

# Faith ALIVE

**May 7, 2023 + Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Confirmation Sunday**

An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold**.

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

## we GATHER

We hear this familiar tune during the **prelude**, which we will sing at the close of today's worship.

**Prelude** — “Abbot’s Leigh”

Hymnal Setting  
John Bipes, cello

**\*Words of Welcome**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!** Alleluia!

In our **Gathering Hymn**, we are “called to be light” no matter who we are or where we come from. Christ guides us and calls us to this way of life.

**\*Gathering Hymn** — no. 532

“Gather Us In”

**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.

**Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

Holy God, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both lands and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**  
Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns 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.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Theodore U. Larson Award for**

**Distinguished Service in Christian Education**

Brenda McHugh

Brenda was nominated for this award because of her longtime service to our youth education programs, as well as her welcoming presence to the children and youth of First Lutheran. Over the years, she has been a Sunday School music teacher, Sunday School teacher, Senior Recognition Prayer Shawl Coordinator, Confirmation Guide, and active member of our Lifelong Learning Committee. We are so grateful for the multiple roles she plays in our church's community. Thank you, Brenda! We have been blessed by your dedication and service.

## *we LISTEN and RESPOND*

**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles** — Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

*The psalm will begin with a simple tone being demonstrated, and the leader and congregation are invited to sing responsively by verse.*

**Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;  
deliver me | in your righteousness.

**Incline your | ear to me;**  
**make haste to de- | liver me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**  
**for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, | God of truth.

**My times are | in your hand;**

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.  
Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.”

### A Reading from the First Letter of Peter — 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

and

“A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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 14:1-14

The Gospel of John, the 14th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you,

the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Chris Culuris

*We sing this hopeful Easter hymn on this happy day when several young people affirm their faith. God is with us as we do works in Christ's name; we "hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all."*

**\*Hymn — no. 389**

"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

**Service of Confirmation — pg. 234, Affirmation of Baptism**

### **\*Prayers of Intercession**

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of life, draw your church together into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, and together serving in Christ's mission to the world. We give thanks for our confirmation students who have boldly affirmed their faith on this joyful day. Guide them to be instruments of Christ's ministry, together witnessing to your love wherever you will send them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming caused by humanity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the joy of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

*We offer this blessing to the confirmation students, that they may know that God is with them and that they may "grow in love and love by serving" throughout their lives. View the full text at hymn no. 543.*

## **Offering**

*Music During Offering*

**"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"**

Setting by Thomas Keesecker  
Keith Stelter, oboe; Carrie Stelter, cello

## **\*Offering Prayer**

A: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

*we SHARE 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 The Lord's Prayer**

P: 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.

Celebrating this meal in the joy of our risen Savior, we 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.**

## **\*Invitation to the Table**

P: Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Distribution of Communion**

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

**Hymn** — no. 654

**"The Church's One Foundation"**

## **Prayer After Communion**

P: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

*We will receive continuous communion this morning as we reflect on the Church. May all of us - longtime members, leaders, newly confirmed members, and everyone in between - look to Jesus to be our guide and leader.*

# *we DEPART to serve the world*

*The way of Jesus is the way of service, and this hymn invites our confirmands - and each of us - to "use our talents" to serve God and the world around us.*

## **Announcements**

**\*Sending Hymn** — no. 688

"Lord of Light"

**\*Blessing & Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead,

bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**\*Postlude** — "Prelude in a Classic Style"

Gordon Young

## **Acknowledgements**

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### **Worship Assistants**

Pastor: Chris Culuris  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflatt  
Assisting Minister: John Bipes  
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen

Greeter: Diane Stenson  
Reader: Mike Stewart  
Ushers: Tom Thorkelson  
Musicians: John Bipes; Carrie and Keith Stelter

Communion Preparers: Mary Thompson  
Communion Servers: Diane Stenson, Sharon Domeier

