

Third



SUNDAY

IN LENT

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG
The Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 8, 2026**

Exodus 17:3 – “But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?’” Even the Israelites, who saw miracles with their own eyes, fell into unbelief and fear. From this distance we can see how foolish worry is. How foolish will our worries appear from the distance of eternity? The Lord cared for them, and He will care for us.



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.

PRINTED ORDER OF WORSHIP

Special Music today by Ed Stiver at Faith

OPENING HYMN

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

LSB #435

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

P “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.

C **If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

C **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

P If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

C **If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.”** (1 John 1:5b-10)

P Let us then confess our sins:

*(A moment for silence for private personal confession
to the One Who created us and redeemed us)*

C Gracious Father, we come before You as a rebellious and sinful people. We have disobeyed Your commandments; we have worshipped ourselves and the things we have made. We have rejected Your will for our lives; we have preferred our way to that of Christ. Forgive us, O Lord, for straying away from that which You intended us to be, and for failing to follow the example of Christ.

P “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.” *(based on Ps 32:1,2)* Upon, 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, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 18:18; John 20:23) “Be of Good Cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” *(Matt. 9:2 KJV)* Now, go live a life worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus, and produce fruit in keeping with true repentance. *(Eph 4:1)*

C Amen! By God’s Grace in Jesus Christ I am saved. By grace I am forgiven. By Grace I am set free.

PSALM 95:1-9

P ¹Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

C ²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

P ³For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

C ⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

P ⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

C ⁶Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

P ⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,

C ⁸do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

P ⁹when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

P Jesus replied to Satan “Man does not live on bread alone

C But on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:4)



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 17:1-7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried to the

"IS THE LORD AMONG US OR NOT?"

Exodus 17:7

LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

P "and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

C All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"Just As I Am" (So Wie Ich Bin)

Ed Stiver at Faith

*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!**

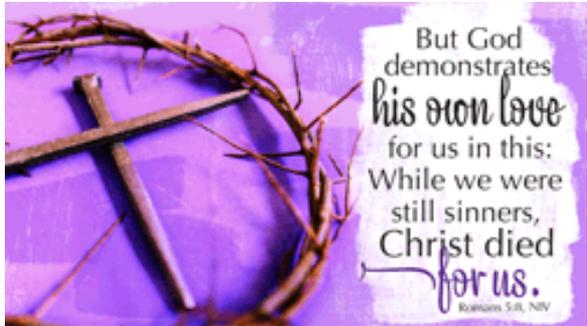
*So wie ich bin, Tom sturm gejagt,
Mit bangen zweifeln oft geplagt,
Vom feind bedroht und sehr verzagt.
O Gottes Lamm, ich komm', ich komm'!*

**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!**

EPISTLE READING

Romans 5:1-8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings,



knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare

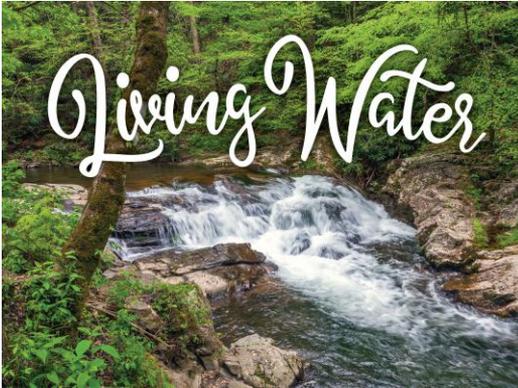
even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 4:5-30, 39-42

⁵[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of



God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you

greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is

true.” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him. . . .

³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

P “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God
C **And keep it.”** (*Luke 11:28*)

SERMON HYMN

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

LSB #761

SERMON

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart” LSB #806

THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (*Number 6:24*)

C Amen!

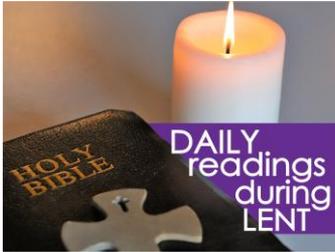
CLOSING HYMN

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

LSB #919

Acknowledgments from Lutheran Service Book

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Sunday: Genesis 27:30-45;
Genesis 28:10-22; Mark 9:1-13

