

Why is the Gospel of St. Luke often represented by a Winged Ox?

Luke's Gospel begins with Zechariah, a priest, offering sacrifice in the temple (Luke 1:8–10). The ox, a common sacrificial animal in ancient Judaism, reflects this priestly and sacrificial tone found in much of Luke's Gospel.

The ox also becomes a symbol of this Gospel because Luke also emphasizes Christ's strength, service, and self-giving love. It's a powerful image: the ox yoked to the mission of proclaiming Christ Jesus' sacrificial love.

The ox has wings meant to represent the divine, soaring nature of the Gospel message, soaring beyond earthly bounds.

The ox, grounded and strong, reflects the earthly ministry and sacrificial love of Christ.

August 3, 2025

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH Highland, Michigan 48356

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to welcome and unite God's people to nurture faith through the Gospel, and provide opportunities and commitment to serve Christ through our Ministry within the congregation and the community.

# Faith Lutheran Church (248-887-5550)

Church E-mail—office@faithhighland.com Website—faithhighland.com Find us on Facebook at Faith Lutheran Church - Highland, MI or by following this link: https://www.facebook.com/HighlandFLC/

If you are in need of prayer or pastoral care, please contact your assigned elder.

Office Business hours: Tuesday—Friday 9:00am —1:00pm

#### Those serving in our Worship today

Rev. Richard Rossow Preacher

Mrs. Jacqueline Rhodes Director of Music Ministries

Patricia Hartsell Church Secretary

Carl Lemke Elder

Altar Michelle Krusinski/Laura Hornbacher

Steve Tino Trustee Kathy VanGordon Reader

#### **Prayer Request Cards**

are available through the Elder as you enter the sanctuary.

## **Communion Policy Statement**

St. Paul writes, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of this bread and drink of this cup." The Sacrament of Holy Communion is for those who have been instructed in the Christian faith and have a proper understanding of the meaning of Holy Communion as taught at Faith Lutheran, a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We believe that in this Sacrament Jesus gives His real body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, and in receiving this gift we promise to love God and others. A great way to prepare for the Supper is by reviewing Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" on pp. 329ff in the hymnal. If you have not been instructed in this understanding of Holy Communion, please consult with the pastor before communing. All children and adults who have not yet been instructed are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing, simply crossing their arms on their chest. Gluten-free wafers and nonalcoholic wine are also available. Please contact an elder if you have further questions.

AS WE GATHER – In today's gospel reading we hear that Jesus found the faith of a Roman Centurion "amazing". What seems to have caught our Lord's attention was first, the great concern the soldier had for a servant, secondly, the way the Centurion's faith led him to take needed action, and thirdly, the humility the soldier expressed in approaching Jesus and his recognition of the divine power of Jesus.

## **WELCOME/SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

**THE OPENING HYMN** "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (338) v.1,2

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art, Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king! Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

#### THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## **THE HYMN OF CONFESSION**

(Sung to "Our Father, Who From Heaven Above" 766)

To you, omniscient Lord of all, with grief and shame I humbly call: I see my sins against you, Lord, The sins of thought of deed and word. They press me sore; to you I flee: O God, be merciful to me!

My Lord and God, to you I pray, Oh, cast me not in wrath away; let Your good Spirit ne'er depart, but let him draw to you my heart that Truly penitent I be: O God, be merciful to me!

O Jesus, let your precious blood Be to my soul a cleansing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest away, but grant that justified I may go to my House at peace to be; O God, be merciful to me!

#### THE ABSOLUTION

P: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: As you believe, so let it be. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, and at the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls us is faithful, and He will do it for He is the Rock of our Salvation.

C: Amen. (We stand)

## HYMN OF PRAISE - "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord, Emmanuel, God is with us blessed Redeemer, living Word

Jesus, loving shepherd vine of the branches, Son of God Prince of Peace, wonderful counselor Lord of the universe, light of the world.

Jesus, way of salvation, King of kings, Lord of lords, the way The truth, and the Life, mighty creator, my Savior and friend.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord Jesus, You marveled at the faith of a centurion— a man who knew authority, yet bowed before Yours. Teach us to trust not in our own strength, but in the power of Your word alone.

