



**FAITH** Lutheran Church

*a heart from God, a heart for others, a place for you*

## The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives

Ash Wednesday Service  
March 5, 2025; 5 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church, LC-MS  
935 S. Crystal Glen Dr  
Lecanto, FL 34461  
Organist: Sharron Royalty

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## AS WE GATHER

The Christmas trees we decorated with careful hands just a few months ago have come and gone. The account of our salvation in Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, has progressed from the manger through the Epiphany light of our Lord's proclamation of "liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18; see Isaiah 61:1). The palm fronds we held and waved with our hands with cheers and hosannas a year ago have since withered and turned to the ashes we bless this night in hope. Lent returns, reminding us that the Christian life is one of repeated, daily repentance and faith because, though our deliverance is made sure, we walk by faith in the "not yet" of complete holiness and final release from sin. Repentance means we come this night with empty hands, that is, the confession of our total need of God's mercy, grace, and deliverance. We come to the God who has revealed Himself in love in the forgiveness of our sin by means of His own bloody, substitutionary sacrifice in our own human flesh for us and for our salvation. With the pastor's hands the ashes of our failings and sin are placed over the sign we received at our Baptism, and we are welcomed to repentance and faith freely given by the hand of the Lord.

## + PREPARATION +

### **ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS**

*P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.*

*Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.*

## OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 90

P: *Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.*

**C: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

P: *You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.*

**C: For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**

P: *For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?*

**C: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

P: *Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on Your servants!*

**C: Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

P: *Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.*

**C: Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children.**

*P: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!*

*Silence for reflection*

*P: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

### **HYMN**

*"Savior, When in Dust to Thee" (LSB 419)*

### **INVOCATION**

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

**C: Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Joel 2:13*

*P: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,*

**C: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

*P: Let us rend our hearts, confessing our sins to God, our Father.*

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by our own hands, 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. He has opened His hands in the free blessings of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

+ WORD +

## **SALUTATION**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*P: Let us pray. Dear heavenly Father, we are reminded of our dependence upon You as the giver of life and salvation through Christ's cross and resurrection. Keep us ever mindful that You have filled our empty hands with Your blessing. Guard us from seeking the earthly reward of human praise only to the neglect of the reward that You give us by Your grace; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Joel 2:12–19*

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster. Who knows whether He will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him, a

grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and make not Your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. The LORD answered and said to His people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

L: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **CHANCEL CHOIR**

"Dust I Am"

## **EPISTLE**

*2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

We implore 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.

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet

well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (LSB 733:5b)

Thy word commands our flesh to dust:

“Return, ye sons of men!”

All nations rose from earth at first

And turn to earth again.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

P: *The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.*

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

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you...

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you,

they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

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

## **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I**



acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**SERIES HYMN**

“The Word That Spoke in Darkness” (*back page*)

**SERMON** The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.*

*For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who enter this holy season of Lent in true repentance and faith—that God guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh; cleanse our hearts; and renew a right spirit within us—let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*P: For all who do not know the gracious invitation of God through His Son to return to Him—that many may hear and be drawn to the Lord’s merciful and saving hands—let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*P: For those who have wandered from the faith—that the Holy Spirit restore them to the only hope of salvation—let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*P: For the government and those placed in positions of authority—that they perform their duties with honor for the good of all people—let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: *For all who suffer from sickness, injury, or any need—that the Lord’s healing hand rest upon them, giving them strength to bear their infirmities with patience—let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: *Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**C: Amen.**

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

+ SACRAMENT +

## PREFACE

P: *The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

P: *Lift up your hearts.*

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

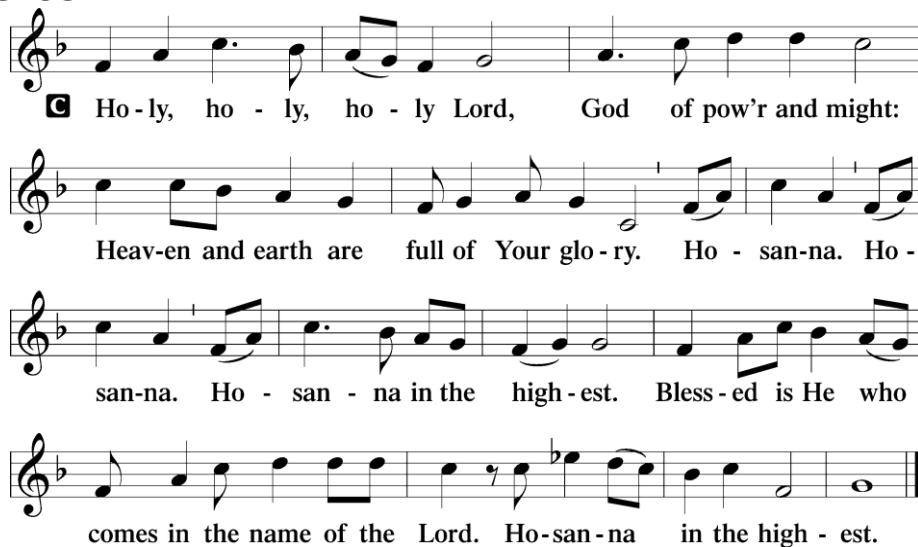
P: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

