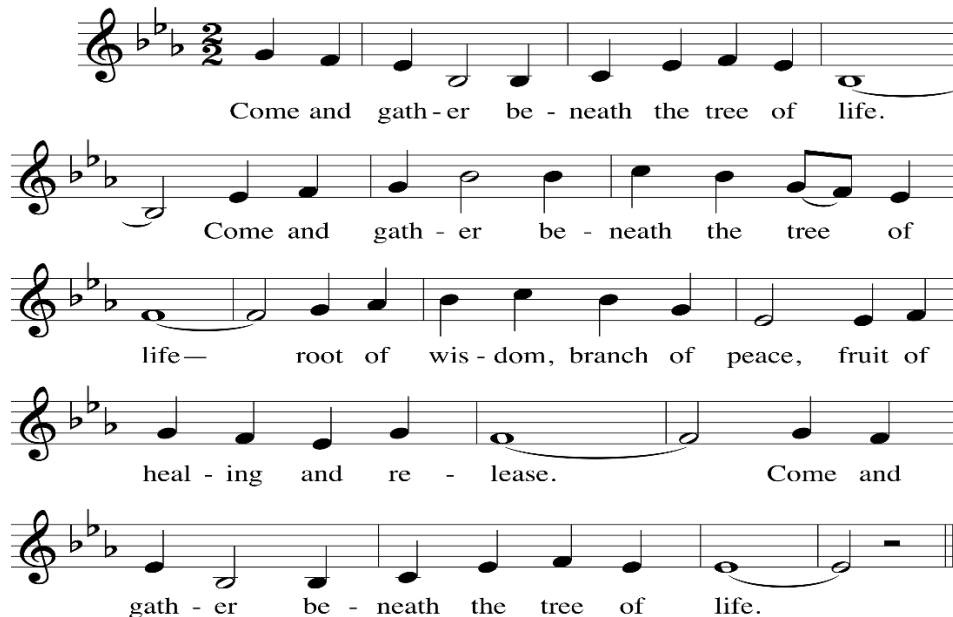
For freedom Christ has set you free.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gathering "Beneath the Tree of Life"

Tree of Life

Refrain



Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of life.
Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of
life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of
heal - ing and re - lease. Come and
gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

Verses



1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of
2. Flow - ing from this tree of grace and
3. Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -
4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your
5. Root - ed in the rich earth of your



Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who
pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how
va - tion, come and die to sin, rise
mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -
Gos - pel, may we bear the fruits your



leads us on from death in - to new life.
deep and rich the well - spring of your love.
up to life with - in the Reign of God.
mem - ber how your love has set us free.
Word has plant - ed deep with - in our hearts.

To Refrain

Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

Kyrie (extended ending)

Tree of Life

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all. **A** 1. For the
A 2. For your

reign of God, and for peace through - out the
peo - ple here who have come to give you

world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
thanks, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the

Lord:
Lord: **C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, and de -

Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.

fend us, O God: **C** A - men.

Text: Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Marty Haugen; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Sing Refrain from "Beneath the Tree of Life" page 3

Prayer of the Day

AM: The Lord be with you...

All: And also with you.

AM: Let us pray,

All: 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.

God Speaks to Us in the Word

First Reading (*Spark Bible page: 34*) Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Lector: A reading from the 17th chapter of Genesis:

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring

after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Psalm 22:23-31 *(lector: give directions for psalm responses)*

²³You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory. Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

**²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

**³⁰Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

Lector: A reading from the 4th chapter of Romans:

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

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: Word of God, word of life...

All: Thanks be to God.

Kids' Talk

Pastor Paul Anderson

Gospel Acclamation

ELW page 189

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

The Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

PM: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, chapter 8:

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

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.”

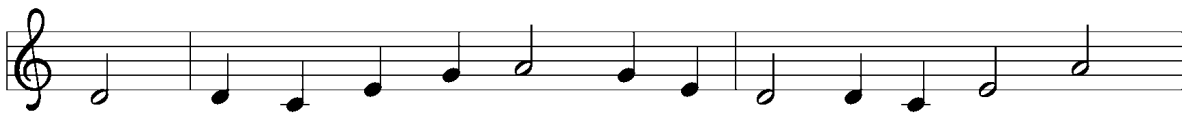
PM: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Pastor Paul Anderson

Sermon Song “What Wonderful Love Is This” ELW #666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
 Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

The Apostles' Creed (*AM leads*)

ELW p. 105

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by 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.

Installation of Council

Dean Drake, Jacque VanDenburg, Sandy Russ, Jane Mason, John Marten, Rick Brown, and Susan Peterson

Prayers of Intercession

ELW #752

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

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord send your spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith.

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

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being.

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

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine.

(Here specific places of need may be named.)

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

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression *(especially)*.

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

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. *(The congregation's ministries and community services may be named.)*

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you.

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

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

Amen.

Pass the Peace

PM: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Take a moment to pass the peace with those around you, and send a message of peace to those listening and watching with you.

Offering:

Tree of Life/ELW #491(music)

“Come, Let Us Bring”

Come, let us bring the warm and fragrant bread. (2x)

Broken here so all God’s people might be fed. (2x)

Come, let us bring the sweet abundant wine. (2x)

In this cup we taste the joy of love divine. (2x)

Praise be to you who set all people free. (2x)

Blest are they who share the feast of jubilee. (2x)

The Offering Prayer

AM: Let us pray. Faithful God,

All: you walk beside us in desert places, and you met 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.

Jesus Comes to Us in His Supper

Dear members and friends of Faith: as you trust the God you see in Jesus, please be welcome to share his meal. Christ offers here and now his body and blood, his death and resurrection, as a demonstration that God “loves you to death” and is present to, in, and through you now and forever.

Communion will be served in individual portions.

Words of Institution

WOV page 37

PM: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection,
and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by this Holy Communion we may know
the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

All: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 & Luke 11:2-4

PM: Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray...

**All: 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 Communion

PM: Jesus draws the whole world to himself.
Come to this meal and be fed.

Distribution

Table Blessing

PM: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Post Communion Prayer

AM: Let us pray,

**All: 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.**

Benediction

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

All: Amen.

Announcements for the congregation

Sending Song

ELW#608

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

God Sends Us into the World

Dismissal

AM: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

*Text for the Brief Order of Confession, Marty Haugen, Tree of Life Setting, GIA Publications, Inc.
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Pray for our Members and Friends...

Please call or email us with your prayer requests

Prayers for safety and healing: Eunice Romo, Madilyn Farrenburg, Morry Mitteness, Millie and Erv Unruh, Bonnie Montgomery, Linda Bentz, Amber Wood, Amber Lynch.

Discovery: Clara Felton

The Beehive: Morry Mitteness, Yvonne Olson

Valley View: Ruth Dillon

Remington: Betty Swift, Chuck Olson

Home Nursing Care: Virginia Rotering, Smitty

Incarcerated: George Davis

Please let us know if you are having surgery or know of someone who is, or if you or someone you love is in the hospital. we are here to help support in any way we can, especially with prayers.

***This prayer list will be refreshed monthly.
Please feel free to resubmit.***

Thanks to our Worship Assistants!

Today	February 28	March 7
Accompanist	Amber Richardson	Colleen Southwick
Usher	Sandy Russ	Jane Mason
Lector	Sandy Russ	John Trangmoe
Assist. Min.	Carl Russ	Scott Southwick
Video		
Projection	Scott Southwick	