

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

March 9, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

These forty days
other. It is our
return to the God
receive the gifts of
believe with the heart
mouth the wonder of
and to resist
turn. This is no small
we have just
struggle Jesus knew.
shares. The



called Lent are like no
opportune time to
who rescues, to
God's grace, to
and confess with the
God's love in Jesus,
temptation at every
pilgrimage on which
embarked. It is a
It is a struggle Jesus
nearness of the Lord,

in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

**(An offering for the continued mission of this church is
collected at the entryways)**

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Prelude on the tune Slane

arr. M.Larkin

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the
presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy, O God, **against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*
words by C.Hernaman, arr. K.Kosche

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering overpast,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

A reading from Deuteronomy, chapter 26.

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us."

⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.

¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

Psalm 91

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust.”**

⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰ **no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

¹² **Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot a-against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ **I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

¹⁶ **With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

Second Reading

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

A reading from Romans, chapter 10.

^{8b} “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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

Romans 10:8b-13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(all sing)*



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

Gospel

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

The holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

Luke 4:1-13

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Please have an adult accompany children 3 yrs. old and younger.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

When We Are Tested

ACS 922

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

We Are An Offering

ELW 692

L: OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us as we pray:

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice). Empty glasses can be placed*

in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher. (if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)

L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

REMINDERS

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

All are welcome to refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following the service.

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, March 9, 2025

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Minister of Music: Deacon Gwynne Hopko

Assisting Minister: Jill Little

Lector: Connor Pratt

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Cheryl Davis, Bill Golden, Kathy Golden, Donald Milbrandt

Altar Guild: Kristen, Connor and Emily Pratt

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, March 9, 2025

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, March 10, 2025

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Thursday, March 13, 2025

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (YOUTH Room)

Friday, March 14, 2025

7:00 p.m. Trivia Night (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, March 16, 2025

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Email: churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

Deacon Gwynne Hopko, Minister of Music