

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

Welcome!

We delight in having guests and are glad that you have joined us today.

First Lutheran Church

6 Eddy Street
Waltham, MA 02453-7753
781-893-6563

firstlutheranwaltham.org

Follow us on Facebook at
First Lutheran Church - Waltham, MA

The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl, Pastor
tmaehl@rcn.com

Ms. Cynthia Niiler,
Director of Music & Parish Secretary
firstlutheranwalthamoffice@gmail.com

Vicar Eric Jensen, Intern
eric.jensen@lstc.edu

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor

Tom Maehl

Vicar

Eric Jensen

Musician

Cynthia Niiler

Assistant Minister

Rachel Nederhoff

Acolyte

Penelope Codner

Lector

Anthony Rivera

Ushers

Roger, Lukas, Mia Binggeli

A/V

Steve Hoff

Altar Care

Geri Nederhoff

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

The congregation is invited to stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

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, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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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.

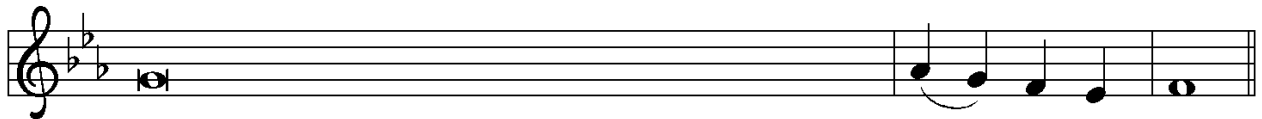
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



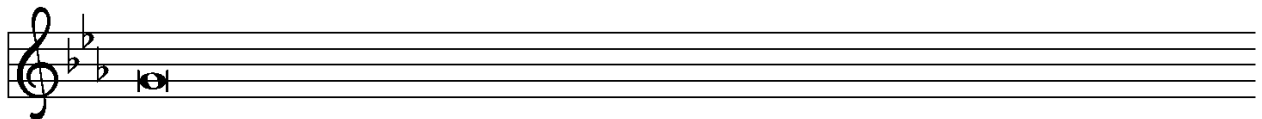
Lord, have mer - cy.



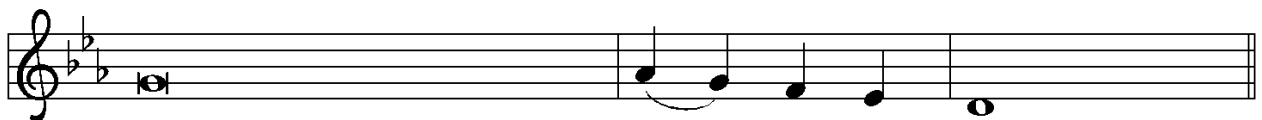
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



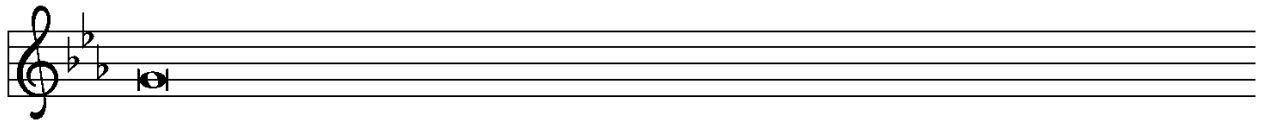
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Canticle of Praise: "This Is the Feast"



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



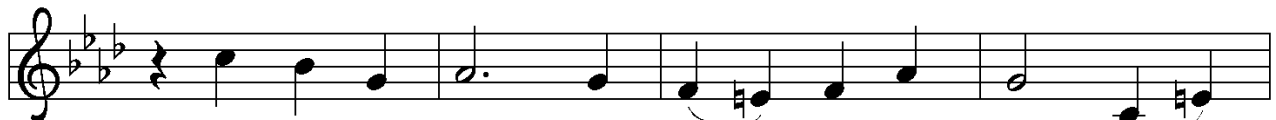
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The congregation is seated

