



WELCOMES YOU

**March 19, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**520 E. Highway 50**  
**O'Fallon, IL 62269**  
**618-632-5562**

*Christ Centered + Mission Driven + Life Transforming*

## Worship Notes

### What? Or Why?

What do we believe? Our Lutheran heritage is rooted in theological debate, and such conversations have always been a part of our tradition. Disagreements about theological propositions and biblical interpretations have led to split after split among Lutheran church bodies and congregations. At the same time, our theological and biblical commitments have led us to seek the unity of the church with mergers among Lutheran denominations and with common communion agreements with our ecumenical neighbors. In our broader culture it also seems that theology often leads the way in conversations about faith. Theological principles from various religious communities are used to argue for or against laws, corporate practices, and cultural expectations.

In today's gospel story we find something different leading the way: the blind man's experience of the healing power of Jesus. This experience is at odds with the theological thought of the religious leaders. The narrative reads like a trial, one in which the primary witness is hostile to the line of questioning from the prosecution. The conversations the leaders have with the man and his parents are a mess of misunderstanding that leads to insult and accusation. They are talking about theology; he and his parents are talking about experience. No one is there to translate between the two.

Why do you believe? Our understandings of God are certainly shaped by the communities of which we have been a part and theologies we have learned. Yet, God's grace is not something we logic our way through; it is something we experience. The early church debated all sorts of theological positions, but their witness was grounded in their experience of death and resurrection. *What* we believe is important, but as we step into each day as witnesses of God's love for the world, *why* we believe may be the most hope-filled message we have to share.

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**Hearing Assistant Receivers** are available for use during Sunday worship for individuals with special hearing requirements. These easy-to-use devices provide additional volume from the church sound system. Please contact an usher for use during the service.

**Children's Quiet Packs and Clipboards** are located in special bags hanging on the poles in the Narthex. Please encourage your child to put all the materials back in the "Quiet Pack" and return them to the Narthex.

## 9:00am Traditional Worship

ELW Setting 3

### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: Sr. Bells

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

### Confession & Forgiveness

*please stand*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

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

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Song

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

#779

### Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

*please be seated*

**Children's Choir**

"Joshua Fit the Battle"

Greg Gilpin, arr.  
Rosalind Stevens, piano

*Please sign the Friendship Pad as it is passed and return it to the center aisle*

**First Reading**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 5:8-14

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: Please stand for the Gospel Reading.

**Gospel Acclamation**

"Return to the Lord, your God..."

pg. 142

**Holy Gospel**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

John 9:1-41

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*please be seated*

**Sermon**

Pastor Candice Wassell

*please stand*

**Hymn of the Day**

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

#818

*please be seated*

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

Leanna Elaine Gramm

*please stand*

## Prayers of Intercession

*You are invited to lift up your prayer concerns during the silences following illness, grief, celebrations...*

L: Merciful God,  
C: receive our prayer.

## Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
C: And also with you.

*please be seated*

Offertory: Faith Singers      "And It Was Night"      by Joseph M. Martin

*the communion table is set  
please stand*

## Offering Prayer

P: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. We give you thanks for the offerings we receive throughout the week and in our worship. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving (spoken)      pg. 144

Holy, Holy, Holy (spoken)      pg. 144

## Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer      pg. 145

*please be seated*

Communion Hymns      "Lamb of God..."      pg. 146

*music for meditation*

*please stand*

### **Table Blessing**

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

C: **Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

P: Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

#537

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

*Please feel free to remain in the Sanctuary and enjoy the postlude music!*

## 10:30am Traditional Worship

ELW Setting 3

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude: Children's Chimes**      "Jesus Loves Me"      by Anna Bartlett Warner

### Confession & Forgiveness

*please stand*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

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

P: Most merciful God,

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**Gathering Song**      "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

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## Prayer of the Day

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C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **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.**

*please be seated*

## Praise Anthem

“In Jesus Name”

## Children’s Sermon

Pastor Candice Wassell

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C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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## Sermon

Pastor Candice Wassell





*please stand*

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**SERVING THIS WEEK – MARCH 19, 2023**

MINISTRY	9:00AM WORSHIP	10:30AM WORSHIP
Presiding Minister	Pastor Candice Wassell	Pastor Candice Wassell
Organist	Wayland Schue	Wayland Schue
Interim Praise/ Bells Leader	Rosalind Stevens	Rosalind Stevens
Interim Choir Director	Heidi Buch	Heidi Buch
Acolyte	Oliver Cooper	Ruby Taylor
Readers	Susan Carlson	Pam Lindsey
Ushers	Chris & Dawn Cooper	Andy & Stacie Dichsen
Communion Assistants	John Hellrung Penny Cooper Susan Carlson	Kent Beck Chrissy Malare Denise Dauphin
Altar Guild	Cindy Cooper	Janet Hernandez
Counters	Roy & Susan Carlson, Mary Von Kauffman	
Multimedia Team Videography	Maureen & Mark Sauer Dick Schmidt	Maureen & Mark Sauer

**SERVING NEXT WEEK –MARCH 26, 2023**

MINISTRY	9:00AM WORSHIP	10:30AM WORSHIP
Presiding Minister	Pastor Candice Wassell	Pastor Candice Wassell
Preacher	Rev. Richard Wehrs	Rev. Richard Wehrs
Organist	Wayland Schue	Wayland Schue
Interim Praise/ Bells Leader	Rosalind Stevens	Rosalind Stevens
Interim Choir Director	Heidi Buch	Heidi Buch
Acolyte	Addison Williams	Eli Flor
Readers	David Layfield	Doreen Klages
Ushers	Jim Burton	Ken Reinert
Counters	Jan Mikkelson, Jane Wieland	
Multimedia Team Videography	Maureen & Mark Sauer Glenn Gray	Maureen & Mark Sauer

The **FLOWERS** on the altar are given today by the Ryan family in dedication to Briella's baptismal anniversary.

**\*NOTE: There are no flowers on the altar during Lent. Donations pay for palms.**

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** burns to remind us of God's eternal presence, and is given in March to the Glory of God.

### **FAITH LUTHERAN STAFF**

Rev. Candice Wassell, <i>Senior Pastor</i>	pastorcandice@faith-online.org	618-972-3475
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Kristin Flor, <i>PYC Director</i>	pyc@faithpyc.com	618-632-3618
<i>Baby TALK Director</i>	pyc@faithpyc.com	618-632-5019

### **CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Jeannie VanderKruik	jgvande@att.net	618-593-3725
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**We're glad you are here today! Let us help you get connected:**

**To notify the church of life events (births, hospitalizations, deaths):** Contact Nicky Casberg in the office (632-5562, faith@faith-online.org).

**For prayer support:** Contact Doreen Klages (632-0448, rdklages@att.net).

**To update your family's information in our records:** Contact Nicky Casberg in the office (632-5562, faith@faith-online.org).

**FOLLOW US: Website:** [www.faith-online.org](http://www.faith-online.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranOFallon](http://www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranOFallon) **Instagram:** [faithofallon](https://www.instagram.com/faithofallon)

