

WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

GATHERING

Prelude

(PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE)

L We gather today in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
C Amen!

HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector,
our wellspring of life.

C Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Together we pray,

C Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

L God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children 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

L 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

L Together we pray,

C Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

L The word of God.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

L The Gospel of our Lord. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Jeff Kamm

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

HYMN

Christ, When For Us

ELW 304



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

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 With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

each petition concludes...

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

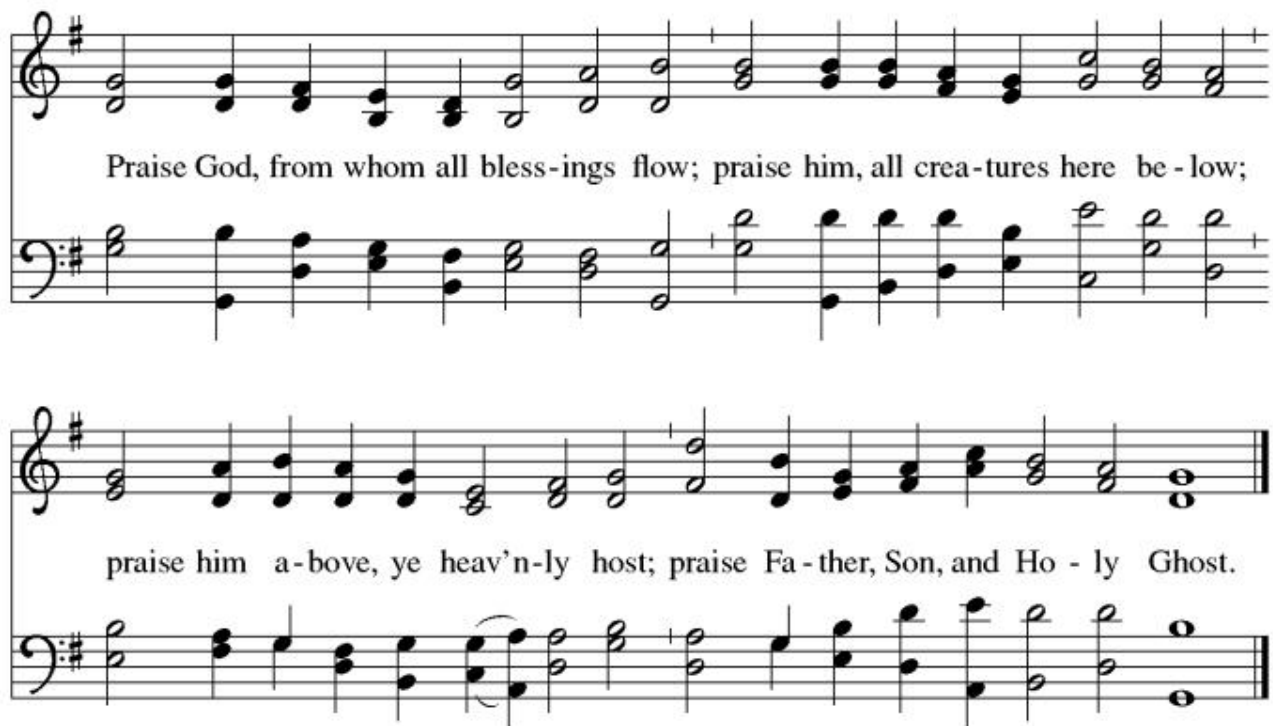
L We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **C Amen.**

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 884



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Together we pray,

C God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A Together we pray as Jesus taught,

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.

L 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.

HYMN

Go, My Children

ELW 543



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Live in hope.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Faith's Weekly Announcements

Welcome to all of you attending this morning!

Thank You

A big thank you to Priscilla Fullerton for substituting as organist this week and next while Candace is away. Priscilla was Faith's organist for 15 years.

Friendship Dinner January 16, 2025

Last day to sign up. Come to church at 6 pm Thursday. Please bring a hearty appetizer to share along with a drink of your choice (iced tea and water provided). Enjoy meeting more of your church family.

Want to Join the Family?

On January 19 we will be receiving new members. If you would like to be included, call Barbra in the church office ASAP (941-697-3313).

Reminder

The 2025 giving envelopes are available in the narthex. Please pick yours up today.

Ushers

The new usher list is available in the narthex. Please pick up your copy.

Food Pantry

This week the food bank especially needs spaghetti and sauce. All donations should be placed in the bin in the narthex.

Ladies Luncheon

New Year – New Restaurant – Later Date

The first Ladies Luncheon of 2025 will be held at 11:30 am on Wednesday, January 22nd, at Mariachi's Bar and Grill. It is located at 41 Chaillet Road #15, Cape Haze, FL 33947. This is on SR 771(Gasparilla Rd.) near the S. Gulf Cove addition. For those of you with long memories, it is in the same shopping plaza where the British Pub used to be located. If you need additional directions, call me. We will order off the menu with separate checks. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Come for the enjoyment of fellowship and laughter! Deadline to sign up is Sunday, January 19th. Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

Looking Ahead

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 26th at 9:30 am (between worship). The budget forum will be held next week (January 19th) at 9:30 am.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Every week day morning	6:30 am	AA meets at church
Monday	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
Tuesday	8:00 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks
Wednesday	3:00 pm	Bible Study
Thursday	6:00 pm	Friendship Table

WE PRAY FOR...

Sandy Cox

Deb Bush

Carolyn Furman

Zack Stearns

Kay Culver

Marcia and Gary Wilkins

John and Linda Schleede

Bob Ash

Chris Hoops

Ginny Linsberg

Lynette Cormier

Barbara Hanson

Sylvia and Al Armen

Larry Bennet

Jim Porter

Toni Newton

Byron Myrick

Attendance last Sunday: Early 46/ Late 49

Serving Today

Altar Guild: Joan Thoren

First Service

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Jeff Kamm & Debbie Porter

Ushers: Jim Hughs

Second Service

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Jeff Kamm & Debbie Porter

Ushers: John & Kay Culver, Jeff & Julie Petersen

Your Church Council

Jeff Kamm (President), Larry Bennett (Vice President), Sandy Cox (Secretary), Art Hanson (Treasurer), Jim Taylor, Jeff Petersen, Gene Newlon, Jay Fisher and Sue Baran

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-TUE) 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