P: *It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, into whose hands You gave the awesome task of perfectly fulfilling Your holy Law, and yet offering Himself as the one and only sacrifice sufficient to redeem mankind. Into Your hands He commended His life so that from His hands we might receive eternal life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:*

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to 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.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup*

*is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

## PAX DOMINI

LSB, p. 163

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C: Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

LSB, p. 163

**G** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee" (LSB 607)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

*P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.*

**C: Amen.**

## HYMN

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” (LSB 722)

| Lenten Midweek Series                                | Sundays in Lent                                       |
|--|---|
| <b><u>The Hand of the Lord Who...</u></b>            | <b><u>THE HEART OF THE SAVIOR</u></b>                 |
| March 5 <sup>th</sup> – April 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 | March 9 <sup>th</sup> – April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 |
| March 5 <sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday                | March 9 <sup>th</sup> Resists Temptation              |
| March 12 <sup>th</sup> Freely Gives                  | March 16 <sup>th</sup> Would Gather His Children      |
| March 19 <sup>th</sup> Creates & Saves               | March 23 <sup>rd</sup> Warns His Flock                |
| March 26 <sup>th</sup> Casts Out Demons              | March 30 <sup>th</sup> Is Filled with Compassion      |
| April 2 <sup>nd</sup> Heals the Sick                 | April 6 <sup>th</sup> Calls Out to His People         |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup> Raises the Dead                | April 13 <sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday                  |
|  | Fulfills the Father's Purpose                         |

| Holy Week Worship  |   |
|--|---|
| <b><u>The Hand of the Lord Who...</u></b>  |   |
| April 13 <sup>th</sup> – April 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2025   |   |
| April 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday Weekend – Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 9:30am | The Heart of the Savior Fulfills the Father's Purpose |
| April 17 <sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday – 5:00pm  | The Hand of the Lord Who Serves and Feeds Us          |
| April 18 <sup>th</sup> – Good Friday – 5:00pm  | The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us           |
| April 19 <sup>th</sup> – Easter Vigil – 5:00pm   | The Hand of the Lord Who Made Us                      |
| April 20 <sup>th</sup> – Sunrise Service – 7:00am  | The Hand of the Lord Who is Risen                     |
| April 20 <sup>th</sup> – Celebration Service – 9:30am  | The Hand of the Lord Who Holds Us Always              |



# Welcome Home Children

We are so happy you are with us today at church. And we want you to feel at home here at Faith. If you need anything, tell your mom or dad, or grandma or grandpa, or whoever you came with, and they can let us know and we can help.

- ❖ Please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that little ones wiggle and squeak sometimes, and it is a joy to His ears, and ours as well.
- ❖ Encourage your parents to help you sit up front by the altar area. That way you'll be better able to see all the stuff that is going on. Most of the action happens up front.
- ❖ Be sure to grab an activity bag from the kid's room in the back of the church. (It's that place with the window that looks into the church.)
- ❖ Be sure to sing along with your parents and the people around you. Jesus loves it when we make joyful noises to Him.
- ❖ When we pray, a lot of times we fold our hands and bow our heads so we can listen better to the prayers. Don't you love it when we pray together?
- ❖ Jesus teaches us a special prayer called the "Our Father", or the "Lord's Prayer". When we pray this one, it's a good time to hold our parent's hand because this is a prayer we pray together.

Please know that while you are caring for your parents, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words, ***"Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*** (Luke 18:16) You are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all.

# THE WORD THAT SPOKE IN DARKNESS KING'S LYNN

Lisa M. Clark

English

Coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958



1 The Word that spoke in dark - ness And prom - ised com - ing  
2 The Sav - ior came to con - quer And meet His mis - sion's  
3 The Christ pro - claimed His vic - t'ry With ev - 'ry act of  
4 The Prince of Peace con - tin - ued With each new task com -



light Kept guid - ing through the a - ges Un - til the time was  
aim: Up - end - ing Sa - tan's ter - ror, Cre - a - tion to re -  
grace: The out - cast shown com - pas - sion And God's own ho - ly  
plete At cross and tomb and glo - ry Up - on His roy - al



right To take on flesh and fol - low The Fa - ther's good com -  
claim By walk - ing on the wa - ters So we by faith may  
face As Je - sus looked with fa - vor On all from ev - 'ry  
seat, De - liv - er - ance ac - com - plished Ex - act - ly as He



mand And dwell a - mong His peo - ple, The king - dom now at hand.  
stand With trust in Him whose res - cue Is of - fered by His hand.  
land Who need - ed life and heal - ing From His al - might - y hand.  
planned; Our King will raise in wel - come His pierced and ris - en hand.

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