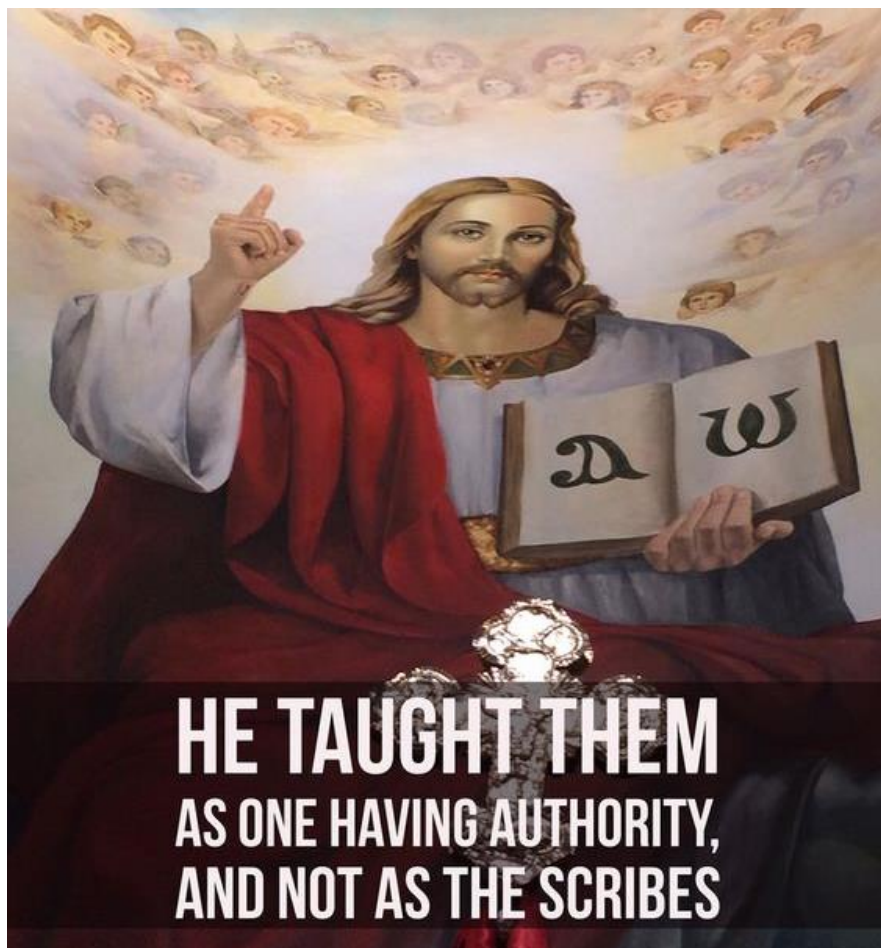


---

Sunday, January 28, 2024

4th Sunday after Epiphany

---



# WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

## GATHERING

### Prelude

*(PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE)*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. C Amen!

### HYMN

*O Day of Rest and Gladness*

*ELW 521*



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,  
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;  
3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;  
4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:  
on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;  
to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,  
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,  
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;  
where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams  
We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.  
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three - fold light was giv'n.  
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.  
the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Together we pray,

C **God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

P Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *ARISE, YOUR LIGHT HAS COME!*

*ELW 314*



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.

**THE GREETING**

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

C **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

---

P Together we pray,

**C Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

---

### FIRST READING

*Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

L The word of God.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

*1 Corinthians 8:1-13*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L The word of God. C Thanks be to God.

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

**ACCLAMATION**

**s142a**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:21-28*

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

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and

they obey him.”<sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

L The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Armen

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

**HYMN**

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

*ELW 614*

*Refrain*



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged and think my work's in vain,

2 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,

3 Don't ev-er be dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend;

*Refrain*



but then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.

you can tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all."

and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re-fuse to lend.

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

A Together we confess our faith,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

---

**A** As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*each petition concludes...*

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

**P** Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE (SPOKEN GREETING)**

---

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

**C** **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

---

*In thanksgiving for God's blessing, we respond with our tithe and offering*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
 praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## OFFERING PRAYER

---

- A Together we pray,  
 C **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

## THE MEAL

---

- 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 our thanks and praise.**
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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. 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

---

A Together we 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.**

## DISTRIBUTION

---

As we celebrate the meal of our Lord, all are invited. If you are a guest and regularly commune at your church, you are welcome to commune here. For children who are not communing, please keep your hands folded and you will receive a blessing. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available at communion. Grape juice is in the inner section of communion tray, wine in the two outer rings. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please notify the server. If you are unable to come to the altar rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please notify an usher.

