



*Faith*  
Lutheran Church  
*of Rotonda West*  
Listening • Caring • Serving



O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it

# WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

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## GATHERING

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**Prelude**

*'Sonata' Largo* *Jeff Petersen, Saxophone*  
(PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE)

P We gather in the name of God; Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. C **Amen!**

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**HYMN**

*The God of Abr'ham*

*ELW 831*

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1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;  
3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—  
shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.



"I Am the One I Am"—by earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.  
And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.

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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Together we pray,

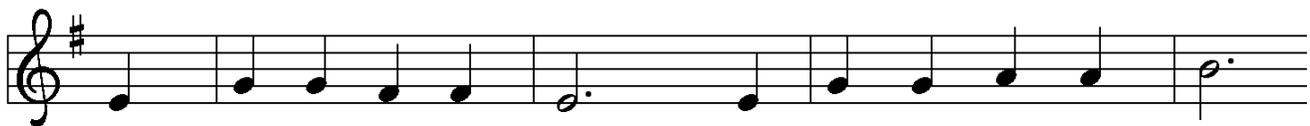
C **Holy One, we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us!**

**Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

- P** Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.
- C** **Amen.**

## **THE KYRIE**

*ELW s203*



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## **THE GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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.**

**P** Together we pray,

**C** **God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

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### FIRST READING

*Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup>But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup>He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

*Philippians 3:17-4:1*

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory

is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

**ACCLAMATION**

*ELW S205B*



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**GOSPEL**

*Luke 13:31-35*

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

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup>He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

Music Ministry

'Sonata' Courante

H. Eccles

Jeff Petersen, saxophone

SERMON

HOPE IN GOD

Pastor Armen

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

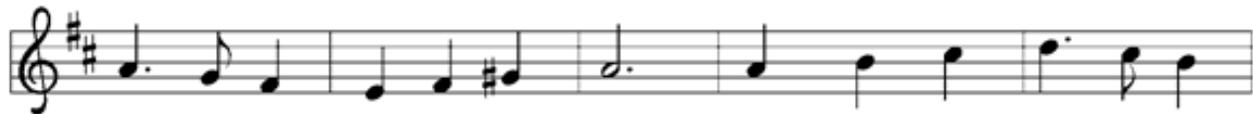
HYMN

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

ELW 733



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

**Reception of New Members**

Ivan Foerster, Douglas and Susan Schuemann, Ken and JoAnne Stephens, Allan and Joan Thoren\*, and Bill and Rosanne Buccine

P Dear friends, we rejoice to receive you, members of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church into our fellowship in the Gospel.

P Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Jesus Christ, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

**R I do.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C 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.**

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C 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.**

**P** You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:  
To live among God's faithful people,  
To hear his Word and share in his supper,  
To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed  
To serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

**P** People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their lives with us in Christ?

**C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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**L** Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*each petition concludes...*

**L** Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

**P** Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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*We refrain from sharing the peace during the season of Lent.*

## **OFFERING**

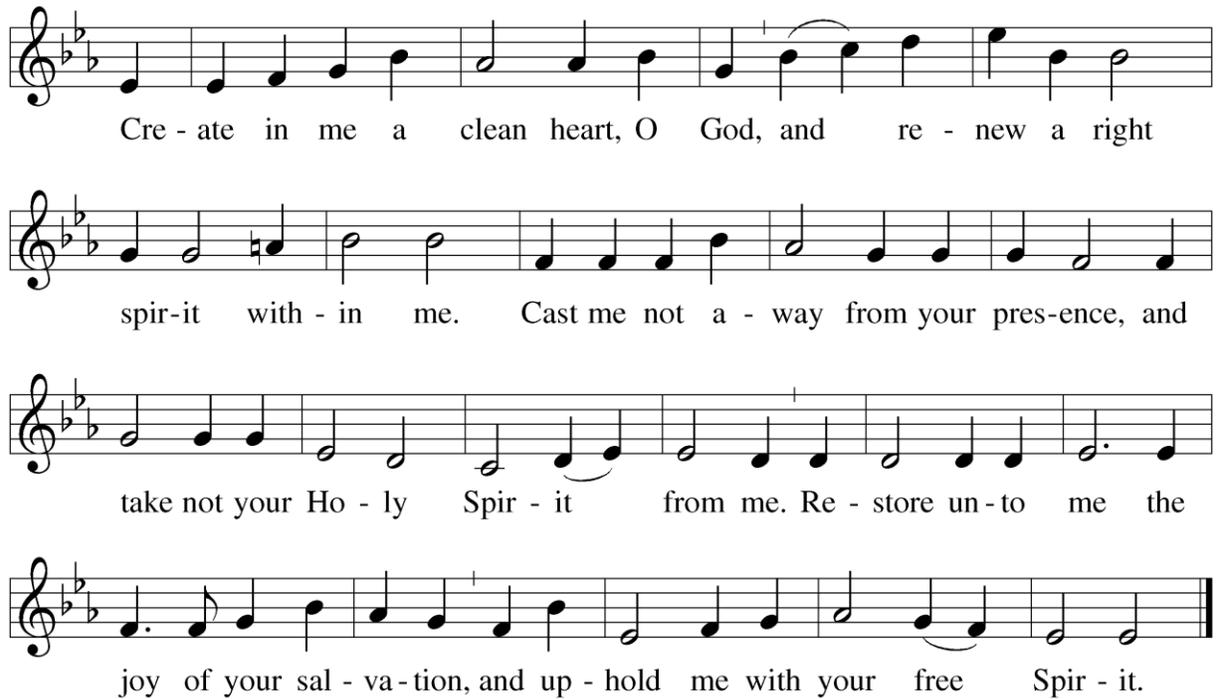
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*In thanksgiving for God's blessing, we respond with our tithe and offering*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

