May 31, 2026 ☩

The Holy Trinity & Hymn Sing

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. 315, vs 1, 3, 5 "How Good, Lord, to Be Here!"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **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** – no. 592, vs. 1,2,3 "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

***Hymn of Praise** – no. 858, vs. 1 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

***Prayer of the Day -**

P: Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn – no. 556, vs. 1,3 "Morning Has Broken"

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was complete chaos, and darkness
covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said,
"Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the
light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was
evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the
waters." 7 So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters
that were above the dome. And it was so. 8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there
was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land
appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he
called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants
yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was
so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind
bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was
morning, the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let
them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky
to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the
day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17 God set them in the dome of the sky to give
light upon the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the
darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the
earth across the dome of the sky." 21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that
moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw
that it was good. 22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and
let birds multiply on the earth." 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things
and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals of the earth of
every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And
God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have
dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild
animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27 So God created humans in his image,

in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.
[28] God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." [29] God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. [30] And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. [31] God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

[2:1] Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. [2] On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. [3] So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

[4a] These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

Hymn – no. 856, vs. 1,2 "How Great Thou Art"

Psalm: *the psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse* Psalm 8

[1] O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
[2] you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.
[3] When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
[4] what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?
[5] Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.
[6] You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:
[7] all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
[8] the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.
[9] O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

[Paul writes:] 11 Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. 13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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

*__Gospel Acclamation__ – no. 661, vs. 1 "I Love to Tell the Story"

*__Gospel:__ Matthew 28:16-20

The Gospel of Mathew, the 28th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed
them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said
to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make
disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I
am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

*__Gospel Acclamation__ – no. 661, vs. 3 "I Love to Tell the Story"

Sermon "The power of co" Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson

*__Hymn__ – no. 413 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

*__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: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.
After each petition: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our 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 –

*__Offertory Hymn__ – no. 839, vs. 1,3 "Now Thank We All Our God"

*__Offering Prayer__

AM: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

*__Great Thanksgiving and Preface__ (spoken) – page 107, *ELW Setting One*

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ – no. 525 "You Are Holy"

*__Words of Institution__ – page 108-109, *ELW Setting One*

*__The Lord's Prayer__ –

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: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion continuously today.*
Hymn - no. 195 "Lamb of God"
Hymn – see insert "In the Garden"
Hymn – no. 708 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Prayer After Communion
P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 632, vs.1,3,4 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

*__Blessing & Dismissal__

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

AM: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

*__Postlude__

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Preacher: Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson
Organist: Doran Schoeppach
Assisting Minister: Grace Timm

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson
Communion Preparers: Harry and Bonnie Hunt
Communion Servers: Carolyn Trnka

Tech: Brett Petersen
Bread Baker: Nancy Thorkelson

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

Acknowledgments

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FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- **Fellowship** will be served by the Staff Support Committee. Join us after service today.
- **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.
- **Summer of Service:** The last Sunday of each summer month will give everyone an opportunity to serve our neighbors. Today, 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.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Synod Assembly:** June 5 & 6 at GAC. Please pray for our delegates: Harry Hunt, Rebecca Otterness, Michelle Twait, and Pastor Chris.
- **Cleanup at the Union Street Shelter in St. Peter:** After worship on June 7th, our Social Justice Committee will 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.
- **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
- **Habitat for Humanity** South Central MN is holding its second annual BikeBuildHome500 Bike ride in mid-July this year. You can financially support two FLC riders – Keith Stelter or Deacon Brenda. Checks can be made out to "Habitat for Humanity South Central MN" with the rider's name in the memo line which you can leave at the church office.
- **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. 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 St Peter Area Food Shelf needs help**: . Thursday, June 4 –Assistance needed with Senior Food distribution 2:45-4 pm. Wednesday, June 10 Fresh Produce Drive at FLC 9:30 - 12:30 at First Lutheran Church parking lot. THIS IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS. Produce Distribution happens the second Wednesday of the month Jun - Oct.
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