May 17, 2026 ✝

Seventh 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 - "God, We Gather as Your People" setting, Sherri Hansen

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 322 v. 1, 4, 6 & 7 "O Love How Deep"

***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 (*local waters may be named*). 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 of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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

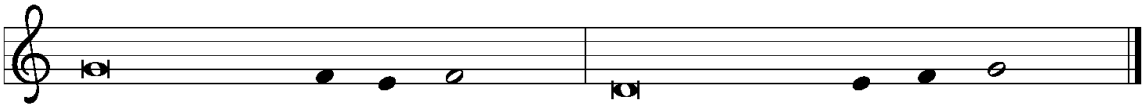
First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

6 When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you
will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods
that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit
has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to
the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a
cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven,
suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand
looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come
in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a
Sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs
where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas,
Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of
James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women,
including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

Psalm - *the psalm will be sung responsively by whole verse* Ps 68:1-10, 32-35



1 Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;
let those who | hate God flee.
2 **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;**
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of God.
3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.
4 **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;**
I AM is that name, rejoice | before God!
5 In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;
6 **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;**
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.
7 O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,
when you marched | through the wilderness,
8 **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the | God of Sinai,**
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.
9 You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.
10 **Your people found their | home in it;**
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor.
32 Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;
sing praises | to the Lord.
33 **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;**
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.
34 Ascribe pow- | er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.
35 **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,**
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God!

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as
though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing
Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. 14 If
you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the
Spirit of God, is resting on you.

5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in
due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 8 Discipline yourselves; keep
alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.
9 Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world
are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the
God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support,
strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

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

***Gospel:** John 17: 1-11

The Gospel of John, the 17th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

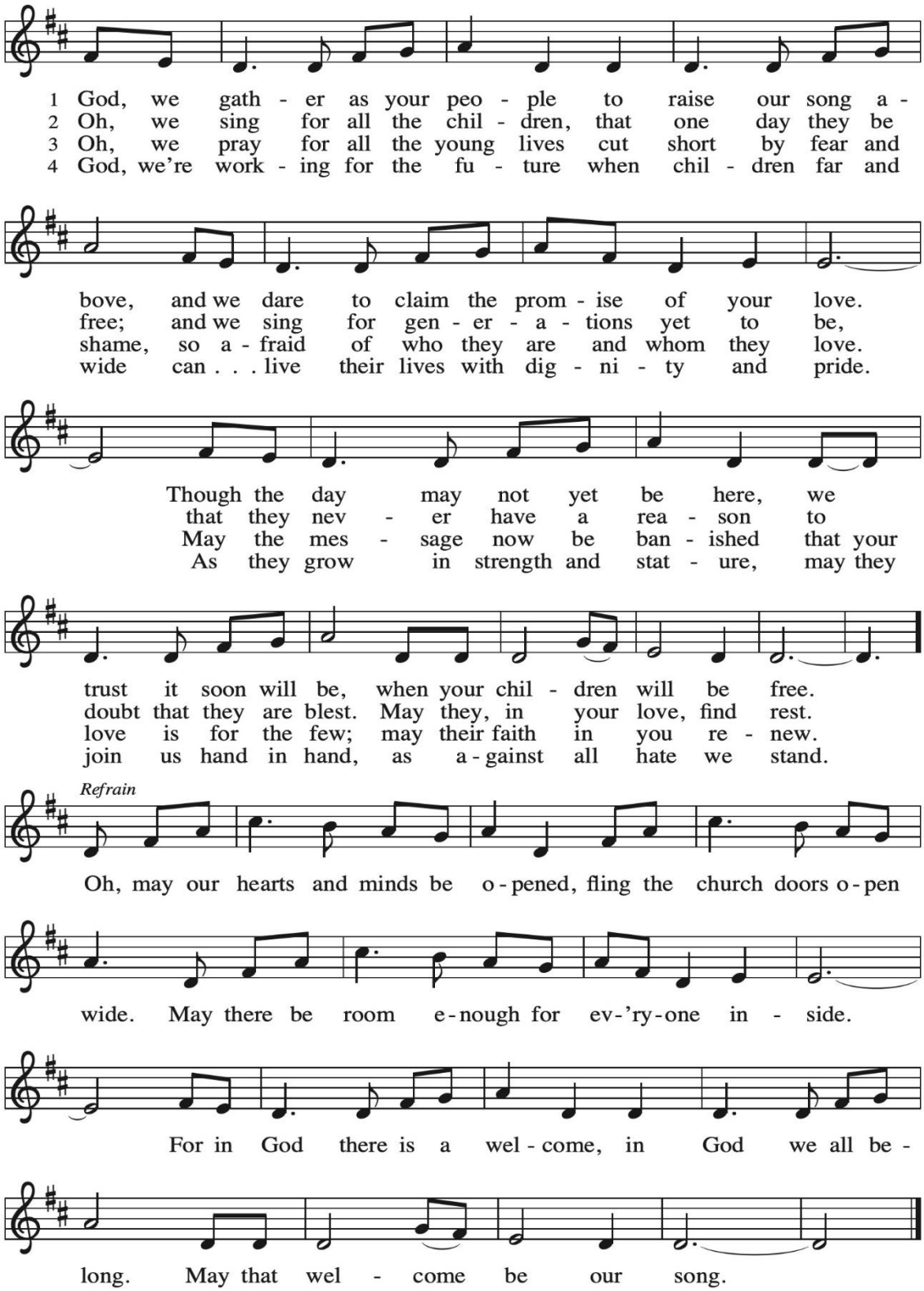
1 After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, "Father,
the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him
authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is
eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify
me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.
6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were
yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that
everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to
them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have
believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world
but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and
yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but
they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you
have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

