

# Fifth



## SUNDAY

## IN LENT

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG  
The Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, March 22, 2026**

**Romans 8:1 – “*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*”** This is the joy of the Gospel! There is no condemnation for us before the throne of God because in His love He has provided salvation for us in Christ. We have been set free. We are His children once again, and co-heirs with Christ of all the blessings of heaven. If this does not make us thankful, nothing will!



**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.

**ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**Divine Service IV**  
LSB page 203

**Opening Hymn**

*“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”*

**LSB #904**



Baptism today at St. John's

*Norah Juli Emmerich*

Child of

Brandon Emmerich and Sue Zhu

Sponsors are

Christopher and Cassandra Emmerich

**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.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 130

- P** <sup>1</sup>Out of the depths  
I cry to you, O LORD!
- C** <sup>2</sup>**O Lord, hear my voice!**  
**Let your ears be attentive**  
**to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**
- P** <sup>3</sup>If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?



Hope  
in the  
LORD  
Psalm 130:7

**C** <sup>4</sup>But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be feared.

**P** <sup>5</sup>I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

**C** <sup>6</sup>my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning,

**more than watchmen for the morning.**

**P** <sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.

**C** <sup>8</sup>And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.

Kyrie

LSB 204

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

*Ezekiel 37:1–14*

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones,

hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”



<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

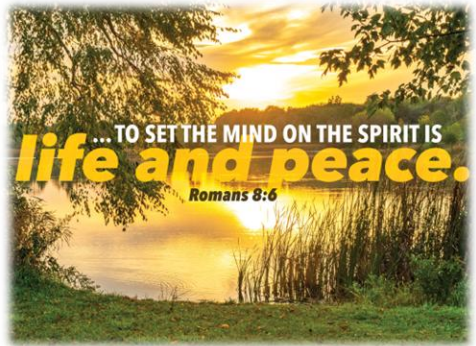
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Romans 8:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.



**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

*John 11:17–27, 38–53*

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

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

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you



believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." . . .

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, <sup>46</sup>but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup>So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. <sup>48</sup>If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." <sup>49</sup>But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. <sup>50</sup>Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." <sup>51</sup>He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup>and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. <sup>53</sup>So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### 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.

Sermon

Offering

Offertory Response

*“Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart”*

LSB #806

Prayers of the Church

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.



*Dedication of Stained Glass  
Windows at Faith  
in Memory of Mabel Marquardt  
(see announcements)*

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.

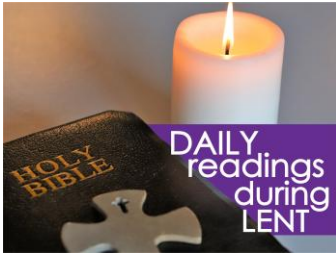
Closing Hymn

*“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”*

LSB #423

**Acknowledgments.** Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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**Sunday:** Exodus 1:1-22;  
Mark 14:12-31  
**Monday:** Exodus 2:1-22;  
Mark 14:32-52  
**Tuesday:** Exodus 2:23 – 3:22;  
Mark 14:53-72  
**Wednesday:** Exodus 4:1-18;  
Mark 15:1-15  
**Thursday:** Exodus 4:19-31; Mark 15:16-32  
**Friday:** Exodus 5:1 – 6:1; Mark 15:33-47  
**Saturday:** Exodus 7:1-25; Mark 16:1-20

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 22    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 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

12:15 p.m.    VBS Planning Meeting at Faith

**Monday, March 23**

**NO MONDAY WORSHIP**

**Wednesday, March 25**

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 26**

**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 29    Palm Sunday**

**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**

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

**Monday, March 16**

**NO MONDAY WORSHIP**

**Wednesday, April 1    Maundy Thursday**

**6:30 p.m.    Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's**

**Thursday, April 2    Maundy Thursday**

**11:00 a.m.    Worship with Holy Communion at Faith**

**6:30 p.m.    Worship with Holy Communion at Faith**

**Friday, April 3    Good Friday**

**1:00 p.m.    Worship at Faith**

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



## 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 from 6:30 – 9 p.m. Bus leaves St. John – Merrill at 5:30 p.m. and return at 10 p.m. Entry fee is \$3. Skate rental is \$1. Don't forget extra \$\$ for snacks.**

Register by emailing [youthgroup@stjohnmerrill.com](mailto:youthgroup@stjohnmerrill.com)

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**, W2604 CTH P, Merrill. **Spaghetti Dinner** on Sunday, March 22 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 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 today **Sunday, March 22 at 12:15 p.m. at Faith**

2026 Lenten Midweek Series

# Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus—



## Lenten Midweek 6, March 25-26

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

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

**Wednesday Services at St. John's at 6:30 p.m.**

**Thursday Services at Faith at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.**



## Palm Sunday, March 29

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

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

## Maundy Thursday (Wednesday), April

1

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

## Maundy Thursday, April 2

11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

## Good Friday, April 3

1:00 p.m. Worship at Faith

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

## Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 4

6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil at St. John's (30 minute  
silent prayer sessions)

## Easter Sunday, April 5

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

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

## *In Memory*

The two stained glass pieces above the side doors leading into the sanctuary have been placed in memory of Mabel Marquardt, a member of Faith (formerly Zion) Lutheran Church, 1946-2025. She would have celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on March 24<sup>th</sup> of this year.



The piece over the south door, entitled “The Lord is my Shepherd”, is representative of her favorite chapter in the Bible, Psalm 23. “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.” Psalm 23:1-2. The piece depicts a lamb lying on soft green grass with a shepherd staff behind it. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep.” John: 10:14-15.

The second stained glass piece located over the north door, depicting an open Bible, is entitled “Search the Scriptures”. The title is taken from the words on her confirmation plaque, Search the Scriptures, which she took to heart. “And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:15. The red bookmark on the Bible with the cross in the center symbolizes the blood of Christ given and shed for all for the forgiveness of our sins.

The pieces are bordered on each end by a single green vine. Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me.” John 15:5.

The background color in the oval of each piece is blue and gold representing the radiance of Christ and the color of the sky as Jesus ascended into heaven. The darker blue color surrounding each oval is a reminder of the cleansing water of baptism. Before His ascension into heaven Jesus appeared to His disciples and gave them this command: “Go then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I will be with you always; to the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 19-20.

Just as the light shines through the colors of the glass to reflect its beauty, the light and love of Jesus shines through all of us each day by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We would like to thank the artist who created the stained glass pieces, Marilyn Meyn of Wausau, for her talent, commitment and dedication to the project.

May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

*The Mabel Marquardt Family*

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