

Faith Lutheran Church  
14819 Jones Maltsberger  
San Antonio, TX 78247  
www.FLC-SA.org  
210-494-7800

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

April 26, 2026

Hymns: **357**      **221:3-5**      **71**      **378:1,5-7**      **210**

(Words are printed in this folder)

**Pastor Daniel Ruiz**

Cell: (239) 206-7643

email: PastorRuiz@flc-sa.org



## **TODAY'S DIVINE SERVICE**

(Rite II—pp. 60-85, *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*)

### A HYMN **357 “The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”**

**1** The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
The victory of life is won;  
The song of triumph hath begun.  
Alleluia!

**2** The pow'rs of death have done their worst,  
But Christ their legion hath dispersed.

Let shouts of holy joy outburst.  
Alleluia!

**3** The three sad days have quickly sped,  
He rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen Head!  
Alleluia!

**4** He closed the yawning gates of hell;  
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.  
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.  
Alleluia!

**5** Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,  
From death's dread sting Thy servants free  
That we may live and sing to Thee.  
Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE INVOCATION (*Stand*)

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

**C: ♪ Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C: ♪ Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

**C: ♪ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

**C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord:

Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

THE INTROIT Psalm 66

P: Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name, make His praise glorious. Alleluia! Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You." All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You.

THE GLORIA PATRI

**C: ♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

THE KYRIE ELEISON (Lord, have mercy)

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

**C: ♪ Glory be to God on high:**

**C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For You only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: ♪ And with your spirit.**

THE COLLECT (Prayer for the Day)

P: Almighty God, You show those who are in error the light of Your truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant that all who are admitted into the

fellowship of Christ's kingdom, may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Judges 2:10-23**

<sup>10</sup> And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

<sup>11</sup> And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals.

<sup>12</sup> And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. <sup>13</sup> They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. <sup>14</sup> So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. <sup>15</sup> Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.

<sup>16</sup> Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. <sup>17</sup> Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not do so. <sup>18</sup> Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. <sup>19</sup> But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways. <sup>20</sup> So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he said, "Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice, <sup>21</sup> I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, <sup>22</sup> in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the Lord as their fathers did, or not." <sup>23</sup> So the Lord left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

**PSALM 66**

P: <sup>8</sup> Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of his praise be heard,

**C: <sup>9</sup> who has kept our soul among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.**

P: <sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.

**C: <sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net;  
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;**

P: <sup>12</sup> you let men ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

**C: <sup>13</sup> I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will perform my vows to you,**

P: <sup>14</sup> that which my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

**C: <sup>15</sup> I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

**THE EPISTLE: Romans 7:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

**THE ALLELUIA (*Stand*)**

**C: ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL John 16:16-23**

P: The Holy Gospel for this Sunday is written...

**C: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord**

<sup>16</sup> “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.”

<sup>17</sup> So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” <sup>18</sup> So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? <sup>20</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, you

will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

P: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ.

THE CREED Nicene Creed

C: 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall 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 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.

CHIEF HYMN: 221 vv. 3-5 “Thine Honor Save” (*Sit*)

3 Forgive, O Lord, our sins forgive;  
Grant us Thy grace and let us live.  
Convince Thy foes throughout the land  
That godless counsels shall not stand.

4 That Thou art with us, Lord, proclaim  
And put our enemies to shame;

Confound them in their haughtiness  
And help Thy own in their distress.

5 Preserve Thy chosen flock in peace,  
Nor let Thy boundless mercy cease;  
To all the world let it appear  
That Thy true Church indeed is here.

THE SERMON: “Jesus Delivers Us From the Body of Death”

Romans 7:22-25

THE OFFERTORY VERSE (*Stand*)

**C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.**

OFFERING:

*If you are a first time visitor with us, we encourage you to fill out a welcome card which is in the pew in front of you. You may place it in the offering plate as it comes by and our Pastor will happily reach out to you.*

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Stand*)

P: Let us pray for the Church and all people according to their needs: Almighty God and Father, we thank You for all Your goodness and tender mercies, especially for the gift of Your dear Son, through whom You have revealed Your grace. We pray that You would plant Your Word in our hearts that we may cling to it in faith and bear much fruit in well doing.

**C: O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear us in the truth of Your salvation.**

P: Strengthen and defend Your Church, that by Your Word and Sacraments faith may grow and love toward all increase. Guide and protect all who spread abroad the light of Your truth throughout the world. Bless the schools, colleges, and seminaries of the Church that they may send forth laborers to serve in the ministry of Your Word, in the ministry of mercy, and in all godly walks of life. Let the light of Your Word shine continually in our homes. Keep the children of the Church in the grace of their Baptism, and grant that all entrusted with their care may bring them up in true faith and obedience to Your will.

**C: Let all rejoice who trust in You, let them shout for joy because You defend them.**

P: Guide and bless all lawful authority, especially our President, the Congress, and the Governor and legislators of this state. Give them wisdom and sound judgement, that justice may prevail and wickedness be hindered and punished.

**C: Hear, O Lord, and have mercy! Lord be our Helper.**

P: We commend into Your care all who are in trouble, want, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those who are suffering for Your name and Your truth. Comfort them, O God, with Your Holy Spirit, that in all their afflictions they may acknowledge Your fatherly will and rejoice in Your gracious and speedy deliverance.

