

Faith ALIVE

April 16, 2023 + Second Sunday of Easter
Global Music Sunday

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

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

we GATHER

Prelude —

Steve Kidder, guitar and vocal

***Words of Welcome**

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

Starting with something a bit more familiar to our ear, this is a German tune from the 18th century. We sing of the joy we find in the risen Christ!

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 361

“The Day of Resurrection!”

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both lands and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

*This text and tune
both come to us
from Brazil. We
sing, dance, and
shout in praise to
God!*

***Canticle of Praise** — hymn no. 822

“Oh, Sing to the Lord”

***Prayer of the Day**

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

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 and RESPOND

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles — Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], “You that are 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—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. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 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;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“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. 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. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

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

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 — *read responsively by verse*

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”
**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

But those who run after other gods
 shall have their troubles multiplied.
**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
 never take their names upon my lips.**
 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
 it is you who uphold my lot.
**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
 indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
 my heart teaches me night after night.
**I have set the Lord always before me;
 because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
 my body also shall rest in hope.
**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
 nor let your holy one see the pit.**
 You will show me the path of life;
 in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter — 1 Peter 1:3-9

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, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 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. 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, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

*Sing this joyful
 Alleluia in a
 Celtic style!*

***Gospel Acclamation** — no. 174, sung twice

“Celtic Alleluia”

***Gospel** — John 20:19-31

The Gospel of John, the 19th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When 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 Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

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

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.” 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.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 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.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But 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.

Coming to us from Spain, this hymn recounts the details of the resurrection, from Mary Magdalene and the women who discover the empty tomb to the disciples encountering the risen Christ. The final stanza uplifts the story of Thomas from today's gospel reading.

Sermon

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — no. 375

“Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen”

***The Apostles' Creed**

P: Let us confess our faith together:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again;

**he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary world. Following the women at the tomb, empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words and our work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains. Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our communities' leaders. Give them hearts that burn for justice, that their leadership reflects your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, show us your presence along our journeys. Bless our doubts and questions. Provide trusting and safe relationships, to nurture our connection to you and one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Resurrecting God, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with companions on our faith journey, especially those who now rest in your love. Strengthen us with the peace of your promises. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the joy of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

This song of welcome from Zimbabwe is also a reflection of the Trinity - you will be invited to sing along!

The Sign of Peace

Offering

Music During Offering

"Come, All You People"

Alexander Gondo
Jeremiah Band

***Offering Prayer**

A: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

we SHARE the meal

***Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***Words of Institution and Prayers**

P: 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.

Celebrating this meal in the joy of our risen Savior, we 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**

P: Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity.

Christ has gathered his people around the earth to commune at this table.

Across political lines and economic lines,

in places of powerfully protected affluence,

and among the poorest of the poor, we share a meal,

remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible.

And so, come: you from the East and you from the West,

from the North and from the South.

Come. Come with your doubts, come with your hopes,
come with your inadequacies and with your strengths.
Come, for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.

*We will receive
continuous
communion this
morning; the
ushers will invite
you to come
forward.*

Distribution of Communion

Communion Canticle — no.341

“Now Behold the Lamb”

Reflection — “A Song about Grace”

John Ylvisaker
Steve Kidder, guitar and vocal

Prayer After Communion

P: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus’ name. Amen.

we DEPART to serve the world

*We rejoice with
many
Hallelujahs,
singing this song
from South Africa
as we are sent out
to “tell to all the
joyful gospel.”*

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 535

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead,

bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

***Postlude** — “To God Who By the Power”

John Ylvisaker
Jeremiah Band

Acknowledgements

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Assisting Minister: David Marlow

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Maren Swenson

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Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, Keith Stelter

Musicians: Jeremiah Band -Steve Kidder, Ella Twaddle,

Ivy McHugh, Kelley Harrell, Christiaan Hajos

Communion Preparers: Stewarts

Communion Servers: Sharon Domeier

Bread Bakers: Diane Stewart

Acolytes: Aven Twaddle, Nolan & Maxwell Swenson

Announcements

- You are invited to join Emily and other musicians for an outreach opportunity to Ecumen Sand Prairie next Sunday, April 23 from 1:30 - 2:15 in the afternoon. We will be providing a program including instruments and a sing-a-long of familiar hymns for the residents. Stay tuned for two other similar opportunities the following week, and email Emily to sign up at musicflcstp@gmail.com. The more the merrier!
- Flowers for the Altar are given today by Jerry Kozitza and Suzanne Eichstadt in memory of Mildred Kozitza.
- Refreshments after worship today will be served by the Twaddle and Little families.
- Thank you to those of you who attended the First Forum this morning. Our next Forum will be on April 23 at 9:15am with Marti Titus who will talk about the Adult Day program located in our lower level.
- FLC's "Get on the Beam" fund drive for Habitat for Humanity has begun! Simply drop your donation into the container attached to the 2" x 4" located in the gathering space and then sign your name on the beam.
- Meals on Wheels of is looking for volunteers. Please contact the site coordinator in St. Peter at 507.934.8850 if you would like to help!
- The Lion's Club breakfast is today until 12:30pm at the Legion.
- Minnesota Power & Light's Earth Day Benefit concert on April 23 at 3pm will be live in Minneapolis & livestreamed at the First Universalist Church in Minneapolis.
- The Boy Scouts will be hosting a pancake breakfast at FLC on April 30 from 8am-12pm.
- Spring clean-up date for the cemetery will be Friday, April 28, 10am-Noon. Rain day would be May 5.

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Karen Smithers, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Dorothy Lutz, Claire Cardwell, and Ella Twaddle.
- We pray for those who mourn family and friends who have recently died.