



First Sunday  
in  
Lent

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG  
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

[www.faithlutheranmerrill.com](http://www.faithlutheranmerrill.com)

**First Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, March 9, 2025  
8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.**

**Luke 4:8 – “And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written ...’”** Isn't it interesting that Jesus does not defeat Satan with His power as God, but rather by His perfect obedience in His perfect humanity? Jesus defeats Satan not by miracles, but by quoting the Scriptures and living according to it. This should cause us great joy for two reasons. First, because we see Jesus win the victory for us. Second, because here Jesus shows us how to stand in that victory: on the Word of God alone. Let us build our lives on the sure rock of this Word!



**WELCOME VISITORS:** We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding. Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible Based Church family.

Please **TURN OFF ALL CELLPHONES** before service begins. Phones that are on may interfere with transmission of the service to social media and shutting down your phone can help solve network connectivity problems.

**PRINTED ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*Special Music – Ed Stiver, Jeremy Fromm*

**OPENING HYMN**

**“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”**

**LSB #435**

**INVOCATION**

**P** Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”  
*(Matthew 28:18-20)*

We begin our worship as we began our Christian life, through Holy Baptism, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** “God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” *(John 4:24)* And, “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. *(Proverbs 28:13)* Therefore, let us confess and renounce our sins with

a sincere heart and mind before the Lord, receiving His Almighty, Divine, and Eternal forgiveness.

*(A moment of silence  
for personal confession and reflection.)*

**P**

We confess:

**C**

**God forgive me, a sinner. Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. 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**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life. *(John 3:16)* “Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against him, and in whose spirit is no deceit. *(Based on Psalm 32:1, 2)* By this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto you, and by the command and in the stead of the Lord Jesus Christ, *(John 20:22-23; Matthew 16:19 NIV)* I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. “Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you. *(Matthew 9:2 KJV)* Now, go and live a life worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus, and produce fruit in keeping with real repentance. *(Ephesians 4:1)*

## RESPONSIVE HYMN

***“Lord I Lift Your Name on High” (sing twice)***

Lord I lift Your name on high  
Lord I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us  
You came from heaven to earth  
To show the way  
From the earth to the cross  
My debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave  
From the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift Your name on high

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## PSALM 91:1-13

**P** <sup>1</sup>He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.


**C** <sup>2</sup>I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my  
fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.”

**P** <sup>3</sup>For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.

**C** <sup>4</sup>He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

**P** <sup>5</sup>You will not fear  
the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that  
flies by day,

**C** <sup>6</sup>nor the pestilence  
that stalks in  
darkness,  
nor the  
destruction that  
wastes at noonday.



*He* WILL COMMAND HIS  
angels concerning you to  
guard you in ALL YOUR ways.

PSALM 91:11

- P** <sup>7</sup>A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.
- C** <sup>8</sup>**You will only look with your eyes  
and see the recompense of the wicked.**
- P** <sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your dwelling  
place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—
- C** <sup>10</sup>**no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.**
- P** <sup>11</sup>For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.
- C** <sup>12</sup>**On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- P** <sup>13</sup>You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample  
underfoot.

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS HOLY WORD**

- P** “For everything that was written in the past was written  
to teach us, so that through endurance and the  
encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have  
hope.
- C** **“May the God who gives endurance and  
encouragement give you a spirit of unity among  
yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that  
with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God  
and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** (*Romans  
15:4-6*)

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Deuteronomy 26:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>“When you come into the land that the LORD your  
God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken  
possession of it and live in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first  
of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land  
that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a  
basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God

will choose, to make his name to dwell there. <sup>3</sup>And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.' <sup>4</sup>Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

<sup>5</sup>"And you shall make response before the LORD your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. <sup>6</sup>And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. <sup>7</sup>Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD brought us out of

Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup>And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you."

You shall rejoice in all the good  
that the Lord your God  
has given to you.

Deuteronomy 26:11, ESV



- P** "The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
**C** "but the Word of God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

## Epistle

Romans 10:8b–13

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);<sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”



- P** “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you received from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men,
- C** “**but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.**” (1 Thess. 2:13-14)

## RESPONSIVE HYMN

St. John's: “*One Day at a Time*”

Faith: “*Just As I Am (So Wie Ich Bin)*”

(Congregation sings)

So wie ich bin, so muss es sein,  
Nicht meine kraft, nur du allein!  
Dein blut wäscht mich von flecken rein.  
O gottes lamm, ich komm', ich komm'!

Just as I am, and waiting not,  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

So wie ich bin, blind, arm und irr',  
Such' ich, was mir gebricht, bei dir:  
Licht, reichtum, deiner gnade zier.  
O gottes lamm, ich komm', ich komm'!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 4:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness <sup>2</sup>for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” <sup>5</sup>And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, <sup>6</sup>and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God,  
and him only shall you serve.”

<sup>9</sup>And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written,

“He will command his angels  
concerning you,  
to guard you,”<sup>11</sup>and

“On their hands they will bear you  
up,  
lest you strike your foot against a  
stone.”





<sup>12</sup>And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**P** "As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, 'Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.'

