



**FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

7075 Pacific Avenue S.E.
Lacey, WA 98503

www.faithlutheranlacey.org
www.flschool.org

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

W O R S H I P

8:15am – Traditional
9:30am – Gather & Grow
10:30am - Contemporary

C O N T A C T

Church: 360-491-3552
School: 360-491-1733
Childcare: 360-491-1118
Campus Mgr: 360-491-3868

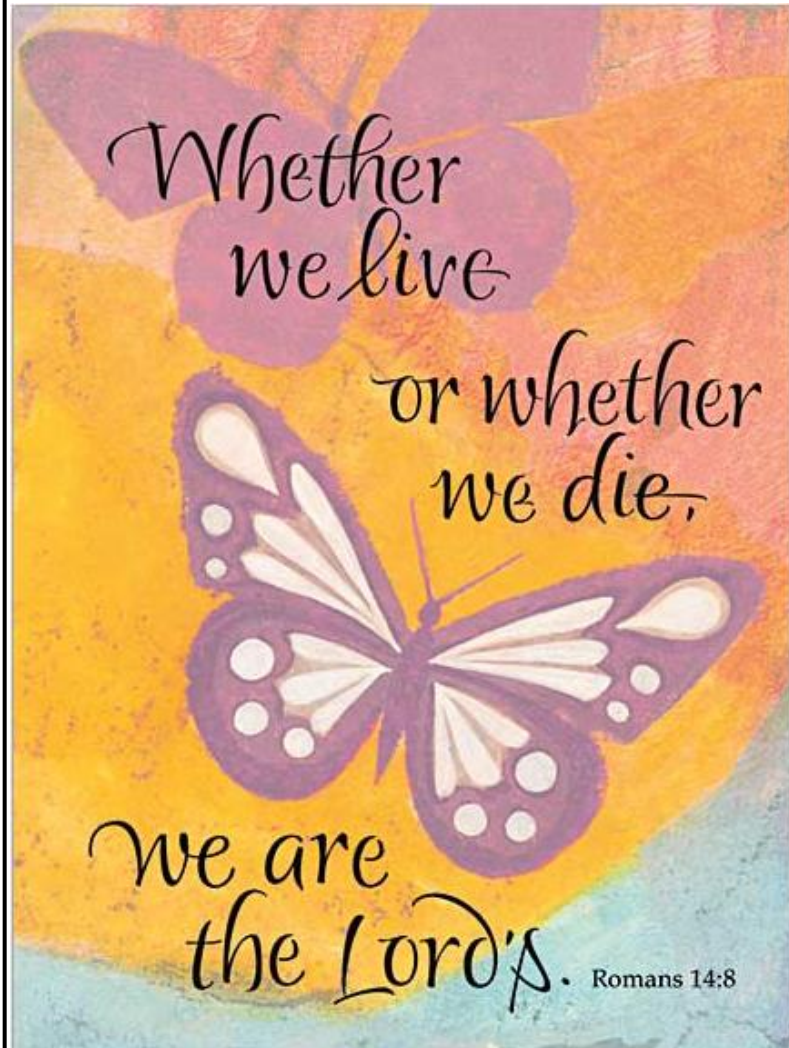
Pastor: Greg Strand
pastorgreg@flschool.org

*“Raising Up
Families and Followers
of Jesus Christ”*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

10:30 AM



AS WE GATHER

God's creation is filled with amazing creatures, some of which dedicate their lives to making peoples' lives fuller and better. Since 1942, the Guide Dogs for the Blind association has graduated more than 16,000 person and dog teams from its training programs. The canine guides assist their human teammates each day of their lives together. The guidance they give is expert and dependable. Good guidance in every stage of life is essential! Throughout Scripture, our Lord promises His presence and His divine guidance to sustain and direct His people. Paul summed up that blessed relationship very simply: "So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). Seeking the Lord's guidance and responding to His promptings brings blessing to our lives!

Open The Eyes Of My Heart

Chorus

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Verse

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Bridge

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

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INVOCATION

Leader In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 8*

Leader Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
Congregation **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**
Leader Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! . . .
Congregation **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**

Leader Come and see what God has done:
Congregation He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

Leader Bless our God, O peoples;
Congregation let the sound of His praise be heard.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.
Congregation O most gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We know well that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your faithful servants. We have been unforgiving and loveless and careless in the stewardship of Your creation. We deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and guide us into renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.