Children's Sermon – Rachel Szybnski

Sermon – Pastor Chris Culuris

*Hymn ACS 1038 "God, We Gather as Your People"

God, We Gather As Your People

*__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!***

QR offering code

Offering music – "My Heart is Steadfast" Robin Cain, arr. Phil Kadidlo
*__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 today.*
Lamb of God – page 154, *from ELW Setting Four*
Hymn – see back page "Bind Us Together"
Hymn no. 793 "Be Thou My Vision"

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.**

Prayer Shawl Presentation and Blessing for Graduates

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 392 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

*__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__ – "Oh, Love, How Deep" setting, Edwin Childs

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Organist: Brenda Handel-Johnson
Assisting Minister: Larry Kiewel
Soloist: Rebekah Roemhildt

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson
Communion Preparers: Mary Thompson, Angie Buffington
Communion Servers: Cheryl & Bill Kautt

Tech: 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), Ann Friederichs, Leah Crosby and baby (niece of Aileen Bipes).

Acknowledgments

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FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- **Fellowship** Servers today are Cathy Wills assisting the Junior class in honor of the Senior Class with Cookies following worship.
- Following worship, meet in the gathering area for a group picture.
- **Congratulations and God Bless our Graduates:** Lathe Bly, Lilly Chambers, Malcom McHugh, Rebekah Roemhildt, Amelia Staples, Sam Szybnski and Abby Voeltz.
- **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.
- We are looking for a new **Director of Choirs and Handbells**. Sarah Chambers did a great job conducting FLC choirs but is unable to continue due to her teaching load. So, if you are interested in applying for this position to lead Youth and Adult Choirs, or Handbells, please contact Kaari Bly, Pastor Chris, or Deacon Brenda.
- **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:

- **Summer Hike or Bike dates are on the last Wednesday of each month.** May 27, 6:30-7:30 pm is Hiking night. We start and end at FLC and will enjoy roasting marshmallows over our new stove. Wear your walking shoes and bring a friend.
- **Summer of Service:** The last Sunday of each summer month will give everyone an opportunity to serve our neighbors. On May 31, following worship, we will be packing pet food for the St Peter Area Food Shelf. Everything will be provided – just bring your willing hands and spirits.
- **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
- On Sunday, June 7th the Social Justice committee will coordinate a **spring cleanup at the Union Street Shelter in St. Peter**. After worship on the 7th, we travel to Union Shelter to clean out gutters, plant flowers, and complete other outdoor cleanup projects. Bring work gloves, tall ladders, trowels, rakes, tarps, clippers and other tools for yard cleanup. Contact Mary Spear (507-317-1817) if you can help.
- **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).