May 10, 2026 ☩

Sixth 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

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 822

"O Sing to the Lord"

***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: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 17:22-31

22 Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you
are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your
worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What
therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and
everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human
hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives
to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit
the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places
where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him
and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In him we live and move
and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

29 "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or
stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the
times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has
fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has
appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

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

Psalm - *the psalm will be sung responsively by whole verse* Ps 66:8-20

8 Bless our | God, you peoples;
let the sound of | praise be heard.
9 **Our God has kept us a- | mong the living**
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.
10 For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.
11 **You brought us in- | to the net;**
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.
12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.
13 **I will enter your house | with burnt offerings**
and will pay | you my vows—
14 those that I promised | with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.
15 **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;**
I will give you ox- | en and goats.
16 Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.
17 **I called out to God | with my mouth,**
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.
18 If I had cherished evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;
19 **but in truth | God has heard me**
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.
20 Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14 But even if you do suffer for
doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but
in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who
demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, 16 yet do it with gentleness and
respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for
your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if
suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered for sins
once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death
in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the
spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of

Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. [21] And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22] who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

*__Gospel Acclamation__ – page 151, *from ELW Setting Four*

*__Gospel:__ John 14: 15-21

The Gospel of John, the 14th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [15] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. [17] This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

[18] "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. [19] In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. [20] On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. [21] They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

Sermon – Pastor Chris Culuris

*__Hymn__ –no. 781 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

*__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 acknowledgement page and ***Thank you!***

Offering music –

*__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 at the rail.*
Lamb of God – page 154, *from ELW Setting Four*
Hymn no. 595 "Jesus Loves Me"
Hymn no. 471 "Let Us Break Bread together"

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.**

Blessing for Mothers

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 631 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*__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 –**

<u>In Worship Today</u>	Ushers:	Tech: Brett Petersen
Pastor: Chris Culuris	Communion Preparers:	Bread Baker: Nancy Thorkelson
Organist: Brenda Handel-Johnson	Communion Servers: Ted Kunze, John Bipes	
Assisting Minister: Aileen Bipes		

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), Leah Crosby and baby (niece of Aileen Bipes).

<u>Acknowledgments</u>

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FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- Carol Solberg and Betty Thompson will be serving **Fellowship** after worship.
- Congratulations to Corbin Caven and Avery Noble who received their **first Holy Communion today** during worship! God bless you and your families.
- **Graduate Blessing:** please join us next Sunday as we pray for our graduates.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Bruce Gray's Funeral** will be held at Christ Chapel at 11:30am on Friday, May 15 with visitation two hours before.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Please wear your yellow "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday t-shirts to worship on May 17.** We will be taking a picture of our congregation and want your participation!
- **Habitat for Humanity** South Central MN is holding its second annual BikeBuildHome500 Bike ride in mid-July this year. This annual week-long 500-mile bike ride fundraiser raises millions of dollars to build homes; 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
- **Adult BWCA** trip is slated for June 28th- July 2 if interested, call Mark Szybnski at 507-380-9180 or email him at markszybnski@gmail.com
- **Saint Peter 2050 Comprehensive Plan – Community Survey**
  The City of Saint Peter has begun work on its 2050 Comprehensive Plan, which will guide community growth, development, and investment over the next 20 years. Community input is an important part of the process. Residents are invited to share their ideas by completing a short survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SP2050COMPPLAN
  Paper copies are also available at City Hall (227 S Front St).
- The **Building and Grounds** Committee is having a workday at the church on Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 am. until noon. We will have projects that need to be completed both inside and
  outside the church. Bring rakes and shovels for outside (removing old mulch and replacing it with new, collecting fallen branches to clear areas that will be mowed, possibly trimming some trees, pulling weeds, removing leaves and dead vegetation). Cleaning windows will be the primary task inside. Any assistance from the congregation would be greatly appreciated.