Leader God is indeed gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader Let us pray.
O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 50:15–21*

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

PSALM FOR PENTECOST 16 *Psalm 103:1–12*

Leader As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

Congregation As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

Leader Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Congregation Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,

Leader who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

Congregation who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

Leader who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Congregation As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

Leader The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

Congregation He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.

Leader The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Congregation He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

Leader He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Congregation For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

Leader as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

Congregation 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.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

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EPISTLE *Romans 14:1–12*

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment

on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:21–35*

Leader The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my

heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Leader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

Congregation 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound - That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found - Was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear - And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear - The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free - My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains - Unending love amazing grace

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me - His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be - As long as life endures

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow - The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below - Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine - You are forever mine

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SERMON

WELCOME CARDS/PRAYER REQUESTS *We ask all who are present today to please fill out a welcome card and place it in the offering plate.*

OFFERING <https://faithlutheranlacey.breezechms.com/give/online>
or text to give, 360-732-8020.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader Dear heavenly Father, strengthen us to fight the good fight of faith. Give us boldness and confidence to speak Your Word of mercy and justice in a world that does not care to listen. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation hear our prayer.

Leader Lord, raise up faithful pastors, missionaries, teachers, and other church leaders. Stir up the hearts of Your faithful people to serve You with gladness and humility. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation hear our prayer.

Leader Lord, walk with all those who are grieving the death of loved ones, [*especially* . . .]. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation hear our prayer.

Leader Lord, give strength and patience to those who are struggling financially. Raise up people and institutions that will assist them in their struggles. Help us all to look with mercy upon those who need help. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation hear our prayer.

Leader Lord, we pray for the government of our nation, our state, and our city. Raise up faithful leaders who will defend the weak and fight for justice and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation hear our prayer.

Leader Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation hear our prayer.

Leader Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. Lord, in Your mercy,
Congregation **hear our prayer. Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF COMMUNION +

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. As our comforter and guide, send us Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit who brings to life the power of Jesus Christ. Bless us, Your children, so that all we who partake of Christ's holy body and of His precious blood may be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy, so that we may live in the hope of an eternity gathered around Your heavenly Table.
Congregation **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Leader 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."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Leader As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Congregation **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Congregation **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

O Praise the Name (Anástasis)

I cast my mind to Calvary - Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet - My Saviour on that cursed tree
His body bound and drenched in tears - They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone - Messiah still and all alone

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God - O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise - Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn - The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting - The angels roar for Christ the King

He shall return in robes of white - The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints - My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

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By Faith

By faith we see the hand of God - In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness - Who walk by faith and not by sight
By faith our fathers roamed the earth - With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand - A place where peace and justice reign

Chorus

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done - We'll walk by faith and not by sight
By faith the prophets saw a day - When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith the church was called to go - In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news - In ev'ry corner of the earth

By faith the mountain shall be moved - And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible - For all who call upon His name

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Leader Let us pray.
Grant, O Lord, that what we have received with our lips we may keep with pure hearts, and that, through the gift imparted to us, in this present life we be guided in ways of peace and may hereafter receive life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Congregation **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *LSB 183*

Leader 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.

Congregation **Amen.**

From The Inside Out

Verse 1

A thousand times I've failed - Still Your mercy remains
And should I stumble again - Still I'm caught in Your grace
Everlasting - Your light will shine when all else fades
Never-ending - Your glory goes beyond all fame

Verse 2

Your will above all else - My purpose remains
The art of losing myself - In bringing You praise
Everlasting - Your light will shine when all else fades
Never-ending - Your glory goes beyond all fame

Chorus 1

In my heart in my soul - Lord I give You control
Consume me from the inside out Lord
Let justice and praise - Become my embrace
To love You from the inside out

Chorus 2

Everlasting
Your light will shine when all else fades
Never-ending - Your glory goes beyond all fame
And the cry of my heart - Is to bring You praise
From the inside out - Lord my soul cries out (Lord)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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