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

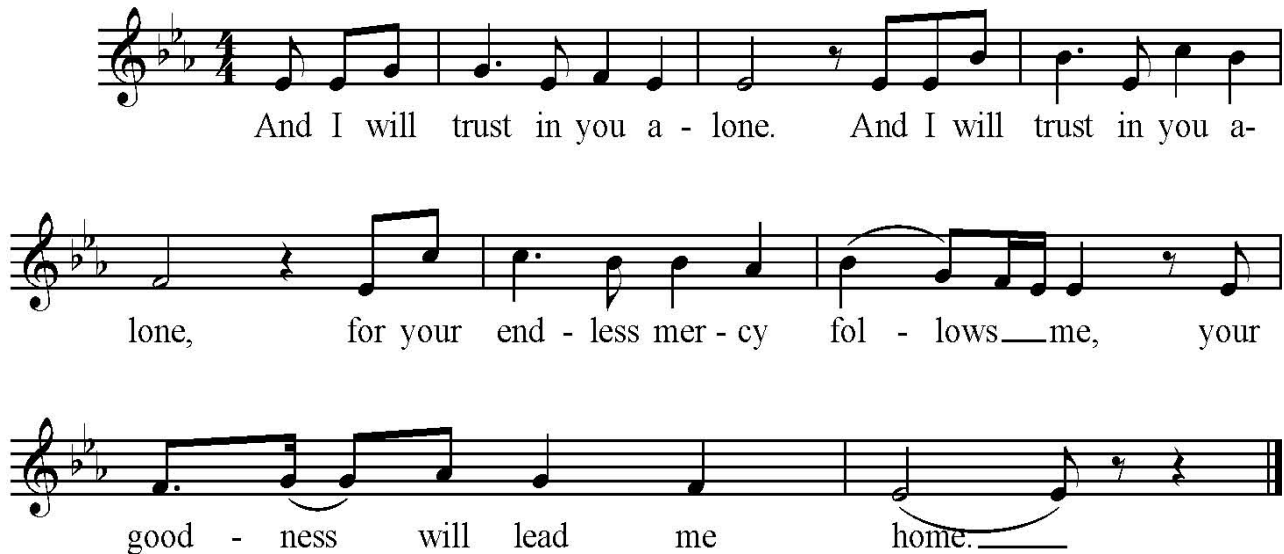
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 4

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. God makes me lie in pastures green.
God leads me by the still, still waters, God's goodness restores my soul.

Refrain



And I will trust in you a - lone. And I will trust in you a -
lone, for your end - less mer - cy fol - lows me, your
good - ness will lead me home.

Music: Stuart Townend © 1996 ThankYou Music, admin. by worshiptogether.com songs/EMI CMG Publishing
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God guides my ways in righteousness, and God anoints my head with oil,
and my cup it overflows with joy, I feast on God's pure delights.

Refrain

And though I walk the darkest path, I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff are the comfort I need to know.

Refrain

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation is invited to stand

Gospel Acclamation: "Alleluia"

Sung 2 times

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris' n in - deed.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The first system contains the first two phrases of the Alleluia. The second system contains the final phrase of the Alleluia and the beginning of the Easter proclamation. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note rhythm in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

Gospel: John 1:11-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated

Children's Sermon

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

The congregation is invited to stand

Hymn of the Day: "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd"



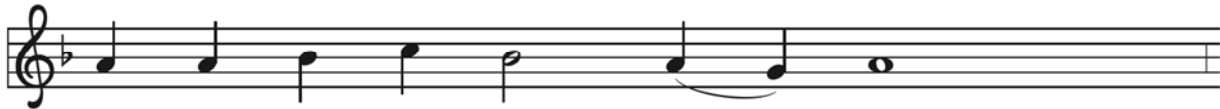
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



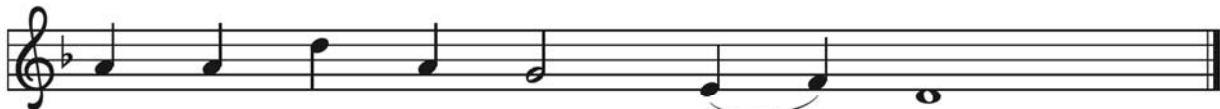
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took - and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim and guide.
you, who are our death and life.