Monday: Genesis 29:1-30;
Genesis 29:31 – 34:31;
Mark 9:14-32

Tuesday: Genesis 35:1-29;
Mark 9:33-50

Wednesday: Genesis 37:1-36; Mark 10:1-12

Thursday: Genesis 39:1-23; Mark 10:13-31

Saturday: Genesis 40:1-23; Mark 10:32-52

Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—

FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

*Please remember the
following in your prayers:*

Gary Baumann

Lisa Burish

Joe Calmes

David Czech Rodney Dahlke Alice Fromm

Christopher Emmerich Wallace Emmerich

Duane Grunenwald Gerhard Hannemann

Angie Harkner Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade

Jordan Knoble Rob Koebe Hugo Koppa

Karen Love Bob Meyer Gene Mootz Debbie Olson

Sarah Piel Mark Pester Marge Radenz Karen Rajek

Jo Schedler MiKenzie Schultz Audrey Steckling

Lorraine Steckling Carl Uttech

Deb Wiederhoeft Florence Williamson Laurie Young

Susie and Ellie Zastrow



ST. JOHN'S and FAITH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 8

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

Sunday School during Sermon

9:30 a.m. Special Mission Speaker at St. John's

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

11:15 a.m. Special Mission Speaker at Faith

12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles Potluck at Faith

Monday, March 9

NO MONDAY WORSHIP

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

Tuesday, March 10

9:00 a.m. Trustees' Meeting at Faith

6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's

7:15 p.m. Elders' Meeting at St. John's

Wednesday, March 11

10:00 a.m. AbleLight

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's

6:30 p.m. Worship at St. John's

Thursday, March 12

11:00 a.m. Worship at Faith

1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

Sunday, March 15

8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's

Sunday School during Sermon

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

4:30 p.m. ISI at Matt Seliger's Syrup Shack

Monday, March 16

NO MONDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 18

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's

6:30 p.m. Worship at St. John's

Thursday, March 19

11:00 a.m. Worship at Faith

1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith



**SPECIAL MISSION
SPEAKER TODAY**

Following worship services at both St. John's and Faith, make special plans to hear a great presentation and some questions and answers from our Synod's Mission program. Speaker is Bennett

Reilser. His presentation will focus on reaching out to our communities and strengthen ties as a family of God.

**NOTE CHANGE IN COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY
on Thursdays at St. John's is at 1:15 p.m.**



Easter Lilies

In the beauty and celebration of Easter, we are decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex at Faith with Easter lilies. Donations will be taken through Sunday, March 29. Forms are available on the Scrip table in the back of church.



LENTEN SEASON – BABY CARE KITS: Stewardship and Evangelism will be collecting items to make Baby Care Kits that can be given to Homeless Shelters or to Haven in Merrill. Each week during Lent, we will be collecting items that are needed. Items to be collected could be as follows: Diapers, Light weight cotton T-shirts, Receiving blankets, Socks or booties, Bath-size bars of gentle soap, Sleepers and Cotton blend hand towels. Sizes can be from 6 – 24 months. There is a crib in the overflow area for your special gifts.



INSPIRED SINGLES

**Sunday, March 8
at Faith
Potluck Lunch and
Game Afternoon**

All singles are welcome to come and join.

**YOUTH EVENT: Watch for details! CIRCUIT
ROLLERSKATING at Melody Gardens, Marshfield, March 27.**

Register by emailing youthgroup@stjohnmerrill.com

LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, Gleason.

4th Annual Fund Raiser Event on Saturday, March 14 at Les and Jim's, Merrill from 1 to 4:00 p.m Entertainment will be provided by Mark Wayne, Cash raffle tickets will be for sale, For more information, call Jan Tesch at 7115-921-2398.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, W2604 CTH P, Merrill.

Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, March 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the church. All you can eat meal includes spaghetti, salad, bread, drink and dessert. Sponsored by St. Paul's Ladies Aid.



AS IRON SHARPENS IRON,
**SO A FRIEND
SHARPENS A FRIEND.**
PROVERBS 27:17, NLT

ISI

Sunday, March 15 4:30 p.m.

Matt Seliger's Syrup Shack

Pastor Love will be departing Faith parking lot at 4:00 p.m. for those who choose to follow him

**A DRAMATIC EASTER
MUSICAL**

**BOW THE
KNEE**

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to be in Jerusalem at the time Jesus walked down the streets? Journey down



the streets of Jerusalem. Stop at the temple steps. Spend time in the garden's dark night. Hear the cries of "crucify, crucify". Climb the hill to Calvary. Rejoice at the empty tomb.

The drama follows the struggle of a Roman centurion torn between thirty years of loyalty to Rome and an invitation by Jesus to "Follow Me." "*Bow the Knee*" will take you there!

See the annual musical presentation of the Gospel at Trinity Lutheran Church, 107 N. State Street, Merrill on Saturday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Or at Zion Lutheran Church in the Town of Easton, Aniwa... just East of Wausau, on Saturday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

and Palm Sunday, March 29 at 2:30 p.m.

SPRING IS COMING! Whatever you have planned with family and friends, make it happen with Scrip! Be sure to pick up scrip cards for all your activities and household needs. Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program. ... *All without it costing you an extra penny!*



2026 Lenten Midweek Series

Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus—



Lenten Midweek 4, March 11-12

*The Good News of a God Who Passes over Us in Mercy,
Exodus 12:1–14*

Lenten Midweek 5, March 18-19

*The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us,
Exodus 14:5–31*

Lenten Midweek 6, March 25-26

*The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey,
Exodus 16:1–18*



Jesus

*paid for our sins not only
in part but in full.*

So if the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed.

John 8:36

Wednesday Services

6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at
St. John's

6:30 p.m. Worship at
St. John's

Thursday Services

11:00 a.m. Worship at
Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship at
Faith



**Interested in
Vacation Bible
School**

Come and join our planning meeting and share your ideas on **Sunday, March 22 at 12:15 p.m. at Faith**



The Evangelism and Stewardship at St. John's continues their Food for Kids Drive through March 29. To help bridge the "hunger gap" for Maple Grove students when school is not in

session over Easter break, the committee is asking for kid-friendly, nonperishable items such as mac and cheese, cereal, oatmeal, canned soups, fruits and vegetables.

Sunday School classes at Faith will conclude on Palm Sunday, March 29. Classes will resume in September.



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