

Full to the Brim

*An
expansive
life*

April 17, 2022 + Resurrection of Our Lord

*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!

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “A Glorious Everlasting Hallelujah Raise”

Setting by Fred Gramann
Handbell Ensemble

***Processional Hymn** — no. 367

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”
Brass Ensemble Setting by John Ferguson

***Words of Welcome**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Family of faith, it is our tradition to have a prayer of confession each week—not to harp on ourselves or to drum up guilt, but because we believe God is not done with us yet. So please join me in the prayer of confession, because God is always listening and God's grace is always full to the brim.

God of new life,

we are a mixed bag.

**We want to be full to the brim with hope and joy,
but often we overflow with comparison and doubt.**

**We want to embody the resurrection,
but often we'd rather stay the same than to begin again.**

**We want to have the courage to be like the women on that Easter morning—
to run and speak truth,**

but often we are weary of courage and uncertain of our own voices.

Forgive us for all the ways we remain unchanged.

Break into our hearts. Overflow here.

With hope we pray, amen.

Family of faith, if there is life after death, then you can be certain—there is life after mess. There is life after mistakes. There is life after doubt. There is new life freely given, and that life is for you. In ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. You are forgiven, loved, and claimed. May we live full to the brim in response. **Thanks be to God, and let it be so. Alleluia! Amen.**

***Greeting & Canticle of Praise** — *page 140, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three*

***Easter Litany**

This day is not like any other day.

Today we slow down.

Today we take it all in.

Today we rest in good news.

This day is not like any other day.

Today we are singing.

Today we are full to the brim.

Today joy cannot be contained.

This day is not like any other day.

Today the stone was rolled away.

Today the women saw the empty grave.

Today we know—death does not win.

This day is not like any other day.

Alleluia! Amen.

***Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Holy God, we so often long for more. We want more than the hamster wheel life of to-do lists and errands, meal prep and alarm clocks. We want more than comparison and competition. We want more than certainty that drowns out curiosity. We want more than fear that leads to violence.

We want a life that is teeming with alleluias. We want a life overcrowded with hope. We want a life congested with good news. We want a life jam-packed with forgiveness. We want a life bursting with laughter. We want a life so full that the stone just has to be rolled away.

So today we pray—break the dam. Dust the cobwebs from our ears. Clear space in our minds to hear you clearly. Speak to us as only you can. It's what we long for. In Jesus' name, gratefully we pray, **amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles — Acts 10:34-43

34Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 — *sung responsively by verse; all join on refrain*



This is the day that the LORD has made; let us re-joice and be glad in it.

1Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever.

2Let Israel | now declare,
"God's mercy en- | dures forever."

14The Lord is my strength | and my song,
and has become | my salvation.

15Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the
tents | of the righteous:

"The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!

16The right hand of the Lord | is exalted!
The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!"

17I shall not | die, but live,
and declare the works | of the Lord. R

18The Lord indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

19Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the Lord.

20"This is the gate | of the Lord;
here the righ- | teous may enter."

21I give thanks to you, for you have | answered
me

and you have become | my salvation. R

22The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

23By the Lord has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

24This is the day that the | Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it. R

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians — 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

19If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. 25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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

***Gospel Acclamation** — from *ELW* Setting Three

"Alleluia"



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel — Luke 24:1-12**

The Gospel of Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” 8Then they remembered his words, 9and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “An Expansive Life”

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn —**

“God of the Women”
Brass Ensemble Setting by Emily Bruflat

Stanza 1: All Stanza 2: High Voices Stanza 3: Low Voices Stanzas 4-5: All

**1. God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.**

**2. God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.**

**3. God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.**

**4. God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.**

**5. O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.**

*Affirmation of Faith — Nicene Creed

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

On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Call on each of us to be respectful and ethical in how we treat the world around us, so that life may flourish. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world. Empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. Be with the Ukrainian refugees as they continue to flee their home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety, those who are sick, and those who suffer in any way. Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace. Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder in exploring new avenues of faith formation, worship, and discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ 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!

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

“Lamb of God” — *page 146, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three*

Communion Blessing and Prayer

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 548

“Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”
Setting by David Cherwien

***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 — “Risen: A Medley of Easter Hymns”

Setting by Emily Bruflat
Brass Ensemble

Do you know the tune? Sing along!

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today;
Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way;
Alleluia!
offer praise with love replete,
Alleluia!
at the paschal victim's feet.
Alleluia!**

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!**

**Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video (9:00): Brad Chambers, Sam Szybnski

Acolytes: Paul Szybnski, Timothy Culuris (9:00);

Colton Loken, Jacob Little (11:00)

Greeters: Raina and Rebekah Roemhildt

Reader: Annalise Rivas (9:00); Garrett Paul (11:00)

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, Harry Hunt, Paul Aasen

Musicians: Handbell Choir; Brass Ensemble: Todd Schuldt, Kristine Schuldt, Doug Schuldt, Mark Roemhildt, Ryan Shirk, Josh Forbord

Announcements

- Thank you to all volunteers who have signed up to help during this busy week! Would you like to assist? You can sign up in the Gathering Space, at www.flcstp.org, or by contacting the church office!
- Our 5th through 8th graders are putting together a care package for Ukrainian youth. If you would like to help us cover the cost of shipping this package or to make an item donation (winter hats/gloves, socks, scarves, candy, etc.), please contact Calleigh Carlson: cc.flcstp@gmail.com
- To support Lutheran Disaster Response to aid the people of Ukraine, you can make a donation <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>
- Cemetery Clean-Up Day on Friday, April 22nd 10 AM-12PM! Everyone is welcome to come help. Bring gloves and rakes.

