

# Full to the Brim

**April 16, 2022**  
**Easter Vigil**

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

*You are welcome to sing during worship if you are vaccinated!  
Welcome to First Lutheran Church!*

*The service begins in darkness, after nightfall, by the light of a fire.  
All gather in silence and take an unlighted candle.*

## Gathering at Twilight

**\*Prelude** — “Stay with Us”

Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then  
stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness.

The image shows a musical score for the prelude "Stay with Us". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second system also ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

*At the appointed time, everyone is welcome to light their individual candles  
originating from the light of the paschal candle.*

**\*Procession (to the Gathering Space)**

*Sung each time the pastor stops with the paschal candle.*

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The image shows a musical score for the procession. It consists of a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into two phrases by a double bar line with repeat dots.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please extinguish your candle at this time.*



## A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans — Romans 6:3-11

3Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

5For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7For whoever has died is freed from sin. 8But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

### Poem — "New Life Is Right Here"

Sarah Are

Maybe today  
we can take a moment.  
Maybe today  
we can silence the inner critic.  
Maybe today  
we can leave perfection at the door.  
Maybe today we can allow ourselves to be  
here.  
Maybe that's all that matters.  
Maybe the sunrise is for us.  
Maybe these Hallelujahs are for us.  
Maybe the hope blooming in my chest  
is for us.

Maybe the resurrection was not just about God's body,  
but is about our body.  
Maybe this new life reaches all the way to the edges.  
Maybe we are free to live in a new way  
where love is the currency and we are enough.  
Maybe that's what this is all about—  
not a relentless pursuit of more  
but God's relentless pursuit of me.  
New life  
is right here.  
Like the women—say it out loud.  
Like Peter—run that way.

### \*Gospel Processional — Hymn no. 449, Stanzas 1 & 2

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

### \*Gospel — John 20:1-18

The Gospel of John, the 20th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have

carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 17Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

**\*Gospel Recessional** — Hymn no. 449, Stanzas 3 & 4

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

## Remembering Our Baptism

*All are welcome to gather around the font with a bulletin and a hymnal turned to page 234.*

### **\*Thanksgiving for the Waters of Baptism**

We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water—  
for the oceans that surround the earth,  
for the rivers that nurture the land,  
for the Minnesota River that you provide for our community—  
we bless you, O God, for the waters of earth:  
**We bless you, O God, for the waters of earth.**

We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water—  
for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees,  
for the floods that restore the fields,  
for the dew that freshens dry places—  
we honor you, O God, for the waters you send:  
**We honor you, O God, for the waters you send.**

We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism—  
for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus,  
for the water that baptized the believers on Pentecost,  
for the water that illuminates us with your Word,  
for the water that pours out the gifts of the Spirit,  
for the waters that bathes the church universal—the Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Protestants,  
Pentecostals, Evangelicals, independents—  
we glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism:  
**We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.**

We worship you, O God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, almighty, merciful, and gracious.  
Well of forgiveness, you revive us, Cup of cold water, you refresh us, Pool of rebirth, you renew us.  
To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever:  
**To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Affirmation of Baptism** — *page 234, front of hymnal*

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please use a sign of peace such as a bow, an elbow tap, a wave, a verbal greeting, and/or a peace sign*

## Offering of Our Gifts

*Music at the Offering*

“Christ, Be Our Light” (see last page)

Bernadette Farrell

# Sharing the Meal

\***Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — *page 144, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three*

\***“Holy, Holy, Holy”** — *page 144, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three*

## \*Words of Institution and Prayers

God of the garden, God of new life,

God of the here and now, where do we begin?

Our hearts are full to the brim with gratitude, hope, fear, doubt, dreams, and belief. As a result, our prayers can often feel chaotic at best, bouncing around to each name and need that comes to mind. Settle us. Excavate us. Summon out what we shall be. Lift our prayers from the rubble of our distracted minds and hold us close.

God, there are some things we would like to let go of, things we'd like to bury, things that we do not want to bring with us into this new day.

In particular, we'd like to let go of our stress and fatigue.

We'd like to let go of our own self-criticism and low self-esteem.

We'd like to let go of the fear to put ourselves out there, and the worry that we might not have enough or be enough.