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*WOV 732*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and  
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER AND MEAL

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A Together we pray,

**C Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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.**

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:



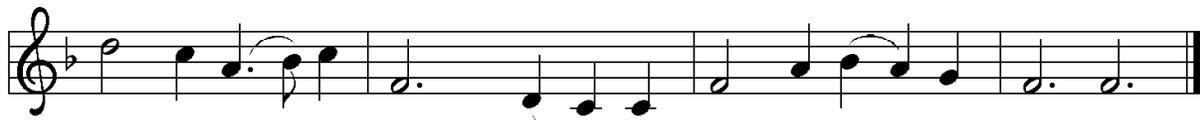
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin. *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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

P For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen. **C Amen.**

P Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen. **C Amen.**

P Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

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.**

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. If you need a gluten-free wafer, 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 Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.**

P You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, majestic and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always.

**C Amen.**



1 Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the  
 3 From ten - der child-hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Jesus meets and walks with you on the way.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

### ***Faith's Weekly Announcements***

*Welcome to all of you attending this morning!*

### **Altar Flowers**

This morning's flowers were given by Steve and Debby Wolfe in celebration of their anniversary.

### **Join Us Wednesday**

Please join us this week and every Wednesday in Lent for evening worship at 6:00.

## **Welcome to the Family**

Congratulations to new members Ivan Foerster, Douglas and Susan Schuemann, Ken and JoAnne Stephens, Allan and Joan Thoren, William and Roseanne Buccine.

## **Help Needed**

We need a few people to sign-up as ushers for the special services during Lent. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

*Attendance last Sunday: 124*

## **Ladies Luncheon**

The ladies of Faith will meet at Leverock's, which is south on Placida Road, on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30. We will order from the regular menu and have separate checks. Sign up in the narthex and include your phone number. Questions? Call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383)

## **Food Pantry**

This week the food bank especially needs laundry detergent. All donations should be placed in the bin in the narthex.

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

Gary Wilkins

Tom Jackling

Mark Burger

David Howe

Joanne Smith

Harold Schultz

Terry Schultz

Lou Taylor

Gerhard Sieber

Betty Mageav

Pastor Pat Large

## **Serving Today**

**Altar Guild:** Debra Easterday

### **First Service**

**Assistant:** Kathryn Gallagher

**Usher:** Mary Lou Fitzgerald

### **Second Service**

**Assistant:** Brian Lindhurst

**Ushers:** Gene & Verna  
Newlon

## THIS WEEK AT FAITH

<b>Every week day morning</b>	6:30 am	AA meets at church
<b>Monday</b>	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks
	11:00 am	Council
<b>Wednesday</b>	1:00 pm	OLT
	6:00 pm	Lenten worship

## Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda

551 Rotonda Boulevard West – Rotonda West, FL 33947  
(941) 697-3313

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Pastor Brian Armen, Cell (814) 248-0133

Secretary: Barbra Davis

Choir Director: Charlene Howe

Organist: Candace Montesi

Custodian: Cyndy Hoops

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**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*