April 19, 2026 ☩

Third 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 – This Joyful Eastertide (Vruechten) -- Jan Bender (1909-94)

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 391 "This Joyful Eastertide"

***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 may be 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, *from ELW Setting Four*

*__Hymn of Praise__ - page 149, *from ELW Setting Four*

*__Prayer of the Day__ -

P: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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, 36-41

14a Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: 36 "Therefore let
the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this
Jesus whom you crucified."
37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other
apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one
of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of
the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away,
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." 40 And he testified with many other arguments and
exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 So those who welcomed
his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19- *The psalm will be sung responsively between each side of the assembly.*

1 I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
2 for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.
3 **The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;**
I came to | grief and sorrow.
4 **Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:**
"O LORD, I pray you, | save my life."
12 How shall I re- | pay the LORD
for all the good things God has | done for me?

13 **I will lift the cup | of salvation**
and call on the name | of the LORD.
14 I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people.
15 **Precious in your | sight, O LORD,**
is the death | of your servants.
16 O LORD, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.
17 **I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving**
and call upon the name | of the LORD.
ALL: 18 **I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD**
in the presence of | all God's people,
19 **in the courts of | the LORD's house,**
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in
fear during the time of your exile. 18 You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct
inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold 19 but with the
precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. 20 He was destined before
the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 21 Through
him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that
your trust and hope are in God.

22 Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have
genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. 23 You have been born anew,
not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

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

Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35

The Gospel of Luke, the 24th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

113 Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven
miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had
happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with
them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you
discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of
them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who
does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" 19 He asked them, "What
things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed
and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him

over to be condemned to death and crucified him. [21] But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. [22] Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, [23] and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. [24] Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." [25] Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! [26] Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" [27] Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

[28] As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. [29] But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. [30] When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. [31] Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. [32] They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" [33] That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. [34] They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" [35] Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread."

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

Sermon – Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson

*__Hymn__ –no. 374 "Day of Arising"

*__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 – "Canon" Johann Pachelbel, arr. David Burndren,

***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.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

***Great Thanksgiving and Preface** – page 152, *from ELW Setting Four*

***Holy, Holy, Holy** – page 153, *from ELW Setting Four*

***Words of Institution** – page 111, *from ELW Setting One*

*__The Lord's Prayer –__

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.

*__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, *from ELW Setting Four*
Fugue in G Minor "The Little Fugue," J.S. Bach arr. AM BT
Hymn –no.491 "Come, Let Us Eat"

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. 548 "Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen"

*__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__ – Fugue Number 2 (BWV 847) J. S. Bach

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Preacher: Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson
Organist: David Fienen
Assisting Minister: Larry Kiewel
Director of Choirs: Sarah Chambers

Ushers: Avery Loken, John Nadeau
Communion Preparers: Harry & Bonnie Hunt
Communion Servers: Cindy Nadeau, Carolyn Trnka
Acolytes: Loic Bly, Ambriela Linsmeier

Tech: Charlotte Loken, Rachel Ribar
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:

- The Building and Grounds Committee will be serving during **Fellowship** after worship.
- **First Communion class offered** for anyone who is in 2nd grade or older. See Pastor Chris or Deacon Brenda for more information.
- **Faith Night at First continues Wednesday, April 22.** Meal (5:15-6:15 pm), worship (6:15-6:45 pm) and Education for All (6:45 – 7:30pm).
- **Adult Class meets in the Pioneer Parlor** - Wednesday Nights at 6:45 pm on April 22 and 29 with Pastor Heather Culuris for Book study on "Hope" by Jane Goodall.
- **From the Green Committee:** we have resumed collecting plastic in the entry way. Also, please consider donating produce from your personal gardens to the SPFS.
- Monday morning **Bible Study** continues at 9:30am in the chapel.
- **Rental Assistance:** The need for emergency funds continues as many of our immigrant neighbors have not returned to work or are working part-time hours. If you would like to contribute, you can leave a check (to Good Neighbor Diversity Council," emergency fund" in memo line) or cash in an envelope marked "rental assistance" and all money collected will be dispersed through the Good Neighbor Diversity Council's Emergency Fund.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- 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!
- 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
- **Habitat for Humanity** South Central MN is holding its second annual BikeBuildHome500 Bike ride in mid July this year. For more than 25 years Habitat for Humanity has held a week long 500 mile bike ride fundraiser raising millions of dollars to build homes in Minnesota and around the days. Habitat builds the homes with these funds and then sells the home to a family with a no interest loan. I would welcome any donations for my ride. Checks can be made out to Habitat for Humanity South Central MN with a note of Keith Stelter in the memo line. Thank you!! Keith Stelter
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QR offering code