

May 29, 2022 Ascension of Our Lord

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 — “Dialogue”

Jean-François Dandrieu

***Processional Hymn** — no. 579

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

St. 1: All St. 2: High Voices St. 3: All, in harmony St. 4, Low Voices St. 5: All

***Words of Welcome**

***Litany of Lament**

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, the second chapter: *An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt . . . for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked . . . he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem. . . . Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”* The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

I weep for our children who are no more.

We refuse to be consoled.

I weep for our parents who grieve.

We refuse to be consoled.

I weep for our families forced to grieve.

We refuse to be consoled.

I weep for our cities and towns torn by gun violence and terror.

We refuse to be consoled.

I weep.

We refuse to be consoled.

I weep for the congregation of Geneva Presbyterian Church; for the community of Buffalo, NY; for Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, where 19 children and two adults were murdered this week; and for the families and communities where over 200 mass shooting events have taken place so far in 2022.

We refuse to be consoled.

I cry out for justice for our children.

We refuse to be defeated.

I cry out for hope for our children.

We refuse to be defeated.

I cry out for serenity for our children.

We refuse to be defeated.

I cry out for tranquility for our parents.

We refuse to be defeated.

I cry out for peace in our cities and towns.

We refuse to be defeated.

I pray for hope!

We pray for hope!

I act for peace!

We act for peace!

I work for justice!

We work for justice!

Let us pray. God of peace, God of justice, you weep with us for our children, our siblings, our parents, our families, our cities and towns torn apart by gun violence. Give us courage, give us determination, give us strength, that we may work untiringly for the hope and peace and justice you desire for all the world. This we ask through your Son, the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Kyrie** — *sung three times*

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son,
Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e -
le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

***Prayer of the Day**

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

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through 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 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] 1In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; 5for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

6So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8But 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.” 9When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11They 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.”

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

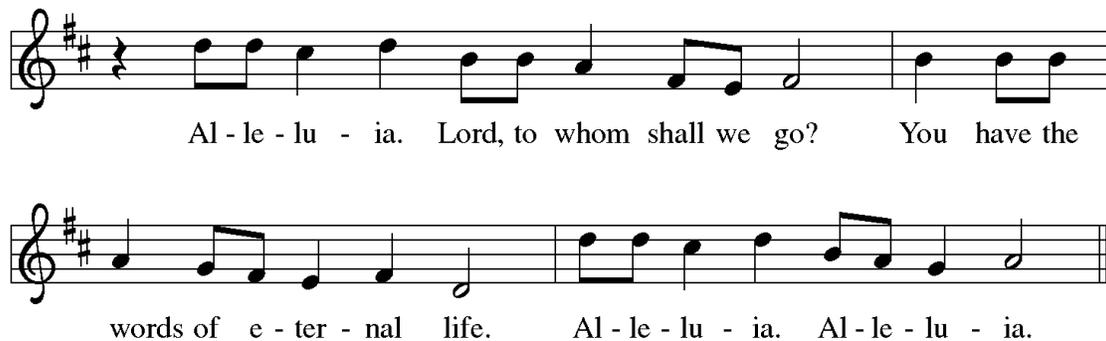
A Reading from the Epistles — Ephesians 1:15-23

15I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 — Luke 24:44-53

The Gospel of Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

44[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things. 49And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

50Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Lord, Help Us!”

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn —**

“God, Our Nation Feels the Loss”
Sung to the tune GETHSEMANE

God, our nation feels the loss
as our children pay the cost
for the violence we accept,
for the silence we have kept.
Rachel weeps for children gone;
God of love, this can't go on!

Holy Spirit, wind and flame,
send us out in Jesus' name.
May we shout and say, "Enough!"
May we build a world of love —
till the sounds of weapons cease,
till our young can grow in peace.

Jesus, Lord, we hear you say,
"Don't turn little ones away!"
May we build a kinder land
where our children understand:
Every child here matters more
that the guns we clamor for.

***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, ruler of heaven and earth, wash us in your Holy Spirit and make us witnesses to your resurrected life in this community. Let our fellowship be a sign to others of the presence of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through thundering, mighty waters reveal your creative power at work in creation. Cleanse the air, land, and waters with the movement of your Spirit and the participation of your people. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In faithful and diverse worship, turn all people toward you and your loving will for humankind. Bridge differences among traditions and across faiths. Unite us in mission for the sake of a world in need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus ascended and commissioned us to tend to the brokenness in our world. Hold all who suffer in the palm of your loving hand and give them rest. Comfort all who lost loved ones in the school shooting in Texas. Help us to act in responsible ways to promote the safety and well being of all your children. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us through the music, dance, and other arts ministries of this congregation. With clapping, shouting, singing, playing, and moving, let our bodies bear witness to the joy you alone can give. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rouse us to remember the faithful witness of the saints who have gone before us. By their lives and the life and death of Jesus, enlighten our hearts, give us hope, and lead us in wisdom. 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 risen Savior. **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!

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 374

“Day of Arising”

***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 — “Jesu Leiden, Pein und Tod”

Setting by Johann Gottfried Walther

(“Jesus’ Suffering Pain and Death” - a Passion text by Paul Stockmann)

*Watch, pray, Jesus says,
so that you do not lose heart.
The spirit indeed makes noble resolves
But the flesh dares do nothing.
With prayer begin everything,
if it is to be successful.
Do not be a presumptuous person
in such serious matters.*

-Stanza 3

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Cularis

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Shanon Nowell

Greeter: Carrie Stelter

Reader: John Holte

Ushers: Keith Stelter

Announcements

- The memorial service for Martin Larson will take place on Tuesday, May 31 in the Gathering Space at 10:00 a.m.
- 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>
- You have another chance today to “Get on the Beam! 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 Habitat House somewhere in our local area. Thanks for whatever contribution you can make!

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Abigail Christenson, 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 Betty Gustafson who was recently hospitalized at St. Mary’s Hospital.
- We pray for the families of Tim Sebring (brother of Monique Sebring), Steve Draeger, and all 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 the victims of the shootings in Buffalo, NY and Uvalde, Texas and all who have been affected by gun violence.