## **Announcements**

- Congratulations to all of our new confirmands! Please join us for a time of fellowship following worship in the Gathering Space.
- Flowers for the Altar are given by the LifeLong Learning Committee in honor of today's confirmands.
- Please join us for worship next Sunday to support several of our youth as they will be receiving their first Holy Communion.
- Our next First Forum will be held following worship on May 14th. St. Peter's City Administrator, Todd Prafke, will be here to give a "State of the City" update.
- We will seek God's blessings upon our High School Graduates during worship on May 21st. Please be present to pray for, support, and encourage these young members of our congregation.
- Cheryl Kautt has volunteered to train members in how to prepare communion. Please contact the office to get connected with Cheryl!
- Reminder that Kwik Trip and Family Fresh cards are still available to purchase during the week. Church office hours are 9am-3pm.
- FLC is URGENTLY seeking a VBS Coordinator for August 6th-10th. This role would mainly be coordination, registration and communications with campers & Greenlake Camp staff. Contact Calleigh (cc.flcstp@gmail.com)

## **Prayers**

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Karen Smithers, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Dorothy Lutz, Claire Cardwell, and Ella Twaddle.
- We pray for Kathryn Christenson's sister-in-law, Faye Christensen, who is recovering from surgery and mourning the loss of her sister.
- We pray for Bill and Cheryl Kautt as they mourn the loss of Bill's father, William.
- We pray for the family of Robert Samuelson, who died on April 22 and whose funeral was held yesterday morning here at the church.
- We pray for all who are ill and for all who mourn family and friends who have recently died.

## Celebrate FLC's 2023 Confirmation Class



**Name:** Lathe Ansel Dommer Bly

**Baptismal Date:** 2-24-2008

**Parents:** Kaari & Galen Bly

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Lynda & Ken Koppelman, Erin Roggenkamp, Kaia Paquin

**Memorized Scripture:** Isaiah 41:10

*"I enjoy spending time at youth group and helping the community."*



**Name:** Malcolm Roy McHugh

**Baptismal Date:** 8-17-2008

**Parents:** Brenda & Tom McHugh

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Betsy Geer, Lindsey Scott, Kelly Priadka

**Mentor:** Galen Bly

**Memorized Scripture:** Psalm 91:9-10

*"My favorite memory at FLC thus far has been our High School Youth Group. "*



**Name:** Rebekah Leilani Roemhildt

**Baptismal Date:** 9-29-2008

**Parents:** Mark & Gabriela Roemhildt

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Terry & Deb Roemhildt

**Mentor:** Emily Bruflat

**Memorized Scripture:** Matthew 11:28

*"My favorite memory at FLC thus far was the first time I sang 'Silent Night' at the Christmas Eve 10pm service in 2019."*



**Name:** Kallie Stadick  
**Baptismal Date:** 6-29-2008  
**Parents:** Cory & Jessica Stadick  
**Godparents/Sponsors:** Jake Kienlen, Laura Thomas  
**Mentor:** Rylee Stadick  
**Memorized Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 16:14

*"I really enjoyed the variety of service activities throughout my time at FLC. I have especially liked ringing bells for the Salvation Army, making tie blankets for Benches, delivering pies to members of the congregation, and singing carols at the local nursing homes."*



**Name:** Amelia Staples  
**Baptismal Date:** 4-6-2008  
**Parents:** Jason & Deanna Staples  
**Godparents/Sponsors:** Curt Person & Amanda Staples  
**Mentor:** Mary Spear  
**Memorized Scripture:** Isaiah 40:29

*"My favorite memories at FLC were when I delivered pies/flowers to members of the congregation and when I helped at The Kitchen."*



**Name:** Samuel Douglas Szybnski  
**Baptismal Date:** 10-12-2008  
**Parents:** Mark & Rachel Szybnski  
**Godparents/Sponsors:** Matthew & Nicole Szybnski  
**Mentor:** Bob Stenson  
**Memorized Scripture:** 1 Samuel 17:45-47

*"My favorite memory at FLC was working with Bob and other members at The Kitchen!"*