C: Amen



#### THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Paslm 107 (selected verses)

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress. Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For He shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron. They cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress He sent out his word and healed them and delivered them from their destruction. Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man!

<u>THE GOSPEL READING</u> - St. Luke 7:1-10 - (The power of faith unleashes the power of the Divine Son of God, Jesus)

<sup>7</sup> After he had finished all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. <sup>2</sup> Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. <sup>3</sup> When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to Him elders of the Jews, asking Him to come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup> And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with Him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have You do this for him, <sup>5</sup> for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." <sup>6</sup> And Jesus went with them. When He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. <sup>7</sup> Therefore I did not presume to come to You. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. <sup>8</sup> For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." <sup>9</sup> When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed Him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found Such faith." <sup>10</sup> And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



#### THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

#### THE HYMN OF THE DAY – "How Firm a Foundation" 728 v.1,2

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He has said Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

"Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed, For I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

THE SERMON – "An Amazing Faith – An Amazing Example"

#### WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY (as the offerings are brought forward, we stand to sing)

**"We Give Thee But Thine Own"** 781

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first fruits give!

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

- P: You know our needs, O God, and those of Your children everywhere throughout the world.
- C: You know our resources as well, the gifts You have given us to use and share according to Your will.
- P: By the vast riches of the love of Christ, move Your people to generosity, that in all things they may be faithful stewards of Your bounty.

#### THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- P: Lord Jesus, we come to You in prayer, not claiming worthiness, but confessing our need.
- C: Like the centurion, we dare not ask You to enter under our roof, yet we believe that even a word from You can bring healing, restoration, and peace.
- P: Speak, Lord, and let Your mercy move.

For those we love who suffer ....

for the broken places in our communities .....,

for the wounds we carry in silence..(we pause for personal reflection)...

Lord — say the word, and we shall be made whole.

- C:Grant us faith that astonishes You, faith that intercedes for others, faith that trusts Your authority over all things.
- P: Lord, You are the giver of all good things, We join in prayers of thanksgiving for those who celebrate special occasion...

  Lord in You mercy..

## C:Hear our prayer.

P: O Holy Spirit, work in our lives that we reflect the humility of one who knows that healing and blessing comes not by status, but by grace.

We ask this in Your holy name,

C: Amen.

# <u>A COMMUNNION LITURGY SET TO "WORCHESTER"</u> (LSB #506) THE PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you!

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord!

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!



P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who with Your only begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. in the confession of the only true God we worship the Trinity in person and the unity in substance, of majesty coequal. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## THE SANCTUS (WE SING) - #506

Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son; Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three-In-One! Glory, glory, while eternal ages run!

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who of Your tender love for all people gave Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon Himself and to suffer death on a cross for our redemption. Assembled in His name and in the communion of all saints, we pray You to send down Your Holy Spirit on us and through Him to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

#### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

# THE EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you.

#### THE AGNUS DEI (WE SING) - LSB #506

Glory be to Him who loved us, washed us from each spot and stain; Glory be to Him who bought us, made us kings with Him to reign! Glory, glory to the Lamb that once was slain! Glory to the King of angels; Glory to the church's King; Glory to the King of nations; Heav'n and earth, Your praises bring! Glory, glory to the King of glory sing

#### **THE DISTRIBUTION**

#### THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS THE WHITE SONG BOOK

- "I Am the Bread of Life" Page 3
- "Seek Ye First" (we will sing the verse twice) Page 4
- "I Love to Tell the Story" Page 7
- "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" Page 24

## **THE GENERAL DISMISSAL**

## THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "The Lord My God Be Praised" 794 v. 2

The Lord, my God, be praised,
My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son,
Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned
With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith
The highest heav'nly good.

# THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER

ALL: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving kindness sent Your only begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament; and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled to serve You constantly; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION**

# **CLOSING HYMN** "The Lord My God Be Praised" 794 v. 1,3,4

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven; My maker, who to me Has soul and body given; My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heaven, The Spirit, whom the Son In love to me has given. His grace revives my heart And gives my spirit pow'r, Help, comfort, and support In sorrow's gloomy hour.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ever-living, To whom the heav'nly host Their laud and praise are giving. The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast, God Father, God the Son, And God the Holy Ghost.