

Sunday, April 6, 2025
5th Sunday in Lent
The Need for Beauty

Fifth Sunday in Lent



the need

**for
beauty**

Faith Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

*"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that
is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."*

MINISTERS
SENIOR PASTOR
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Every Member
Derek Harkins
Sylvia Bull

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

OPENING HYMN: ACS 1078 "There Is a Longing in Our Hearts" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

KYRIE (ELW Setting 10, pg. 203) *

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word: God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching and song.

READINGS: see next page

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW Setting 10, pg. 205) *

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 1002 "Holy Woman, Graceful Giver" *

APOSTLE'S CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT

OFFERING PRAYER

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW Setting 10, pg. 207) *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

LAMB OF GOD (ELW Setting 10, pg. 208) *

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 838 "Beautiful Savior" *

ELW 182 "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" *

Sending: God blesses us and sends us into the world to love and serve our neighbors.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 879 "For the Beauty of the Earth" *

DISMISSAL

**ELW = Red Hymnal; ACS = Purple Hymnal*

READING(S)

First Reading: *Isaiah 43:16-21*

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading: *Philippians 3:4b-14*

Gospel Reading: *John 12:1-8*

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When has something seemingly frivolous or wasteful changed your perspective or your life?
- Where has beauty appeared in desperate or painful situations in your life, and how did it transform them?
- Judas' question presents a false choice between helping the poor and embracing beauty. What role could beauty play to better offer dignity and respect to guests of our congregation? What simple gestures can offer dignity to people who are seeking help?

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

Beautiful Savior, your extravagant grace waters our parched souls like rivers in the wilderness. Lead us by Mary's example to turn and offer your grace to beautify and dignify the poor, the ignored, and the oppressed. Amen.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

To be Christian is to be named by Christ, the anointed one. So the rite of baptism suggests that oil be used in marking the newly baptized with a cross. We are now anointed, chosen by God—as was Jesus Christ—to serve in the kingdom. The cross is the sign of our baptism. Jesus is the anointed one whose death on the cross and “the power of his resurrection” transfer that status of authority to believers.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

If the gospel story today is about the extravagance of God's love for us, the kids in your life will be ready. What's the most extravagant gift they've ever been given? The fanciest meal they've ever eaten? The most ornate building they've ever set foot inside? The most bountiful display of candies or desserts they've ever feasted their eyes (or their bellies!) on? Consider giving them a piece of paper or cardstock and inviting them to draw a picture of the most extravagant gift they would give to Jesus. Invite them to describe it with words if they prefer. Then consider displaying their artwork, so others can benefit from their wisdom.

Thursday - Connections with Creation

Isaiah calls us to note that humans are not the only creatures who worship. Instead, our songs join the chorus of the non-human animals who sing their

praises to God. In Isaiah, the jackals and ostriches honor God for water, just like the people. As created beings, they have shared needs in their shared ecosystem. Today's reading offers an invitation to pray for the needs of our nonhuman neighbors and acknowledge their worship. Though you may not live alongside ostriches and jackals, which animals offer praise in your local ecosystem? What might elicit praise from squirrels, deer, or racoons? What needs do human and nonhuman animals share in your area?

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading

Nearing the end of Lent, we join Jesus and his friends at table. John's account was crafted about six decades after the death of Jesus and means to proclaim the resurrection faith of first-century believers. The meal that Jesus' followers share always points to his death. Like Mark, John sometimes describes women as those who best understood the meaning of Christ's ministry. Yet the poor remain with us, and we are now to serve their needs as the way to honor the very body of our Lord.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

"Lord, thee I love with all my heart" (ELW 750) is the only known hymn by Martin Schalling, a Lutheran clergyman who was repeatedly caught between the two quarreling sides of the sixteenth-century Reformation, the ultra-Lutherans and the Calvinists. Yet his hymn reflects none of these bitter controversies. As if we are Mary of Bethany and Paul, we are proclaiming our love for Christ and our trust in his salvific death. All else is rubbish. Jesus Christ is our God and Lord. Stanza three expresses the creedal faith that after death, our body is buried, and we await the resurrection at the end of time. J.S. Bach used the final stanza as the final chorale in his St. John Passion.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$11,131.82** for the week of March 30!