**C: O Lord, be with all in trouble. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your name.**

P: Let Your blessing rest upon seed time and harvest, on commerce and industry, on medicine and science; sanctify the arts and culture, the rest and leisure of Your people. Protect all who travel, and care for all whose labor is difficult or dangerous. Bless all who in their daily calling

endeavor to do Your will, and give them the assurance that their work is pleasing in Your sight.

**C: Blessed are You, O Lord, for You have not turned away from our prayer!**

(Special intercessions may be added)

P: Protect our bodies and souls from all harm and danger; support us in our last hour with Your mercy; and finally admit us into Your eternal joy, to love and serve You in the blessed company of Your saints and angels forevermore; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**C: The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. The righteous cry out and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.**

### The Service of Holy Communion

#### **Our Communion Practice.**

Faith Lutheran Church practices closed communion, admitting to the Lord's Supper only those who are members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) or of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We ask that all others refrain from communing out of respect for our practice.

If you would like to receive a blessing during the Lord's Supper, please come forward and signify by crossing your arms across your chest. Please speak with our Pastor if you have questions. Thank you.

#### A HYMN: 71 "The Lord Hath Helped Me Hitherto" *(Sit)*

1 The Lord hath helped me hitherto  
By His surpassing favor;  
His mercies ev'ry morn were new,  
His kindness did not waver.  
God hitherto hath been my Guide,  
Hath pleasures hitherto supplied,  
And hitherto hath helped me.

2 I praise and thank Thee, Lord, my God,  
For Thine abundant blessing  
Which heretofore Thou hast bestowed  
And I am still possessing.

Inscribe this on my memory:  
The Lord hath done great things for me  
And graciously hath helped me.

3 Help me henceforth, O God of grace,  
Help me on each occasion,  
Help me in each and ev'ry place,  
Help me through Jesus' Passion.  
Help me in life and death, O God,  
Help me through Jesus' dying blood;  
Help me as Thou hast helped me.

THE PREFACE (*Stand*)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: ♪ And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

**C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.**

THE PROPER PREFACE AND SANCTUS (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

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; but chiefly are we bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By His death He has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "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, gave thanks, and 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 and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PAX DOMINI (*The Peace of the Lord*)

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

**C:** ♪ Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God)

**C:** ♪ **O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.**

THE DISTRIBUTION (Sit)

A HYMN: 378 vv. 1,5-7 “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”

**1** Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
With exultation springing,  
And, with united heart and voice  
And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God hath done,  
How His right arm the victory won;  
Right dearly it hath cost Him.

**5** He spoke to His beloved Son:  
"Tis time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright Jewel of My crown,  
And bring to man salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set him free;  
Slay bitter death for him, that he  
May live with Thee forever."

**6** This Son obeyed Him cheerfully,  
And born of virgin mother,  
Came down upon the earth to me  
That He might be my Brother.  
His mighty power doth work unseen,  
He came in fashion poor and mean,  
And took the devil captive.

**7** He sweetly said: "Hold fast by me,  
I am thy Rock and Castle.  
Thy Ransom I myself will be;  
For thee I strive and wrestle.  
For I am with thee, I am thine,  
And evermore thou shalt be mine;  
The foe shall not divide us.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (Stand)

**C:** ♪ **Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen**

THE COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING

**P:** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

**C:** ♪ **And his mercy endures forever.**

**P:** Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your

Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: ♪ And with your spirit.**

THE BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: ♪ Thanks be to God.**

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give † you peace.

**C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: 210 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;  
Direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.  
Without your grace and favor I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.

2 Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;  
For you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.  
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,  
For when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,  
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,  
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!  
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

**EASTER 4**

It was foretold to Abraham many centuries before that his descendants would be in bondage in Egypt for 400 years (Gen. 15:13ff). This would allow time for the Canaanites to reach the full measure of their moral and spiritual depravity, which would cause God to bring judgment upon them through His people as they would conquer and inhabit their lands. The

supreme god of the Canaanites was Baal. Each city had its own Baal, or lord, as well as companion gods and goddesses. Altars and sacred groves were everywhere. As far as we know, no knowledge of the true God remained. Morals were correspondingly corrupt. They practiced the most obscene rites in the name of their gods. Human sacrifices, physical mutilation, prostitution and other degenerate practices led God to command Israel completely to blot out these idolatrous nations so as to preserve His people from contamination.

### **CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS for April 26, 2026**

Strategic planning meeting after service today led by Pastor Kerkow. Lunch will be provided.

**Monday** 6:30 PM: **Men's Fellowship - Axe Throwing**  
(2907 N Loop 1604 E Ste 104, San Antonio, TX 78259)

**Wednesday** 9:30 AM: **Women's Bible Study - I Corinthians**  
7:00 PM: **Women's Bible Study - Ephesians**  
(Meet at Chandia House - 14971 Oak Summit, 78232)

**Thursday** 6:30 PM: **Men's Bible Study**

**Sunday** 10:30 AM: **Divine Service**

**After service on May 3rd we will be practicing a Safety Evacuation**

**Homeschool Music Spring Recital** - Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. here at Faith. All are invited to the second Homeschool Music Class End-of-Year Recital on Saturday, May 2 at 3:00 p.m. here at Faith Lutheran Church. There will be vocal, piano, and instrumental performances and refreshments for everyone.