



April 24, 2022 Second Sunday of Easter Global Music Sunday

You are invited to read responses found in **bold*
**An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit*

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Come, All You People”

Alexander Gondo
Jeremiah Band

***Processional Hymn** — no. 364

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

***Words of Welcome**

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism,
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.
For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless
God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:
through the earth, through the city,
through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;
You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.
Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.
You open the gate of righteousness
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ,
you calm the troubled waters.
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.
You call us forth and send us out.
In lush and barren places, you are with us.
You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water
and awaken your church once more.
Claim us again as your beloved
and holy people.

**Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts;
wipe away every tear.**

To you, our Beginning and our End,
our Shepherd and Lamb,
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,
now and forever.

Amen.

***Canticle of Praise** — hymn no. 555

“O, Sing to God Above”

***Prayer of the Day**

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

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit’s breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles — Acts 5:27-32

27When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 28saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” 29But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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

Psalmody — hymn no. 822, based on Psalm 98

“O Sing to the Lord”

A Reading from Revelation — Revelation 1:4-8

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.

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

***Gospel Acclamation** — hymn no. 171

“Heleluyan”

***Gospel** — John 20:19-31

The Gospel of John, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So 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.”

26A 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." 27Then 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." 28Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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

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

Sermon — "It's OK to Wrestle with our Faith"

Pastor Chris Culuris

*Hymn — no. 934, from *All Creation Sings*

"Christ Is Living"



¡Cris - to vi - ve, fue - ra el llan - to, los la - men - tos y el pe - sar!
 1 Christ is liv - ing! Gone with sor - row! Tears and ter - ror, be no more.
 2 For if Christ is not a - ris - en there is noth - ing to be - lieve.
 3 Death is swal - lowed up in vic - t'ry; sin has lost its poi - son sting.



Ni la muer - te ni el se - pul - cro lo han po - di - do su - je - tar.
 Death and grave, you now are noth - ing; Christ is free of ev - 'ry pow'r.
 Je - sus' prom - ise is ac - comp - lished: "Since I live, you too shall live."
 Life will blos - som from the grain sown, Christ the first fruits of the spring.



No bus - quéis en - tre los muer - tos al que siem - pre ha de vi - vir.
 Why then seek the liv - ing Sav - ior in the haunts of death and fear?
 Dust we are, to dust re - turn - ing, but in Christ we are re - stored.
 For the sure - ness of sal - va - tion let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"



¡Cris - to vi - ve! es - tas nue - vas por do - quier de - jad o - ir.
 Christ is ris - en! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.
 Doubt dis - pel - ling, claim the tri - umph: Je - sus is the liv - ing Lord!
 Christ is ris - en! We are liv - ing! Spread the word of grace a - broad.

*Affirmation of Faith — Nicene Creed

Let us affirm our faith together using the words of the 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

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. We live in a world where natural disasters are commonplace; be with the people of South Africa affected by disastrous flooding. Help us to do all in our power to correct our changing climate, and in doing so, invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. Call on us to care for the people of Ukraine as we pray for an end to war. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold your children who cry out to you. Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise, especially the art and music ministries of this congregation. With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy as we pray together the prayer Christ taught us:

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.

***Sharing of the Peace**

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

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 375

“Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen”

***Blessing & Dismissal**

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Go in peace. Tell what God has done! **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

South African
Jeremiah Band

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Amelia Staples

Acolytes: Maren Swenson, Natalie Twait

Greeter: Cheryl Kautt

Reader: Sharon Malm

Ushers: Bill Kautt, Steve Erickson, Evan Buffington

Musicians: Jeremiah Band - Ivy McHugh, Ella Twaddle,
Timmy Culuris, Steve Kidder

Announcements

- An update from the Health Advisory Team: We are urging people to continue wearing masks, but they are no longer required at First Lutheran. Please make your decision based on your personal health status.
- Thank you to all volunteers who have signed up to help during our busy spring! 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>
- Our next forum will be held today 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 tomorrow, 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!
- Would you like to be commissioned to administer Holy Communion to our homebound members? There will be another commissioning during worship on May 8 at our 10:00 a.m. worship. Contact Pastor Chris if you are interested!

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 Friert, 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.
- We pray for the victims of the war in Ukraine and all who have been displaced.

Worship Notes

From the Altar Guild: You may have noticed a shroud draping the cross over the past seven weeks and that it has changed colors. It started out as a purple shroud, which hung throughout Lent. Purple, the color worn by royalty, celebrates Christ as King. Purple was replaced by black on Good Friday, representing Christ's death and crucifixion. On Easter Sunday, the third and final shroud was revealed as you see it now: white, representing the resurrection of Christ.