



May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 — “The Gift of Love”

Setting by Catherine McMichael
String Duet

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift of all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.*
-Hal Hopson

***Processional Hymn** — no. 631

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

***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 and trouble the
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.**

*Prayer of the Day

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

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

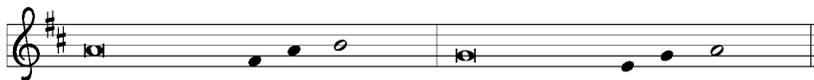
Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles — Acts 11:1-18

1Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” 4Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. 6As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ 10This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” 18When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

Psalm 148 — *sung responsively by verse*



1Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
2**Praise the Lord, | all you angels;**
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
3Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
4**Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,**
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.
5Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,
6**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,**
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.
7Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
8**fire and hail, | snow and fog,**
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God’s will;

9mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
10**wild beasts | and all cattle,**
creeping things and | flying birds;
11sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
12**young | men and maidens,**
old and | young together.
13Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose
splendor is over | earth and heaven.
14**The Lord has raised up strength for**
the people and praise for all | faithful
servants,
the children of Israel, a people who
are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!

A Reading from Revelation — Revelation 21:1-6

1I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

4he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

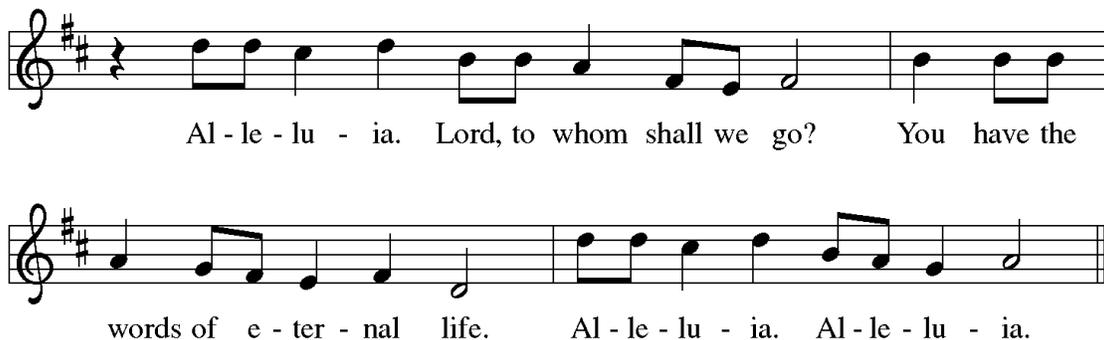
for the first things have passed away.”

5And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Word of God. Word of life. **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 — John 13:31-35

The Gospel of John, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

31When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Love Others as Jesus Loved Us”

Pastor Chris Culuris

*Hymn — no. 359

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

*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.

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us: Saint Peter's local parks, the Minnesota River, the campus Arboretum, and our personal nature sanctuaries. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. We lift up the people of Ukraine as their lives are turned upside down by war. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior who taught us 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.

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all. **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!

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

“If Ye Love Me”

Thomas Tallis, Setting by John May
Cello Trio

*If ye love me, keep my commandments,
and I will pray the father, and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.*

-Based on John 14:15-17

Departing to Serve God’s World

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 708

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”
Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

***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 — “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Setting by Doris Gazda & Larry Clark
Cello Trio

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise!*

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen
Acolytes: Simon Ribar, Paul Szybnski

Greeter/Reader: Aileen Bipes, John Bipes
Ushers: Bob Shoemaker, Liz Power Hawkinson
Musicians: Strings - Carrie Stelter, Erik Lutz, John Bipes

Announcements

- 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>
- If you haven't already “Gotten on the Beam,” there's another chance today. Don't miss it!
 - Make a donation to HabitatSCMN, using the container attached to the 2 x 4 located in the gathering space and then sign your name on the “beam,” which will become part of the framework of a new Habit house somewhere in our local area.
 - Thanks for whatever contribution you can make!
- Communion Servers will be needed throughout the spring and summer. Please consider signing up on the orange sheet in the Gathering Space today!
- This Wednesday we will have a Safety Presentation with Officer Jon Hughes at 6:30pm in the Dining Hall.
- The Building & Grounds Committee is holding a church grounds clean up day on May 21, 10:00am-12:00pm. Please bring your own gloves, rakes etc. Questions? Contact Bill Kautt

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, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie.
- We pray for Darlene Lee as she recovers from hip surgery.
- We pray for Monique Sebring and her family who are mourning the loss of her brother Tim.
- We pray for the family of Steven Draeger who passed away on Wednesday.
- 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.
- We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters, droughts, floods, and fires.