

Sunday, March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent
**The Good News is Rooted in Justice,
Mercy, and Faithfulness**



Epilogue
by T. Denise Anderson
14"x18" Acrylic on canvas
Inspired by John 8:2-11



There Is Good
by Hannah Garrity
*18"x18" Hand-dyed and collaged
newspaper with paper lace overlay*
Inspired by Matthew 23:23

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

BREAKING NEWS SEGMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 335 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 208 "Praise to You, O God of Mercy" *

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READING: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 513 "Listen, God is Calling" v. 1 *

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 779 "Amazing Grace"*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" *

ELW 325 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 723 "Canticle of the Turning" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

Reading: *Matthew 23:23*

[Jesus said,] "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.

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

Gospel Reading: *John 8:2-11*

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Early in the morning [Jesus] came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

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

ARTIST STATEMENTS

During this Lenten season, we will have art works centered around the texts we are reading from the theme "Tell Me Something Good" from Sanctified Art. Below is a reflection on the artworks found on the front of the bulletin from the artists that created the piece.

Epilogue by T. Denise Anderson

14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

Inspired by John 8:2-11

I often wonder about the backstory of the woman from John 8:2-11. What were her circumstances? How did they "catch" her in the act of adultery? *In flagrante delicto?*¹⁸ Was it

18 This is a Latin phrase often used in legal contexts that can be translated to: "in the very act of committing an offense."

less graphic than that? Was she allowed to explain herself? Did she protest? If she was about to be stoned, what happened to the person with whom she was accused? Was this a loving relationship? Was it even consensual?

Whatever her story, the Pharisees bring her to Jesus expecting him to uphold the law's punitive prescription. Jesus knows it's a trap. If he concurs with the law, he initiates and must bear witness to an act of extreme brutality that would traumatize anyone who had to watch. If he counters the law, he's a heretic and should probably be stoned himself. But he outsmarts them and turns their self-righteousness and rage back onto them.

In what should have been the end of her life's story, this woman now finds herself standing. Whole. Alive. Freed to a new future. And through it all, Jesus is just drawing on the ground—like you do!

I wanted to show this woman standing in her wholeness, right after the crowds have dispersed and right before Jesus rises to meet her as an equal. She's backlit in a way that suggests the sun has set, indicating the end of a saga. What will she do at the end of a nightmare with a new life ahead of her? What decisions do we face at the dawn of a second chance?

***There Is Good* by Hannah Garrity**

*18"x18" Hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay
Inspired by Matthew 23:23*

In this series of scriptures, gathered crowds drew my attention.¹⁹ Jesus always drew a crowd, but so did the voices of hate in his time. In our current historic moment, this dichotomy of crowds for justice and crowds for injustice confounds me. Are all crowds worthy of joining? In the background of this piece, I dyed and collaged together torn newspaper, representing the fabric of the world, to portray the cacophony of crowds gathering. What is drawing them in? Is everything that compels us to gather right and good? No.

The clarity comes in this scripture: "For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith" (Matthew 23:23). Most especially, in the context of Jesus denouncing the scribes and Pharisees, the crucial point is that gathering to enact justice is good and gathering to enact injustice is not.

19 In Matthew 23, Jesus is preaching to the crowds and disciples, denouncing the hypocrisy of many religious leaders.

The crowd depicted in this artwork is inspired by the 100,000 who gathered strong in Budapest, Hungary, in June, 2025. The Hungarian parliament had outlawed Pride as part of a larger systemic effort to take away the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community in Hungary, and a "wider effort to curb democratic freedoms ahead of a hotly contested national election next year."²⁰

In the four corners of the artwork, symbols of justice, mercy, and faithfulness echo the clarity of Jesus. Gathering for justice is the work of the gospel.

20 Rutai, Lili. "Tens of thousands defy Hungary's ban on Pride in protest against Orbán." The Guardian. June 28, 2025. [theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/28/tens-of-thousands-defy-hungarys-ban-on-pride-in-protest-against-orban](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/28/tens-of-thousands-defy-hungarys-ban-on-pride-in-protest-against-orban).



