

PRELUDE

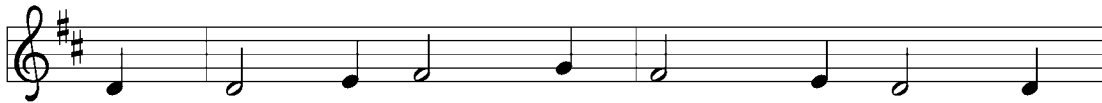
RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

HYMN #384



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

GREETING

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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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.**

KYRIE

page 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

page 140

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

KRISTY WICKLUND

READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 133 – read responsively

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

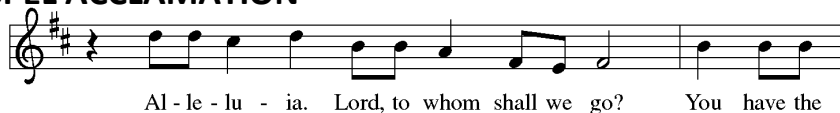
¹How good and how pleasant it is, **when kindred live together in unity!**

²It is like fine oil upon the head, **flowing down upon the beard,**
upon the beard of Aaron, **flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon **flowing down upon the hills of Zion.**
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: **life forevermore.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 142



GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

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

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his

side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

God Made it Okay to be Imperfect

VICAR LYNN MELCHIOR

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk By Faith

HYMN #635, V. 1,2,3



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
 Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

Let us pray: God, you bless us in so many ways – even ways we do not know. Give us glad and generous hearts so that we may praise you and support our church and those around us who are in need. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

OFFERING HYMN

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

HYMN # 389, v.1,5



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.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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COMMUNION

This is the Lord's Table, all are welcome here. In your home is an ordinary table now set apart and holy, Christ is present there. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper, wherever you may be.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, throughout the generations you have come to be present with us at our tables, turning ordinary meals into holy moments for us to experience your grace in tangible ways. In an upper room of a guest house 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.

The body of Christ given for you. *(all share in eating the bread)*

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.

The blood of Christ shed for you. *(all sharing in drinking of the cup)*

Together as the body of Christ, trusting that the distance that separates us is bridged by the Holy Spirit who makes us one, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

HYMN #392, v.5

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone. Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."

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.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

HYMN #548



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



from this meal of love and grace;
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
 God has called us to re - ceive;
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 to re - lease and to con - sole.
 Spir - it - ed then let us live.
 from this day and un - to death.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



God, the won - der of our days.
 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY APRIL 11, 2021 – 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Church Phone Number: 739-3348 and email office@flcff.org

Tuesday, April 13:

- 6:00 pm Council via Zoom.

Wednesday, April 14:

- FLY K-6 watch for info
- 6:30 pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation in-person in Sanctuary

Thursday, April 15:

- 10:30 am Senior Book/Bible Study on “Being Mortal” by Atul Gawande.
- 11:00 am Mutual Ministry in Narthex

Friday, April 16:

- Church office closed

Saturday, April 17:

- 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Confirmation Interviews with Vicar Lynn

The radio broadcast is sponsored by the Oscarson family in honor of Lynal & Baris Oscarson wedding on April 4, 1948.

The flowers on the altar are given by Judy & Dick Werner thanking God for giving us the peace to guide us through all things in our life!

NOTICE: A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 18 after worship. The purpose of this meeting is to approve amendments to the constitution. Please see the bulletin insert for details on the proposed amendments.

We are collecting hygiene items for the Lake Region Halfway Home. Items needed include disposable razors, shaving cream, toothbrush, toothpaste, roll-on deodorant, shampoo & conditioner (or combined), soap, soap box, fingernail clipper, toenail clipper and lotion. There is a collection box in the Narthex. Thank YOU!

Sound/Video Operators Needed! Please contact the church office if you are interested in receiving training to run the sound board or camera during worship! Thank you.

First Lutheran will be hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 20 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org with sponsor code: Fergus First Lutheran to sign-up to donate blood. **We have an opening for 1 volunteer from 1-3:30 pm.** This involves registration and monitoring the snack table. Contact Jennifer at 701 238-0276 if you are able to help.

Meals by Wheels April 26-30 - Please contact Jennifer by text or phone call (701-238-0276) or via email (77jennifer@msn.com) to let her know of your willingness to help. Routes 4 and 5 still need to be covered, and route 1 on Friday only. Thank you!

Empty Bowls Fundraiser sponsored by MN State Community & Technical College is on April 15 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and 4:30 to 6:00 pm at A Center for the Arts (AC4TA). With a \$20 donation, which goes to the Salvation Army, you can pick out a bowl made by M State pottery students. Enter through back stage doors.

Students entering or continuing a nursing degree program next fall have a scholarship opportunity to pursue through the PioneerCare Auxiliary. Applications are now being accepted for the Lillian Saure Nursing Scholarship, with an application deadline of Saturday, May 15, 2021. Candidates may download the application online at www.pioneercare.org. There are also applications on the counter in the Narthex.

Coming up in the next few months:

- April 25 at 11:00 am – Confirmation Sunday.
- May 16 at 9:30 am – Senior Recognition Sunday.
- June 11 – Relay for Life. Contact Sue at 218 770-5156 for more information or to join the First Lutheran team.
- June 21 at 5:30 pm – Funeral Planning Workshop. Contact the office if interested.
- June 29 from 9:00 am -3:00 pm - Luther Crest Day Camp Vacation Bible School for K-6th graders.

Financial Update: As of April 5, 2021, year-to-date revenue: \$148,918, year-to-date budget \$147,239, last year: \$122,133.