- The family of Helen and Paul Baumgartner has planned a memorial service for this coming Saturday, April 23. Recordings of Paul and Helen from various recitals will start at 11:00 with the memorial service beginning at 11:30.
- Our next forum will be held on Sunday, April 24 at 11:15 a.m.. Former interim pastor Bill Nelsen, along with his co-author Professor Darrell Jodock, will be with us to discuss the ideas in their new book *Embracing Diversity: Faith, Vocation, and the Promise of America*. You are invited to attend.
- *Short Stories by Jesus*: A six-week discussion of Jesus' parables, for Monday Morning Bible Study, begins on April 25 at 9:30 a.m. What did they mean to the people who heard them the first time? What do they mean today? All are welcome!
- The Green Committee is hosting an event on Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. called "Pocket Prairie Planning." Conservation Botanist Genevieve Brand will be leading a seminar to teach us how to start a small native garden in your own yard. This is a free event - please bring a friend!

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Gloria Kane, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, Patricia Freiert, Tim Sebring, Claire Cardwell, Urusla McRostie
- We pray for the families of those who have recently died: Mary Bell Gordenier (mother of Kim Bovee) and Joe Antrim (son-in-law of Kay Moline).
- We pray for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.

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

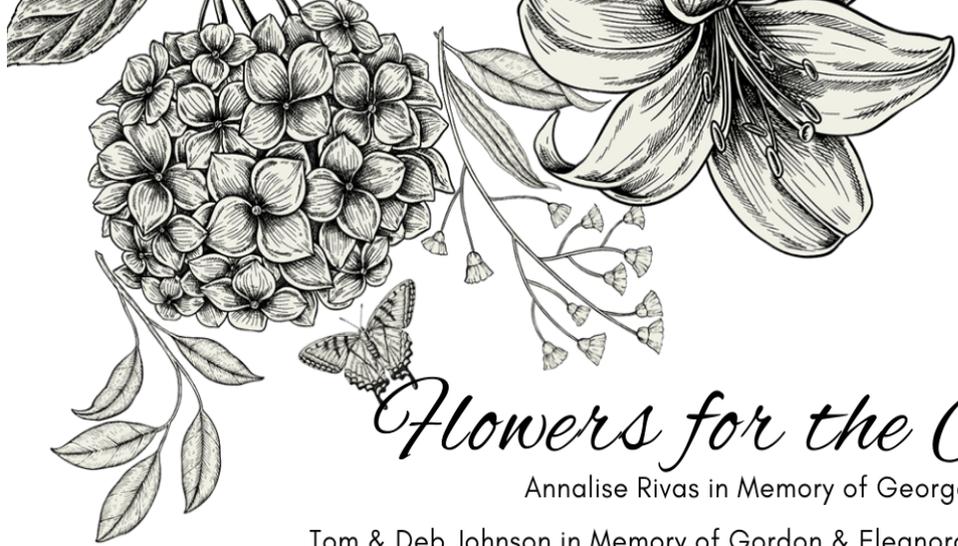
God's work. Our hands.

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."



Flowers for the Altar

Annalise Rivas in Memory of George Rivas

Tom & Deb Johnson in Memory of Gordon & Eleanora Johnson & Hazel Bach

Mary & Gordon Long in Honor of Our Children & Grandchildren

Carol Solberg & Family in Memory of Stan Solberg

John & Shirb Sylvester in Memory of Ora & Truman Erickson, and Phyllis & Clarence Sylvester

John & Shirb Sylvester in Honor of Marilyn Siskonen

John & Shirb Sylvester in Celebration of their grandchildren Abby, Cullen, Dan, Ellie, Jen, Lauren, Ryan & Will

Bill & Cheryl Kautt in Memory of Ruth Kautt and Bernice & Ernest Salmela

Karen & Jon Smithers in Memory of Our Parents

John & Aileen Bipes in Memory of Our Parents

Betty Thompson in Memory of Henry Thompson

Tom & Nancy Thorkelson in Memory of Hagen & Loraine Thorkelson

Paul, Rebecca, Laura, and Eric Carpenter in Honor of Darlene Lee

Lorraine Knutson in Memory of Marlin & Danny Knutson

Barb Haack in Memory of Dale Haack

Al & Mary Hildebrandt in Honor of Our Grandchildren, Blakeley, Remy & Stella

Patricia & William Freiart In memory of our dear friends who have passed away this past year

Rebecca Otterness in Honor of Elgene Lund

Rebecca Otterness & Elgene Lund in Memory of David Otterness & Doniver Lund

Robert & Kay Moline in Memory of Kim Hogg & Jan Moline

Ken & Patsy Rossow in Celebration of The Marriage of Dr. Jeff & Dr. Breah Rossow

Bruce & Sue Gray in Honor of their Family

Tom, Grant & Emily Nelsen in Memory of Linda Nelsen

Jerry Kozitza & Suzanne Eistadt in Memory of Mildred Kozitza