These things are always easier said than done, God, which is why we need you. At the same time, there are things we'd like to hold close—things that draw us closer to that expansive life you dream for us, things we are running toward.

In particular, we want to move closer  
to balance and to meaningful friendships,  
to health of mind, body, and spirit,  
to justice that sets our hearts on fire,  
and to your Word—lived out in our daily lives.

Help us.

Guide the way.

Meet us in the garden.

Roll back the stones that stop us.

Give us the energy to run toward you.

Gather us up into your expansive love.

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.

Until the promised day when swords are beaten into plowshares, and the prayers of the people are only prayers of joy, we ask that you pour out your Spirit on this bread and cup so that we might catch a glimpse of you here at this Table. Gather us up into your expansive love. Until that promised day, we will continue to pray: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **\*Invitation to the Table**

Scripture tells us that on that Easter morning, the women went to the tomb and found it empty. They returned to the disciples and told them what they had heard and seen, but Peter was the only disciple to believe them. The text says, “Peter got up and ran to the tomb.”

I love this detail.

I can picture it; can't you? Peter running to that garden. Peter praying, with every step, let it be true, let it be true. Peter out of breath, desperately hoping he'll see Jesus again around every corner.

No matter how you feel today—whether you're running to get here, whether you are desperate and hungry for a spiritual experience, or whether you are unsure and moving slowly—know that there is room for you here.

This Table is an expansive Table. There is food for everyone. There is a seat for everyone. There is love for everyone. There is no scarcity here, because this is God's Table, so all are welcome.

It's good enough news you might even want to run.

### **Distribution of Communion & Blessing**

## **Departing to Serve God's World**

### **Announcements**

**\*Sending Hymn** — no. 672

“Signs and Wonders”

### **\*Blessing & Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.

May you laugh, and may it be contagious.

May you overflow with love for those around you.

May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.

And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—

go in peace, full to the brim. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude** — “Freu Dich Sehr”

Setting by Egil Hovland

## **Acknowledgements**

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### **Worship Assistants**

Pastor: Chris Culuris  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Audio/Video: Leif Hammar

Readers: Hoenke Family; Timm Family; Mike Stewart;  
Ellen Conover; Judy and David Fienen  
Usher: Bill Kautt

## **First Lutheran Church’s Statement of Welcome!**

Held in Christ, our Center, and living in grateful response to God’s love and grace, we welcome everyone, without exception. We make known our gratitude and appreciation of all, including people of every race, sex, age, color, creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital and familial status, physical and mental ability, health status, socioeconomic situation, education level and political affiliation.

Please join with us as we seek to celebrate the image of God in all people, nurture meaningful relationships, and share our collective gifts in response to the world’s deep hunger for hope, love, grace, justice, and peace.

Learn more about us at <http://www.flcstp.org/welcome-to-flc.html>

### **We Belong to the ELCA**

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States. . . This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.” More info at <https://elca.org/About>



# **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

### **FLC Is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation**

“The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is for Lutheran communities that publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.” For more info, visit <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>



“We believe that God values and embraces each person as a beloved child, that the Spirit gives a diversity of gifts for the common good, and that Jesus Christ calls us to work for justice.”

**CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT (EASTER VIGIL TEXT)**

Bernadette Farrell

Verses



1. This is the night of new be - gin - nings. This is the  
2. This is the night Christ our re - deem - er rose from the  
3. Now will the fire kin - dled in dark - ness burn to dis -  
4. Sing of the hope deep - er than dy - ing. Sing of the  
5. In - to this world morn - ing is break - ing. All of God's



1. night when heav - en meets earth. This is the night \_\_\_\_\_  
2. grave tri - um - phant and free, leav - ing the tomb of  
3. pel the shad - ows of night. Star of the morn - ing,  
4. pow'r \_\_\_\_\_ strong - er than death. Sing of the love \_\_\_\_\_  
5. peo - ple, lift up your voice. Cry out with joy, \_\_\_\_\_



1. filled with God's glo - ry, prom - ise of our new birth!  
2. e - vil and dark - ness, emp - ty for all to see.  
3. Je - sus our Sav - ior, you are the world's true light!  
4. end - less as heav - en, dawn - ing through - out the earth.  
5. tell out the sto - ry, all of the earth re - joice.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.