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:

Response: God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The Peace

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

The congregation is seated

Offering is Gathered

Musical Offering: "My Shepherd Is the Living Lord" Jeremiah Clarke

Prayer Concerns

New to our prayer list: Kerry Meaney, Sally Santiago (friend of Geri Nederhoff)

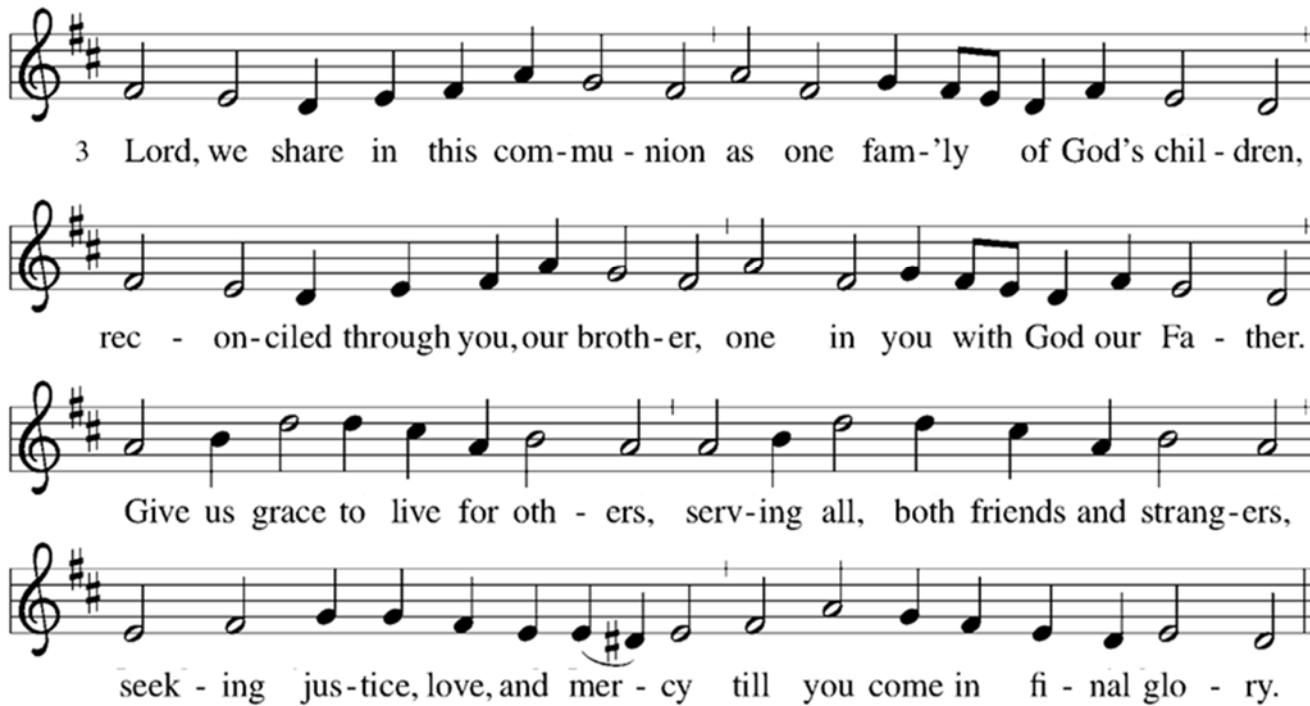
Members of our First Lutheran Community: Ash, Bethany, and Roland Adams Sarah Allen; Joyce Anderson; Jen Biter; Eddie Hughes, June Jahrling; Erika Jerram; Steve Latter; Kathryn McCowan; Don & Britta McNemar; Cynthia Niiler; Joan & Jüri Niiler, Marlene Nordstrom; John Shread; Wayne Sukow; Alexa Turner.

Friends and Family: Adekemi; Kate Benbenek; Doak Borst; Emily Clemens; Pam & Ken Cochran; Steve Codner; Emily Dallman; Crystal Dixon; Donna; Sylvia & Chris Lee-Thompson; Ken Maehl; Peter Melanson; Skip Moyer; Pappas family; Sally Raymond; Stacey Reed; Margarita Rivera; Roger & Margie Schroeder; Maria Silva; Tara Waters; Jim Wroe

For our partners: Santuario Luterano, the Spanish speaking Lutheran congregation in Waltham, and for their interim leader: Rafaela Radcke. For other organizations we actively support: the Waltham Family School, the Waltham Community Day Center, Chaplains on the Way, the Waltham Alliance to Create Housing, Camp Calumet, and ELCA World Hunger. And for our efforts to resettle a refugee family.

The congregation is invited to stand

Congregational Offertory



3 Lord, we share in this com-mu - nion as one fam-'ly of God's chil - dren,
rec - on-ciled through you, our broth-er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv-ing all, both friends and strang-ers,
seek - ing jus-tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990
Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Offering Prayer

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

Another way to collect the morning offering.



