

Fourth



SUNDAY

IN LENT

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 15, 2026**

Psalm 142:5 – “I cry to you, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.’” The Lord is our portion, our refuge, our everything. His mercy preserves us through all our days in the land of the living. This confidence frees us from the fear that so often leads to sins of greed and coveting. We have the Lord, we have a Father, He is in control, so we can follow His Word in confidence.



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.

RECEIVING THE HOLY SACRAMENT

In deep Christian love and commitment to the Word of God we continue to hold to the Biblical and Ancient practice of closed communion. Our Church Body's official teaching is that those who commune together must confess the same faith, and recognize the great power and real presence of the body and blood Christ in, with and under the bread and the wine. (1 Corinthians 10:16-18; 11:23-29; Romans 16:17). Likewise, since one's membership helps promote that church's major teachings we ask that only those commune who are confirmed and communicant members of the LCMS, and who are not under church discipline. Thank you for respecting our beliefs and practices. Please pray with us for honest unity around the Word of God. If you have any question please contact Pastor Love. NOTE: Gluten free wafers are now available at the Lord's Table. Please let Pastor know before worship service that you would like the gluten free wafers.



ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service III LSB page 184

Opening Hymn
"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

LSB #904

Invocation

*The sign of the cross may be made by all
in remembrance of their Baptism.*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** 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 all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Psalm 142



P ¹With my voice I cry out to the LORD;

with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

C ²I pour out my complaint before him;

I tell my trouble before him.

P ³When my spirit faints within me,

you know my way!

In the path where I walk

they have hidden a trap for

me.

C ⁴Look to the right and see:

there is none who takes notice of me;

no refuge remains to me;

no one cares for my soul.

P ⁵I cry to you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my refuge,

my portion in the land of the living."

C ⁶Attend to my cry,

for I am brought very low!

Deliver me from my persecutors,

for they are too strong for me!

P ⁷Bring me out of prison,

that I may give thanks to your name!

The righteous will surround me,

for you will deal bountifully with me.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186

Kyrie

LSB 186

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;

I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not
known

I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before
them into light,
the rough places into level
ground.

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

¹⁷They are turned back and
utterly put to shame,



I will make darkness
light before them,
and crooked things straight.
These things
will I do unto them,
and not forsake them.

ISAIAH 42:16, KJV

who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”

¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!

¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”



*For you were once darkness,
but now you are light in the
Lord. Walk as children of light*
↪ *Ephesians 5:8(HCSB)*

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

G Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among



As long
as I am
in the
WORLD,
I am the
LIGHT
of the
WORLD.

John 9:5

them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." . . .

³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in

one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn “*Amazing Grace*”

LSB #744

Sermon

Offertory

LSB 192

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering

Prayers of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up unto the Lord.
P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed

hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

P 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.

C **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

<i>“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”</i>	LSB #618
<i>“O Lord, We Praise Thee”</i>	LSB #617
<i>“What Is This Bread”</i>	LSB #629

Nunc Dimittis LSB 199

Thanksgiving LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus LSB 202

Benediction LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

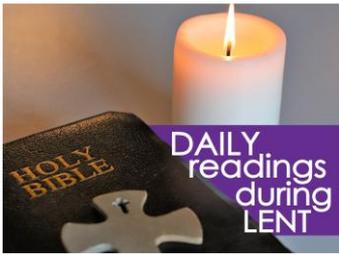
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” LSB #423



Sunday: Genesis 41:28-57;
Mark 11:20-33
Monday: Genesis 42:1-34, 38;
Mark 12:1-12
Tuesday: Genesis 43:1-28;
Mark 12:13-27
Wednesday: Genesis 44:1-18,
Genesis 44:32-34; Mark 12:28-44
Thursday: Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28; Mark 13:1-23
Friday: Genesis 47:1-31; Genesis 48:1 – 49:28;
Mark 13:24-37
Saturday: Genesis 49:29 – 50:, 14-26; Mark 14:1-11

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 Doris Dahlke 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 Bob Porath Marge Radenz
Karen Rajek Jo Schedler MiKenzie Schultz
Audrey Steckling Lorraine Steckling Carl Uttech
Deb Wiederhoeft Florence Williamson Laurie Young
Susie and Ellie Zastrow



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*



**ST. JOHN'S and FAITH
CALENDAR**

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

Sunday, March 22

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

Sunday School during Sermon

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Class at Faith

Monday, March 23

NO MONDAY WORSHIP

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



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.

**YOUTH EVENT: CIRCUIT ROLLERSKATING at
Melody Gardens, Marshfield, Friday, March 27.**

Register by emailing

youthgroup@stjohnmerrill.com

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.

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.

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**

SPRING INTO ACTION with Faith Scrip! As spring starts blooming, it's time to turn over a "new" leaf. There are gift cards for home improvement, gardening, and trips for Spring Break, Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program. ... *All without it costing you an extra penny!*



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