

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister Pastor Joel Neumann

Organist Mrs. Rachel Neumann

Midweek Lenten Services will continue next week Wednesday, March 25. We meet at 4:30 in Cataract and 6:30 in Black River Falls.



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY WORSHIP LOCATIONS & SCHEDULE

BLACK RIVER FALLS LOCATION

N6598 County Rd. A. Black River Falls, WI 54615

Worship Time: 8:00 a.m.

Bible Class & Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

CATARACT LOCATION

N6774 Acorn Ave. Sparta, WI 54656

Worship Time: 9:45 a.m.

Bible Class: 11:00 a.m.

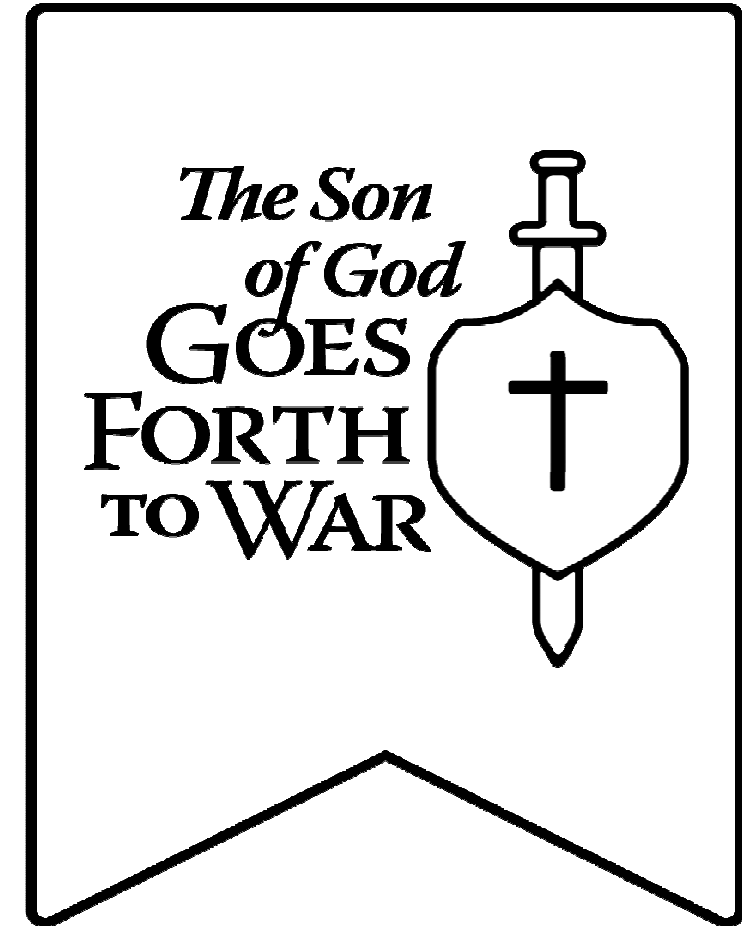
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Faith EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH



March 18, 2020 | 4:30/6:30 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Service



THE SON OF GOD GOES FORTH TO WAR

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE this evening continues our sermon series titled: *The Son of God Goes Forth to War*. This theme focuses on the imagery and descriptions of our Savior Jesus as the warrior who fights and defeats sin, death, and Satan for us.

We pray that the Lord richly bless our Lenten worship so that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened in order to “know the hope to which he has called [us], the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18,19).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Dearest Savior, I stand in awe of the ransom price you paid so that I might be your child. As you draw me to your cross and show me your great love, fill my heart with confidence that I am forgiven. Then fill my life with deeds of grateful service and thanks to you for setting me free from my slavery to sin. As I retrace your steps this Lenten season, draw me more closely to you. Christ crucified, I come. Amen.

- P: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.
- C: **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**
- P: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: **In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Now the Light Has Gone Away | 593

ORDER OF SERVICE

SERMON

John 11:33-37

The Son of God Goes Forth to War

John 11:33-37 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled.

