



# March 22, 2020

*4th Sunday in Lent  
Tree of Life*

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

Faith Lutheran Church is a family of God built on love: Worshiping, welcoming, growing and serving in Christ's name.

Young children are welcome in the service. Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the lobby.

**If you are new to Faith, please complete a response card** (can be found in the pew) and drop it in the offering plate or hand it to the ushers.

We would like to be in touch with you.

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship: "ELW" refers to the Red Hymnal.**

**Page numbers at the bottom of the page, hymn numbers at the top of the page.**

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## God Gathers The Body Of Christ

**Prelude**

Amber Richardson, Accompanist

**Call to Worship**

**Welcome**

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

**All: And also with you.**

AM: *To be safe, and not spread sickness we are postponing the sharing of the peace until further notice. Any Prayer requests?*

**Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

Tree of Life page 2

PM: Returning again to the waters of our baptism,

We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son



## Prayer of the Day

AM: The Lord be with you...      **All: And also with you.**

Let us pray,

**All: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## God Speaks To Us In The Word

### Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Lector:** A reading from the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of First Samuel:

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

**<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

**Lector:** A reading from the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ephesians:

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

L: Holy wisdom, holy word...

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Kids’ Talk

Pastor Paul Anderson

**Gospel Acclamation** “Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us O Lord”

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

John 9:1-41

*Spark Bible page 432*

PM: The Holy Gospel according to John chapter 9:

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

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid

of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

PM: This is the Gospel of the Lord.      **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

Pastor Paul Anderson

**Sermon Song**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW #768

**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.**

*(AM: Please be seated for the prayers.)*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties due to the spread of the coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power (*like Jonathan Edwards, whom we commemorate today*). Raise up voices in your church that are often

silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day (*especially*). Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints (*especially*). Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Offering:**

“Come Let Us Bring”

Page 13

**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 grace 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**

Page 13

AM: Let us pray, Merciful God.

**All: Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you.**  
**We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us.**  
**May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you,**  
**Dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation**  
**Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **The Distribution**

*Jesus Christ is the host of this meal, and he invites you to share a meal with him—an act of friendship, hospitality, and a glimpse of the feast that is to come. The Risen Christ is truly here in the bread and wine, so come, eat, and trust that his promise of forgiveness and everlasting life is for you!*

*Grape juice is light colored; wine is red. Wafers are nut, dairy and gluten free.*

### **Lord's Prayer**

Page 17

#### **Distribution**

“Lamb of God”

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.**

**Bread of Life, you give yourself food for the world:**

**Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.**

**Cup of life, poured out as God's compassion and love:**

**Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.**

**Prince of Peace, you heal the wounds of hatred and strife:**

**Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:**

**Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.**

“Here is Bread”

ELW # 483

## Table Blessing

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

## Post Communion Prayer (PM)

Page 19

PM: Let us pray,

**All: Life-giving God, You have fed us with heaven’s perfect food,  
the very presence of Christ Jesus.**

**Send us now to be what we have received,  
that all creation might know your love  
And sing your praise now and always.**

**Amen.**

## Benediction (PM)

*(Please come forward with any announcements)*

**Sending Song**      Go My Children With My Blessing”

ELW #543

## God Sends Us Into The World

### Dismissal

AM: Go in peace and serve the Lord.    **C: Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

**Coffee & Goodies** are provided so we can enjoy conversation and a bite after worship. If you would like to host and/or donate for this, please sign-up on the sheet on the fridge in the kitchen.

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- ***Pray for At-Home Members and Friends...***

- **Prayers for:** Gail Lewis, Larkin, Judy & Peter, Christie, Ed, Linda, Sulley, Dan Bailey, Nate Anderson, John, Leta and Ray, Timothy Hawes, Karl, Shirley Hanson, Dale Hughey, Peggy Lewis, Irene Stengrimson, Victoria Moore, LaVonne Beers, Peter S.

- **The Beehive:** Morry Mitteness, Yvonne Olson

- **Valley View:** Ruth Dillon

- **Remington:** Betty Swift, Chuck Olson

**Discovery Care:**

- **Home Nursing Care:** Virginia Rotering, Smitty

- **Incarcerated:** Jacob Bachman, George Davis