



May 8, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday

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 — “Children of the Heavenly Father”

Setting by Cathy and David Mocklebus
Rachel Szybnski, handbell solo

***Processional Hymn** — no. 384

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

***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.

***Canticle of Praise** — page 140, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three

*Prayer of the Day

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

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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 9:36-43

36Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." 39So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

Psalm 23 — hymn no. 780 (verses sung by soloist, all sing refrain)

"Shepherd Me, O God"
Rebekah Roemhildt, Vocal Leader

A Reading from Revelation — Revelation 7:9-17

9After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
11And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
13Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" 14I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
17for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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 10:22-30

The Gospel of John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

22At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” 25Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; 26but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. 27My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. 30The Father and I are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “In the Hands of Our Good Shepherd”

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — no. 789

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

***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.

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Feed your people at the table of creation. Embolden your people to prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation. Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away their tears. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life. 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. **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

"The King of Love my Shepherd Is"

Setting by David Cherwien
Rebecca Carpenter, flute

Sharing the Meal

*Great Thanksgiving & Preface — *page 144, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three*

*"Holy, Holy, Holy" — *page 144, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three*

*Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the name of the resurrected Christ, we pray together: **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 Communion

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love God
and who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little.
You who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.
You who have tried to follow and all of us who have failed.
These are the gifts of God for the People of God.
Come, not because the Church invites you;
It is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here.
The table is ready. Come.

Distribution of First Communion

“**Lamb of God**” — *page 146, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Three*

Hymn — no. 782

“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

Communion Blessing and Prayer

We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

Mother's Day Blessing

Life-giving God, we remember the mothers who have gone before us.
For their love, sacrifice, struggle and joy, we thank you.

Ever-present God, we remember the mothers of scripture
who are part of our story as we are a part of your story.
For their courage, faith, love and fierceness, we thank you.

Nurturing God, we remember those who have not given birth to us but are mothers and role models to us.
For their gift of themselves that they have given, we thank you.

For the people who struggle with fertility, for those whom society labels as less in their childlessness,
for those who have lost children or do not want children;
for their tears, for their strength, for their wisdom, for their lives, we thank you.

Mothering God, we go out today giving thanks for the people in our lives who have nurtured us and set an
example of love, patience, kindness, and compassion as Christ did before us.
**For illuminating their path and encouraging
them to let their light shine so that we may follow, we thank you!**

*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 — “My Shepherd, You Will Supply My Need”

Setting by Emily Maxon Porter
Rebecca Carpenter, flute

Acknowledgements

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“Mother’s Day Prayer” by Claire Schoepp, adapted, last petition added, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/04/a-prayer-for-mothers-day.html>

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris	Greeter/Reader: Mary & Gordon Long
Director of Music: Emily Bruflatt	Ushers: Bonnie and Harry Hunt, Ezekiel Ribar
Audio/Video: Brad Chambers	Acolytes: Kolby Nixon, Wes Chambers
Communion Servers: John & Cindy Nadeau	Musicians: Rachel Szybnski, Rebekah Roemhildt, Rebecca Carpenter
Communion Preparers: John & Shirleen Sylvester	Bread Bakers: Michelle Doose, Shirleen Sylvester

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>
- Today marks the first day of our month-long effort to raise money for Habitat for Humanity of South Central MN. You are invited to Get on the Beam!
 - The beam in question is the 2 x 4 you may have noticed in the Gathering Space.
 - Please consider placing a donation in the “bank” that is attached to the 2 x 4, and then sign your name on the beam. This beam will become part of the framework for a Habitat house in our local area, and your donations will be used to purchase building materials.
 - Note: *checks should be made out to Habitat for Humanity or HabitatSCMN, not to First Lutheran.*
- Communion Servers will be needed throughout the spring and summer. Please consider signing up on the orange sheet in the Gathering Space today!
- On May 15th at 9:15am in the Gathering Space our youth and families will be creating Tuna Salad Kits for the St. Peter Food Shelf. We are encouraging members to use Family Fresh cards to purchase and donate the ingredients to create additional Tuna Salad Kits for this special project.
 - All individuals that purchase additional ingredients will receive a free t-shirt!
 - The ingredients needed: elbow macaroni, miracle whip, canned starkist tuna, canned small young peas.

Prayers

- We pray for all who are ill and for those 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 give thanks for our First Communion class and all who lift up and support our young people!

Celebrate FLC's 2022 First Holy Communion Class



Name: Loic Hovde Dommer Bly

Parents: Kaari and Galen Bly

Godparents: Gene and Mavis Haugom, Isaac Peterson, Isaiah Miller

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far was making my first communion cup!"



Name: Olivia Rose Chambers

Parents: Sarah and Bradley Chambers

Godparents: Kyle Chambers and Lisa Octigan

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far was the Christmas pageant where everyone got to be who they wanted!"



Name: Reese Ellingworth Drinkall

Parents: Josh Drinkall and Joy Reese

Godparents: Dustin and Amanda Reese, Jacey Reese, Chris and Lacey Drinkall

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far is Sunday School!"



Name: Charlee Hanson

Parents: William and Elizabeth Hanson

Godparents/Sponsors: Ryan and Betsy Simmons

"The best thing about FLC is all of the fun activities we get to do at Sunday School."



Name: Jace Jacob Nixon

Parents: Dave and Jodi Nixon

Godparents: Dan Wenner and Christy Nixon

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far was the Halloween Trunk or Treat!"



Name: Annika Mary Rodning

Parents: Jessica & Jeremy Rodning

Godparents: Justin Darsow, Jessica Rodning, Liza Turrittin, Cole Turrittin

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far is our Christmas programs."



Name: Talan Robert Samuelson

Parents: Jesse & Tammy Samuelson

Godparents: Curtis Thompson and Angie Linsmeier



Name: Max Douglas Szybnski

Parents: Rachel and Mark Szybnski

Godparents: Jon Meinke and Leanne Klett

"My favorite part of FLC has been the really nice pastors we've had!"