*after all have communed*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

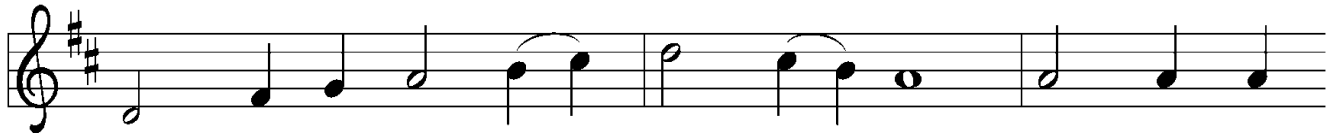
C **Amen.**

A Together we pray,

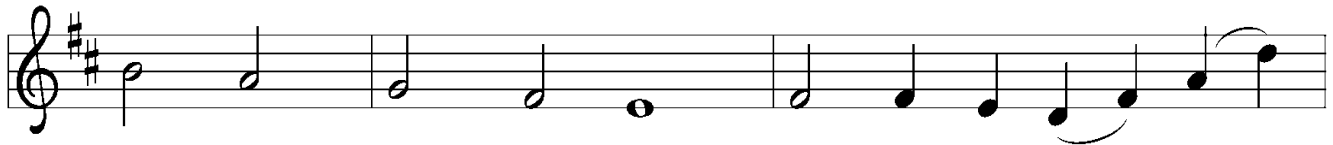
C **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 thron - g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

## DISMISSAL

**P** Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news!

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

***Faith's Weekly Announcements***  
*Welcome to all of you attending this morning!*

**This Morning**

- ~ The Annual Meeting will be held between services this morning (9:30).
- ~ Neither Sunday School nor choir will meet this morning.

**You Are Invited**

A new Bible study, based on the gospel of Mark, begins this Wednesday, 3:00 pm, in the doublewide. The group will continue to meet every other Wednesday. Just bring your Bible, no other book is necessary. If you are interested, drop by Wednesday and give it a try.

**Next Sunday**

Priscilla Fullerton, our former organist, will be presenting a concert, "Hymns and Classics," on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm here at Faith. There is no cost to attend, but a freewill offering will be taken at the conclusion.

**Can You Help?**

We would like to serve some refreshments at Priscilla's concert next week. If you can bring some, please let Ellen Lindhurst know, or call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313).

**Food Pantry**

This week the food bank especially needs boxed or powdered milk. All donations should be placed in the bin in the narthex.

**Attendance last Sunday: 59 (early) + 64 (late)**

## **WE PRAY FOR...**

Verna Newlon

Tom Jackling

Bruce Grosvenor

Lou Taylor

Jim Hardenstine

Anna Villareal

Shirley Rice

John Schleede

Nancy Smith

## **THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

<b>Every week day morning</b>	6:30 am	AA meets at church
<b>Monday</b>	9:30 am	Worship and Music
	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks
	5:00 pm	Girl Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	1:00 pm	Bible Study

### **Serving Today**

**Altar Guild:** Linda Jasper

#### **First Service:**

**Lector:** Jim Hughs

**Worship Assistant:** Cyndy Hoops

**Usher:** Art Hanson

#### **Second Service:**

**Lector/ Worship Assistant:** Jim Taylor

**Ushers:** Marcia Wilkins, Bobbie Neilson, Jim & Debby  
Porter

## **Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda**

551 Rotonda Boulevard West – Rotonda West, FL 33947

(941) 697-3313

---

---

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Pastor Brian Armen, Cell (814) 248-0133

Secretary: Barbra Davis

Organist: Candace Montesi      Custodian: Cyndy Hoops

---

---

**Secretary Office Hours: 9:00 Am – Noon (M-F)**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE: 10:00 – 1:00 (M-TH) AND BY APPOINTMENT**

*Our Guiding Principle: GOD'S GRACE WINS....*

*As we WORSHIP Jesus as our Lord and Savior*

*As we LOVE one another, welcoming everyone*

*As we SERVE, inspired by the Holy Spirit*

*As a deep FAITH is taught and caught*

*As we make WITNESS and MISSION our life*