

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*We Know that Christ is Raised*

**HYMN #449**



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
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**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, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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

VICKI HANNEMAN

### FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him.*

*Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Jesus Paid It All* arr. Sandra Eithun

HOSANNA HANDBELLS  
PAMELA SCHRODEN, PIANO

**PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31 – read responsively, congregation in bold**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

page 142



**GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

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

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

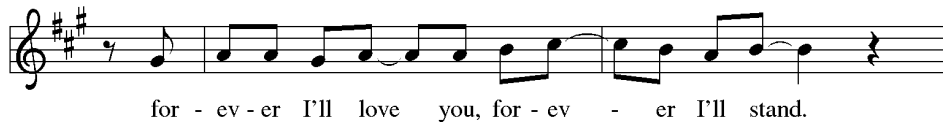
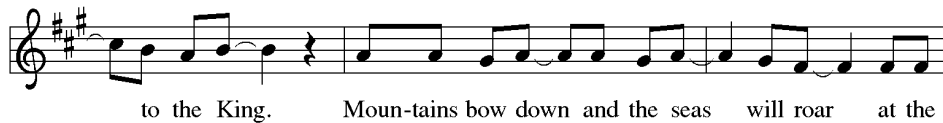
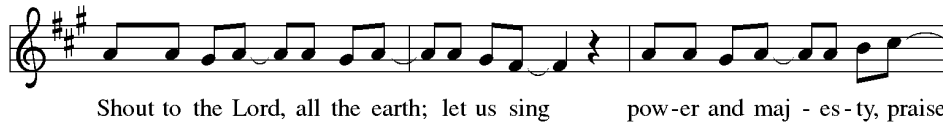
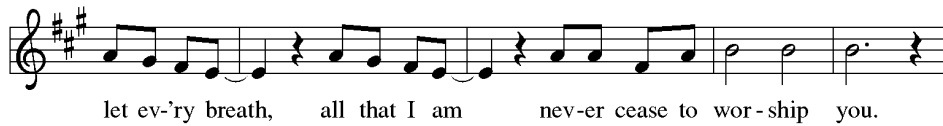
[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

**SERMON**

*Connected*

**VICAR LYNN MELCHIOR**



Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

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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

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

**HYMN #674**



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

*Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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## COMMUNION

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.**

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***What Feast Of Love***HYMN #487, v.1**

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?  
 What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?  
 This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.  
 Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

**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***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.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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

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**DISMISSAL**

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

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## Announcements Sunday, May 2, 2021

### This Sunday, May 2, 2021:

- Note: NO clean up today at Fossen Woods watch for a new date

### Monday, May 3:

- 9:00 am to 3:00 pm WELCA Love Days
- 12:00 pm Executive Committee *Zoom*
- 4:45 pm Education Committee *Narthex*
- 6:00 pm 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting *Narthex*

### Tuesday, May 4:

- 2:00 pm Altar Guild *Narthex*
- 4:00 pm Worship Committee *Narthex*
- 5:30 pm Discipleship Committee *Zoom*

### Wednesday, May 5:

- 12:15 pm FIT team *Kairos*
- FLY K-6 watch for info

### Thursday, May 6:

- 10:30 am Senior Book Study *Fellowship Hall*

### Next Sunday, May 9, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter:

- 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Holy Baptism

**The radio broadcast and the flowers on the altar** are sponsored by Pam & Gregg Western in celebration of their 29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Graduating Seniors and their families** – plans are being made for Senior Recognition Sunday on May 16! Watch for a request for information about your senior to be used in the bulletin and Messenger.

**Butterflies Vacation Bible School** June 29 from 9:15 to 11:15 am at First Lutheran. For ages 0-5 years old and favorite adult! FREE! We will be outside if possible (inside if it rains). Register on the church website, or pick up registration forms in the Narthex on the counter outside the office window.

**Luther Crest Day Camp Vacation Bible School K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade** (First Lutheran & Augustana combined) June 29 from 9 am to 3:00 pm outside at Augustana Lutheran Church. Free! Register on the First Lutheran website, or pick up registration forms in the Narthex on the counter outside the office window.

**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 basket in the Narthex. Thank YOU!

**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](http://www.pioneercare.org). There are also applications on the counter in the Narthex.

**Do you have 1-3 hours a week to share on Tuesday or Thursdays?** The Welcome House Thrift Store Needs You! A variety of volunteer opportunities are available such as sorting, organizing, tagging, cleaning, etc. Funds raised from the store help support people in need in the community. For more information on volunteering, stop by the store at 1678 College Way (behind Fleet Farm), call 218-998-4779 or email [ffwelcomehouse@gmail.com](mailto:ffwelcomehouse@gmail.com). Ask for Maria.

### **Coming up in the next few months:**

- May 15 Dairyland Outing for FLY 7-9 from 1 to 2:00 pm, and FLY 10-12 from 2 to 3 pm.
- 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-6<sup>th</sup> graders. FREE! Register in the church office before June 7.
- June 29 from 9:15 to 11:15 am – Butterflies Vacation Bible School for 0-5 years old and favorite adult. FREE! Register in the church office before June 7.



## Thank you to Medical Professionals

Are you or is someone you know a medical professional? First Lutheran would like to give you a small gift as a way of saying thank you for all of your hard work and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you would like a special hardcover edition of the daily devotional book “Jesus Calling for First Responders and Medical Professionals” please let the church office know before May 31. The church phone number is 739-3348, or you can email the office at [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org).



## Hero Drive

First Lutheran Church will host an equipment and supply drive for the **Healthcare Equipment Recycling Organization (HERO)**, based in Fargo, during the entire month of May. This non-profit organization, started by a group of operating room nurses, accepts clean used healthcare equipment and new unopened healthcare supplies to distribute both locally and globally wherever the need is greatest.

**Commonly accepted items include** bedside commodes, canes, crutches, diabetic supplies, hearing aids and batteries, incontinence supplies, nebulizers, nutritional drinks, respiratory supplies, walkers, wheelchairs (manual or electric), and more. **Items NOT accepted include** soiled or broken equipment, expired products, exposed needles, fabric mattresses, mercury thermometers, open or partially used personal hygiene products, prescriptions of any kind, renal or peritoneal dialysis supplies, or items used with patients treated for C-Diff, MRSA, or VRE. Please see the complete list on the posters at the front counter in the narthex.

If you have items to donate, please drop them off in the church narthex behind the counter just left of the main entrance on Sunday before worship or during regular church office hours, Monday – Thursday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. A self-serve station there provides a list of accepted items and donation receipts for you to record your donation.

Items will be accepted through Monday, May 31. If you have an item that takes two or more people to lift and move, please call or text **Steve Guttormson at 218-770-7274** to make special arrangements for drop off.