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$15,140.68** for the week of **March 15!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Ray Utter, in memory of Bernice Utter. **Thank you!**

The Faith Crafters have created **handmade Easter cards, table favors and Easter basket stuffers that they will be selling between services today!**

Easter is almost here! Please join us for **Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7pm, Good Friday, April 3 at 12:05pm or 7pm, the Community Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4th at 7pm (hosted at Bismarck UCC) and Easter Sunday, April 5th 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!

Holy Week Worship Assisant Sign-ups are now available in the Gathering Place! We appreciate all the volunteers that help make our Holy Week services possible.

Lent is here! Join us on **Wednesdays at 11:15 am for Soup Lunch, and Midweek Services at 12:05pm and 7pm.**

All experience levels are invited to join us for **Choir Practice on Sundays at 10am!** Contact our music coordinator, Dima Somkin, by calling the office or emailing dmytro.bisfaith@gmail.com for more information!

Don't forget to **direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars!** Individuals with certain types of accounts can direct money, donated by Thrivent, to specific non-profits in the area. The **deadline to direct your Dollars is Monday, March 31st.** Make sure to log-in to the online portal, or talk to your Thrivent representative, to select any non-profits you would like to support. In the past, we have used Thrivent Choice Dollars to fund devotionals and Bible Study materials, speakers and special events at Faith Lutheran. Thank you for supporting non-profits!

2,000 years ago, Jesus entered into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passover on a donkey, an image reflecting his just, humble leadership and care for those in need. Christian communities from across our region are invited to gather for a **time of communal prayer and public witness at 3 pm on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 for a processional from Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck (502 N 4th St) to the ND State Capitol Steps. An ecumenical worship service uplifting our shared values of feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and welcoming the stranger will be held on the Capitol Steps at 4pm.**

Please join us **Thursday, April 9th for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, II!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted here at Faith Lutheran, will start with a light dinner at 5pm, and then study from 5:45pm-8pm.** A free-will offering will be taken if you feel moved to help supplement the speaker fee. Look out for another Scripture Circle opportunity on May 14th (Lutheran Church of the Cross, 1004 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck)!

Please join us on **Sunday, May 17 at 4:30pm for a concert featuring Dmytro Somkin and Kseniia Somkina!** **Free-will offering** will go towards Dima and his family as they assess the best way to attain long-term legal residency here in the US.

Join us on **Thursday, April 16 at 6pm for Taste of Home-Ukraine!** Enjoy a delicious variety of homemade dishes from Ukraine, hear personal stories of resilience and hope, and connect with others in the spirit of community. **Free-will Offering will go to support Global Neighbors** and their mission to empower and support local newcomers as they build new lives in our community.

Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Assistants:

8:30 -Team H: John Power, Jill Power, Larry Hill, Shelley Hill, Dwight Barden, Connie Barden, Doug Johnson, Betty Johnson

11:00 - Team 3: Aaron Franklund, Jack Skaley, Gail Skaley, Jan Franklund, Les Franklund, Glenn Anderson, Tina Anderson, Carolee Hoffman, LeRoy Anderson, Janice Anderson

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CALENDAR

Monday, March 23

- 3:30 Worship & Music
- 7:00 AA
- 7:00 Beer & Hymns - Mandan Eagles

Tuesday, March 24

- 9:00 Quilting
- 2:00 Crafts
- 5:15 BIO Girls
- 6:00 Compass Group
- 7:00 Executive Committee
- 7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, March 25

- 10:00 Bible Study
- 11:15 Lent Soup Lunch
- 12:05 Worship
- 5:30 Handbells
- 6:00 Lent Book Study
- 6:00 Church School & Confirmation
- 7:00 Worship

Thursday, March 26

- 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, March 27

- 5:45 Improv Workshop
- 8:00 NA

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

- 8:30 Worship
- 9:45 Church School
- 10:00 Choir Practice
- 11:00 Worship
- 3:00 Palm Sunday Path
Processional (Trinity)
- 4:00 Cub Scouts
- 4:00 Palm Sunday Path Ecumenical
Worship at Capitol Steps

MISSION Focus



MARCH: SCOUTING FOR FOOD

This month, we will be partnering with the Scouts in their Scouting for Food Project! Bring in any non-perishable food items throughout the month of March, and the scouts will bring them to food banks throughout the community. The Northern Lights Council is looking to keep growing this event, and reach their goal of 85,000 pounds of food collected, and your contributions can help!

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." - Matthew 25:35