**C** "He replied, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God, and obey it.'" *(Luke 11:27-28)*

### SERMON HYMN

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

LSB #770

### SERMON

### CATECHISM REVIEW

**P** "Introduction to the Lord's Prayer"

**C** **Our Father Who art in heaven**

**P** What does this mean?

**C** **With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.**

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the

forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

## WE BRING OUR FIRSTFRUITS TO THE LORD

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*“Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart”*

LSB #806

## THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

### 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.

### CLOSING HYMN

*“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”*

LSB #918

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday:** Genesis 4:1-26; Mark 2:18-28

**Monday:** Genesis 6:1 – 7:5; Mark 3:1-19

**Tuesday:** Genesis 7:11 – 8:12; Mark 3:20-35

**Wednesday:** Genesis 8:13 – 9:17; Genesis 9:18 – 11:26;  
Mark 4:1-20

**Thursday:** Genesis 11:27 – 12:20; Mark 4:21-41

**Friday:** Genesis 13:1-18; Genesis 14:1-24; Mark 5:1-20

**Saturday:** Genesis 15:1-21; Mark 5:21-43



## FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

*Please remember the following in  
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann     Joe Calmes

Rodney Dahlke     Alice Fromm

Wallace Emmerich     Angie Harkner     Emma Hein

Dale Janisch     Cecelia & Lucille Klade     Rob Koebe

Ron Lang     Debbie Olson     Mark Pester     Edgar Pfaff

Marge Radenz     Karen Rajek     Jo Schedler

Audrey Steckling     Lorraine Steckling

Carl Uttech     Deb Wiederhoeft     Susie and Ellie Zastrow



## CHURCH CALENDAR ST. JOHN'S and FAITH

**Sunday, March 9**

**8:30 a.m. Worship at St.  
John's**

*Sunday School during Sermon at St. John's*

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

**10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith**

11:15 a.m. Bible Class at Faith

12:15 p.m. VBS Meeting at Faith

**Monday, March 10**

NO MONDAY SERVICE AT FAITH

6:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting at Faith

**Tuesday, March 11**

- 6:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting at Faith
- 6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's
- 7:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting at St. John's

**Wednesday, March 12**

- 10:00 a.m. Ablelight Volunteers
- 11:00 a.m. Lenten Worship at Faith**
- 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith
- 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship at Faith**

**Thursday, March 13**

- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship at St. John's**

**Sunday, March 16**

- 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's**  
*Sunday School during Sermon at St. John's*
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith
- 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith**
- 11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

**Monday, March 17**

NO MONDAY SERVICE AT FAITH

**Wednesday, March 19**

- 11:00 a.m. Lenten Worship at Faith**
- 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith
- 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship at Faith**

**Thursday, March 20**

- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship at St. John's**



**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 9  
12:15 p.m.  
at Faith**



*Recognition*  
**SUNDAY**

**Sunday, April 27**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
with luncheon

*We welcome and recognize all the recent new members, marriages, confirmands, and baptisms here at Faith. We are blessed to have you among our church family.*



**MERRILL  
CIRCUIT YOUTH  
ACTIVITY**

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN and  
MALL OF AMERICA TRIP**

**Saturday, April 12**

We will serve at Feed my Starving Children in Eagan MN from 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., then go to the Mall of America for the rest of the afternoon.

Cost is \$40 to cover the cost of the bus.

*Open to youth, parents, friends and congregation members.*

*Spots are limited; sign up today!*

Sign up in the narthex at Faith

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You for your generous sacrificial offerings to the Lord, to help us keep our ministry going. You can also mail your offerings to Our Churches at

### **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

15425 County Road K South

Merrill, WI 54452 or

### **ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

134058 County Road L

Athens, WI 54411

*(Please do not send hard cash through the mail)*

Please help us spread the Word. Visit us online at Pastor's (Don Love) Facebook Page, or Faith Lutheran Church, or on the church website at

[www.faithlutheranmerrill.com](http://www.faithlutheranmerrill.com)



Looking to Jesus,  
the founder and  
**PERFECTER**  
of our faith,

who for the joy  
that was set before  
him endured the cross,  
despising the shame,  
**and is seated at the  
right hand of the  
throne of God.**

Hebrews 12:2, ESV



**SPECIAL OFFERING for the  
LENTEN SEASON  
March 9 – April 9**

We will be collecting *GIFT CARDS* for Seminary Students at Fort Wayne and at St. Louis.

Donations of cards or cash can be made in the designated offering in the back of the church. Cards should NOT be local but rather those that can be used in the seminary cities. Suggestions would include a VISA card, WalMart, Target, Kohl's and major gas stations, etc.

*This special promotion is being sponsored by Faith Evangelism and Stewardship Committee*



# *Lenten Midweek*

## *Sermon Series*

### **Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis**

*Aaron A. Stinnett*

Lenten Midweek 2, **MARCH 12-13**

The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil

*Genesis 3:14–15*

Lenten Midweek 3, **MARCH 19-20**

The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning

*Genesis 6*

Lenten Midweek 4, **MARCH 26-27**

The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Himself in Our Place

*Genesis 22:1–18*

Lenten Midweek 5, **APRIL 2-3**

The Good News of a Savior Who Unites Heaven and Earth

*Genesis 28:10–22*

Lenten Midweek 6, **APRIL 9-10**

The Good News of a Savior Who Brings Good from Evil

*Genesis 50:15–21*

**MIDWEEK SERVICE**

**SCHEDULE 2025**

**At Faith -**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.**

**At St. John's -**

**THURSDAYS**