34 He asked, "Where have you laid him?"

They told him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

OFFERING

This is a moment in our worship when members and friends of Faith respond to God's good news with gifts to support His work. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests—we rejoice in the opportunity to share God's Word with you!

Please stand

PRAYER

P: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: **We confess that without your love we are lost.**

OPENING HYMN

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted | 127

Please stand

P: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.

All: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by my sins and am deeply sorry for them.

Silence for private confession

P: Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: **Yes, I believe.**

P: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus; because of his life, death and resurrection, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be assured that you are forgiven. Be assured that you are a dear child of God. Be assured that you are an heir of eternal life.

PRAYER

P: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

PSALM

Psalm 119b—spoken responsively

All: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

P: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;

C: **then I will keep them to the end.**

P: Give me understanding, and I will keep your law

C: **and obey it with all my heart.**

P: Direct me in the path of your commands,

C: **for there I find delight.**

P: Turn my eyes away from worthless things;

C: **preserve my life according to your Word.**

P: Fulfill your promise to your servant

C: **so that you may be feared.**

LEADER: Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.”

MEN: “You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

LEADER: Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

MEN: “What is truth?” Pilate said to him.

CONGREGATION: After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”

WOMEN: But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.”

LEADER: When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

WOMEN: When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him.

MEN: He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer.

CONGREGATION: The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him.

WOMEN: Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.

LEADER: Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

All: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

MEN: They reached a decision to buy the potter's field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners.

WOMEN: So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

MEN: They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord commanded me.

LEADER: Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially unclean. (They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal.) So Pilate went out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

WOMEN: They answered him, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

LEADER: Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."

CONGREGATION: The Jews said, "It's not legal for us to put anyone to death." This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

MEN: They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

WOMEN: Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

LEADER: "It is as you say," Jesus replied.

CONGREGATION: The chief priests accused him of many things. When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

MEN: Pilate questioned him again, "Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!"

WOMEN: But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

CONGREGATION: Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

LEADER: Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

CONGREGATION: Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

P: How I long for your precepts!

C: **Preserve my life in your righteousness.**

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PSALM PRAYER

P: O Lord, your Word is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness. Guide our footsteps by your Word so that we may remain steadfast in faith, love you with all our hearts, and love our neighbor as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE PASSION READING—*read responsively*

LEADER: Simon Peter and another disciple kept following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, so he went into the high priest's courtyard with Jesus.

CONGREGATION: But Peter stood outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and talked to the girl watching the door and brought Peter in.

WOMEN: The servants and guards were standing around a fire of coals that they had made because it was cold.

MEN: While they warmed themselves, Peter was standing with them, warming himself too.

LEADER: One of the servant girls of the high priest came there. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean."

CONGREGATION: But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you are talking about. Woman, I do not know him."

WOMEN: When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This is one of them. This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

MEN: Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, "I do not know the man."

CONGREGATION: After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them, because even your accent gives you away. You are a Galilean!"

MEN: Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about! I do not know the man!"

LEADER: At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's word, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times." He went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

WOMEN: The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

CONGREGATION: Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in a synagogue or at the temple, where all the Jews gather. I said nothing in secret. Why are you questioning me? Ask those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said."

MEN: When he said this, one of the guards standing there hit Jesus in the face. "Is that how you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

LEADER: "If I said something wrong," Jesus answered, "testify about what was wrong. But if I was right, why did you hit me?"

CONGREGATION: The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward.

MEN: Finally two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

WOMEN: Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

CONGREGATION: The high priest stood up and said to him, "Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?"

LEADER: But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!"

MEN: Jesus said to him, "It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

LEADER: Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! What do you think?"

WOMEN: They answered, "He is deserving of death!"

CONGREGATION: Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?"

MEN: The guards also took him and beat him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

LEADER: As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law.

CONGREGATION: They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, "If you are the Christ, tell us."

MEN: But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

CONGREGATION: They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?"

LEADER: He said to them, "I am what you are saying."

MEN: Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!"

WOMEN: Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision.

MEN: They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

LEADER: Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

CONGREGATION: But they said, "What is that to us? That's your problem."

WOMEN: He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself.

LEADER: The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money."