April 12, 2026 ☩

Second Sunday of Easter

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

"God's Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people."

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold.**

P: Indicates the Presider. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister.

We Gather

Prelude - "I Danced in the Morning" arr. Malcolm Kougat

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 384 "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.** Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.** Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.** Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.
Amen.

***Apostolic Greeting** P**:** 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** – page 147, *ELW, Setting Four*

*__Hymn of Praise - page__ 149, *ELW, Setting Four*

*__Prayer of the Day -__

P: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

14a Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: 22 "Fellow
Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds
of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know 23 this
man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified
and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24 But God raised him up, having released him
from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25 For David
says concerning him,

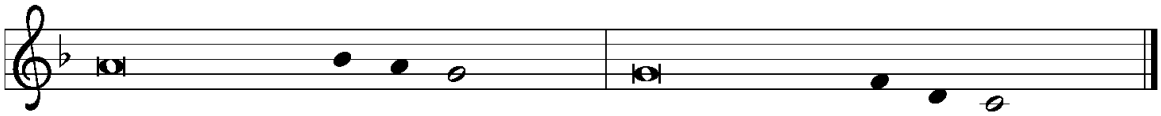
'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
28 You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

29 "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and
was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had
sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Foreseeing
this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

32 "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 16- *The psalm will be sung responsively by whole verse.*

1 Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other."
2 **All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,**
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.
3 But those who run after | other gods
shall have their troubles | multiplied.
4 **I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,**
never take their names up- | on my lips.
5 O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold my lot.
6 **My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;**
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.
7 I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night | after night.
8 **I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;**
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.
9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
my body also shall | rest in hope.
10 **For you will not abandon me | to the grave,**
nor let your holy one | see the pit.
11 You will show me the | path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a
new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 4 and into an
inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who are
being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last
time. 6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7 so
that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is
tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is
revealed. 8 Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him
now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 for you are
receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation – page 151, *ELW, Setting Four*

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The Gospel of John, the 20th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where
the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be
with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples
rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father
has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the
sins of any, they are retained."

Hymn – no. 386, verses 1-4 "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus
came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I
see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in
his side, I will not believe."
26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although
the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then
he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in
my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Hymn – no. 386, verses 5-7 "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have
not seen and yet have come to believe."

Hymn – no. 386, verse 8 "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this
book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the
Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

***Hymn** –no 386, verse 9 "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

Sermon – Pastor Chris Culuris

***The Nicene Creed** –
Together let us profess our faith.
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**
AM: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *After each petition*: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

***Sign of Peace** P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace.

Offering – For electronic giving please scan the QR on announcement page and ***Thank you!***

Offering music –"Touch That Soothes and Heals" DeMay and Bringle

*__Offering Prayer__

AM: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

*__Invitation to the Table__ – P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion continuously.*

Lamb of God – page 154, *ELW, Setting Four*
Hymn –no. 646 "The Peace of the Lord"
Hymn - no. 391 "This Joyful Eastertide"

Prayer After Communion
P: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 535 "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

*__Blessing & Dismissal__

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

AM: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*__Postlude__ – "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises" South Africa, arr. Mark Sedio

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Organist: Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson
Assisting Minister: Aileen Bipes
Director of Choirs: Sarah Chambers
Reader: Kolby Nixon

Ushers: Nora Caven
Communion Preparers: Harry & Bonnie Hunt
Communion Servers: John Bipes
Acolytes: Talan Samuelson, Jace Nixon

Tech: Harley Samuelson, Brad Chambers
Bread Baker: Mary Long

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Lenore Schnobrich, Gloria Kane, Harvey Kane, Karen Handel, Erika Schuldt, Ruth Edberg, Bob Lamb, Dorothy and Paul Lutz, Steve Erickson, Barbra Grabowski (Ted Kunze's sister), Garrett Paul, Mary Ann Scharf, David Ribar, Nate Tuener (family friend of Bob and Rhoda Stenson).

Acknowledgments

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FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- **Fellowship** members Carla Demers and Carol Solberg will be serving refreshments following worship today.
- **First Forum today!** - Pastor Chris and Deacon Brenda will present a session on Funeral planning in the Dining Hall.
- **Senior High Youth group meets this Wednesday, April 15** at 6 pm at FLC to go to Mankato State to the Rock Climbing Wall.
- **First Communion class offered** for anyone who is in 2nd grade or older. See Pastor Chris or Deacon Brenda for more information.
- **Flowers -** Jerry Kozitza and Susan Eichstadt donated flowers today in memory of their mother Mildred Kozitza.
- **Adult Class meets in Pioneer Parlor** - Wednesday Nights at 6:45 pm on April 15, 22 and 29 with Pastor Heather Culuris for Book study on "Hope" by Jane Goodall.
- **From the Green Committee:** we will resume collecting plastic in the entry way. Also, please consider donating produce from your personal gardens to the SPFS.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Faith Night at First continues Wednesday, April 15.** Meal (5:15-6:15 pm), worship (6:15-6:45 pm) and Education for All (6:45 – 7:30pm).
- Join the ensembles of **FLC for a spring concert and potluck** on Sunday evening April 26th at 4 pm. Our Cherub Choir, Children's Choir, Sanctuary Choir, FLC Wind Ensemble, and FLC Handbell Choir will be presenting a concert of really fun music. A couple of favorite hymns will be scattered in too! A potluck to celebrate will be held following the concert in the gathering space. Families are invited to bring a dish to share. This promises to be an amazing evening!
- **Meals On Wheels -** Sue Erickson with Lutheran Social Services is looking for volunteer drivers. If you are interested, please call her at 507-550-0730 and leave a message.
- Monday morning **Bible Study** continues at 9:30am in the chapel.
- June 28th- July 2 is the **Adult BWCA** trip. If interested, call Mark Szybnski at 507-380-9180 or email him at markszybnski@gmail.com

Please use the QR code below for electronic giving and thank you!

QR offering code