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by DaLana Mayer and Todd Erickson. **Thank you!**

Our **April Newsletter** is now available online! If you would like a paper copy, you can pick one up from the table near the Avenue C doors.

Our **last Lent midweek service will be April 9**, with 11:15am Soup Lunch, 12:05pm and 7pm service, and there will be **no services on Wednesday, April 16**. Join us for our return to our regular schedule (7pm service only) on Wednesday, April 23.

Easter is almost here! Please join us for **Maundy Thursday, April 17**, at 7pm, **Good Friday, April 18** at 12pm or 7pm, the **Community Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19th** at 7pm (hosted at Faith Lutheran!) and **Easter Sunday, April 20th** at 7am, 9am, or 11am. Don't forget our **Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast** from 7:30am-11am to support our youth with your free will offering!

Take a look at our **Holy Week and Easter Worship Assistant sign-ups** near the Coffee Fellowship table! If you are interested in helping but unsure of the different roles, talk with one of the pastors who can walk you through what you can help with!

We are excited to announce we have a **new music coordinator, Kalen Hill!** Kalen is originally from Minot, where he worshipped at Pastor Derek's former church, Christ Lutheran Church, and is currently studying Music Education at University of Mary. You can **read more about him and see his picture in our April newsletter**.

Come to our next **All Comers' Choir Rehearsals**, where singers (any skill level), are invited to participate in one rehearsal before singing at a service that day. Come on **Maundy Thursday, April 17th** (rehearsal at 6pm, worship at 7pm), **Good Friday, April 18th** (rehearsal at 6pm, worship at 7pm) and **Easter Sunday, April 20** (rehearsal at 8:15am, worship at 9am and 11am).

The Faith Crafters have created **handmade Easter cards, table favors and Easter basket stuffers** that they will be selling between services on **April 6 and April 13 (if items remain)**.

Join other members for the **2025 Race for Parkinson's, held on Saturday, April 26 at Sertoma Park.** For more information, look for the Bismarck Parkinson's Support Group on Facebook, visit <https://bismarckparkinsons.wordpress.com/>, or reference the poster on the counter beside the sanctuary

Save the Date for our upcoming **Confirmation Luncheon on Sunday, April 27 at 12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.** Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate our ninth graders taking the next step in their faith journey! **Confirmation services** will be Wednesday, May 1st at 7pm and Sunday, May 4 at 11am.

We are **accepting sponsorships for our NC Trip** this summer! We appreciate any donations to help fund this multi-generational trip to help recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene. Sponsors will also receive updates, and an invitation to a "thank you" dinner after the trip. You can **make a donation to Faith Lutheran with "NC trip sponsor" in the memo line or on a note, or use our Give page on our website.** More information on the different costs for the trip can be found on the bulletin board near our Coffee Hour area.

Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Kalen Hill

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team G: Del Adolf, Marlene Adolf, Andi Johnson, Sam May, Meme May, Dalene Berger, Vince Berger

11:00 - Team 2: John Wittenberg, Nikki Wittenberg, Shelby VonWahlde, Joe VonWahlde, Hope Schreiner, Shannon Schreiner, Billie Ann Caya, Sara Caya Giltner, Joyce Hellman

CALENDAR

Monday, April 7

7:00 AA

Tuesday, April 8

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:15 BIO Girls

6:00 Elementary Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, April 9

10:00 Book Study

11:15 Soup Lunch

12:05 Worship

5:30 Handbells

6:00 Church School

6:00 Book Study

7:00 Worship

Thursday, April 10

May Newsletter Deadline

2:00 Knit/Crochet Group

7:00 Ruth Circle

Friday, April 11

5:00 9th Grade Retreat

8:00 NA

9:00 MS/HS Lock-in

Saturday, April 12

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

9:45 Book Study

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



APRIL: HEAVENS HELPERS CLOSET (701)

Heavens Helpers Closet (701) is a non-profit organization that provides free clothing and other personal care items to individuals in our community struggling to meet basic needs. At the church, we will be asking for donations of new men's and children's underwear (in packaging, any size), body soap or wash, shampoo, conditioner, and deodorant. An Amazon wishlist, and the process for donating clothing at their location, can be found on their website: www.heavenshelperscloset701.org

"Is not this the fast that I choose:...Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard." Isaiah 58:6-8