



May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Joint Worship to be the church together.

Voices from all congregations – Hope, Augustana, First Lutheran  
Worship broadcast via radio and YouTube. YouTube links found on:

[www.hopeff.org](http://www.hopeff.org) [www.augustanalutheran.org](http://www.augustanalutheran.org)

[www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org)

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PEACE**

The peace of God be with you always. **And also with you.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

**HYMN #389, v.1,3,5**



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

**GREETING**

God holds out to us the promise of new life. Life as unpredictable, as unrehearsed, as explosive as life at the very beginning. God calls us to respond to this gift with creativity, with joy, and with courage. In worship, we can begin to accept this gift of new life. **Let us worship God.**

*Refrain*

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Gracious Source of Life, we do not always accept the new growth within us. We confess that often we

- do not see the beauty that is in this world for us to enjoy.
- do not recognize the love that is offered to us each day.
- are too busy with our own tasks to see if they fit into God’s plan.
- do not want the newfound joy, for then we may no longer pity ourselves.
- are afraid to risk, to turn the corner, to empty the cup, to dance.

Forgive us, O God, and help us to accept your gift of resurrection. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. New every morning is your mercy, O God; your faithfulness is as boundless as the heavens. We gather to worship you, thankful for all your gifts. We thank you that Jesus, in dying and rising for us, has overcome the power of sin and death. Help us to accept the freedom Christ offers us, through your presence among us. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

## READING: Acts 17:22-31

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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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 14:15-21

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those

who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

**SERMON**

**PASTOR ALI HAUGERUD**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Shelter Me*

*composed by Father Michael Joncas*

O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me:  
The way a - head is dark and dif - fi - cult to see.  
O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me:  
All will be well if on - ly you will shel-ter me.

1. Shepherd and sheep, my God and I:  
to fresh green fields you led my steps in days gone by.  
You gave me rest by quiet springs  
and filled my soul with peace your loving presence brings.

2. Yet now I tread a diff'rent way;  
Death dogs my path with stealthy steps from day to day.  
I cannot find your peaceful place  
But dwell in dreary darkness, longing for your face.

3. I will look back in days to come  
and realize your faithfulness has led me home.  
Within your house I'll find my peace,  
trusting that in your mercy you have sheltered me.

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**OFFERING**

## 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.

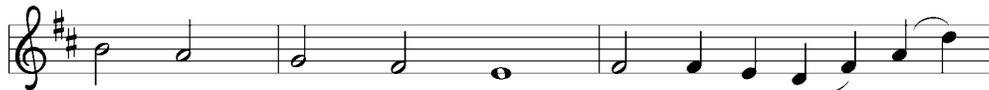
## SENDING HYMN

### *I Know that My Redeemer Lives!*

HYMN #619, v.1,4



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to  
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,  
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort  
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.  
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.  
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.  
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

## RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

The peace of God go with you this day, reigning within you, and in your families. **God's peace will make a difference in our lives, in all our relationships.**

Walk in confident friendship with Christ, who suffers and rejoices with you. **Christ's presence will transform and strengthen us, wherever our journeys take us this week.**

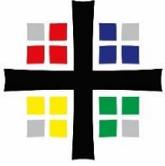
Live by the Spirit, acknowledging God's rule in your hearts and in your actions. **We welcome the fires of the Holy Spirit, the refreshing wind of God's surprising grace. Amen.**

As we have celebrated our common faith, so may you worship God where you are every day. **We trust God to stand by us in our struggles and help us change and grow.**

Look beyond the accumulation of things to those relationships with people that give life meaning. **We will dare to share ourselves with all people God loves, that we may more fully understand each other.**

Hear the stories your sisters and brothers want to tell, for God may speak to you through them. **We want to feel their pain and their joy, to live in mutual acceptance and peace.**

The peace of God go with you and be shared through you. **Amen.**



## FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY MAY 17, 2020

*It is unknown at this time if some of the events scheduled in the upcoming weeks will occur. We will do our best to keep you advised. Be sure to call the church with any questions at 739-3348 or email to [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org).*

**The flowers on the altar and the radio broadcast** are given by Bud & Linda Mellon in celebration of their 43<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, which is on May 21.

**COVID 19 Update** – The church building will remain locked through the end of May. We will not be able to accommodate public meetings during this time. We will continue with worship services closed to the public through the month of May. If you have a pastoral care emergency, you can contact Pastor Gretchen at 218-321-0995. Please continue to call (leave a message) and email with questions or concerns. Phone: 218-739-3348, Email: [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org), or check our website [firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://firstlutheranchurchff.org) for further updates. The church office will be staffed from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Thursday, as we are able.

**First Lutheran, Hope & Augustana** will continue to provide worship opportunities on Sunday mornings. All worship services are closed to the public, but will be live streamed on YouTube and on-air on KJK AM 1020 or Channel 977 FM97.7 at 9:30 am. **Services are also being aired on PEG Access Channel 8.** The schedule can be found on the website: <http://pegaccess.com/channel8programming.html>

**We appreciate your on-going support of the ministry** of First Lutheran Church. Your gifts may be mailed to the church at 402 South Court Street, or you can visit the website [firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://firstlutheranchurchff.org) and click donate on the upper right corner and set up your donation plan. Any questions, please call the office 739-3348.

**ZOOM Game Night** for FLY 7-9 will be on Wednesday, May 20! Times are: 4-5 pm for 7<sup>th</sup> graders; 5-6 pm for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and 6-7 pm for 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Calie will be in touch with instructions on the Zoom connection. Hope you will be able to join us for some fun ZOOM games!

**Communion** - We will begin adding communion into our livestreamed and broadcasted worship service on Sunday, May 24th. We will be celebrating communion every Sunday. You are encouraged to participate as you feel comfortable by having your own bread (whatever kind works for you; even a cracker works) and wine or juice at home to share during that time in worship.

**Joint ELCA Congregations of Fergus Falls will hold a Baccalaureate Service** to honor our high school graduates on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The service will be broadcast on our Facebook page.

**Otter Tail County needs quality foster homes** for children. Children in foster care need stable, loving care until they can either safely reunite with their families or establish other lifelong relationships with a nurturing adult/family. Foster parents play an essential role in children's lives and have the ability to provide structure, stability, and nurturing. Contact Jody Dahlen at 218-998-8191 with any questions related to foster care. More information can be found at <https://ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/foster-care-adoption/>

**Breathing Under Water**, a study based on the book by Richard Rohr, will start June 1. It will be conducted via Zoom conference call. If you are interested in joining the study, please contact Jennifer Woore at (218 770-1011) as soon as possible as books need to be ordered. Cost \$40, and scholarships are available upon request – please contact Pastor Gretchen for more information.

**VBS Day Camp with Luther Crest and Butterflies** are both cancelled for July. Watch for VBS to-go packs filled with fun activities and links to songs & stories, and the possibility of a one-day VBS get together in August!