Our church provides both spiritual, physical and emotional nourishment for all who attend in person and online. **We invite you to consider donating** to support the mission of our church, as we work to support programs in the church, in the community, and for the online community.

You can make your morning offering through credit card by scanning the code to the right.

About Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine we share and therefore he is the host of the meal. *In his name, we welcome all who desire to commune.*

- An usher will direct you to come forward, and you may either kneel or stand at the altar rail.
- *Bread:* The pastor will place bread in your hands, which you may then consume. We have *gluten free bread available*; indicate to the pastor/vicar if that is your preference.
- *Wine/Juice:* the assistant will then offer a tray of individual glasses (juice in the center ring). The acolyte will follow with a tray for empty glasses. Also, you may skip the wine altogether trusting that Christ is fully present in the bread.
- Children and adults who do not yet commune are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing.
- If walking is difficult for you, please inform an usher, then stay in your pew and the pastor will come to you.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

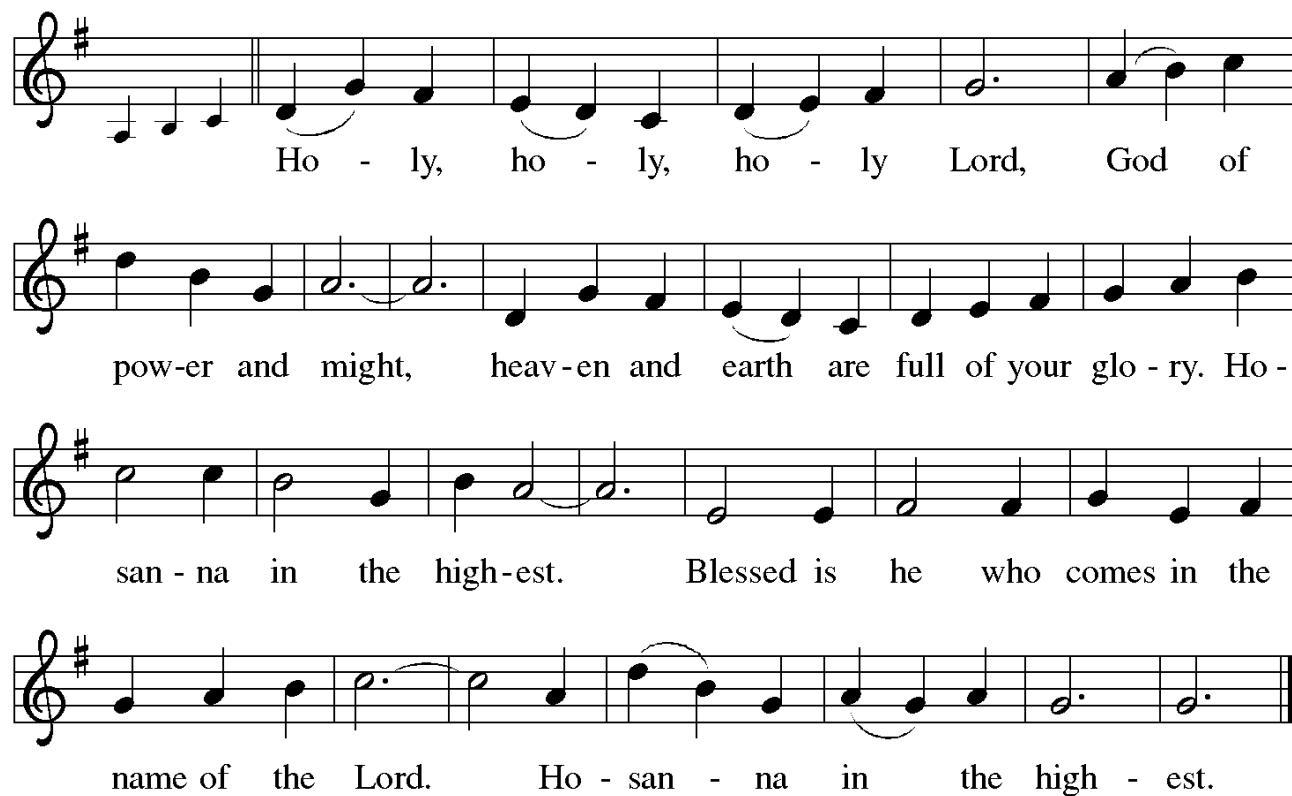
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
our kingdom come,
our 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.

The congregation is seated

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

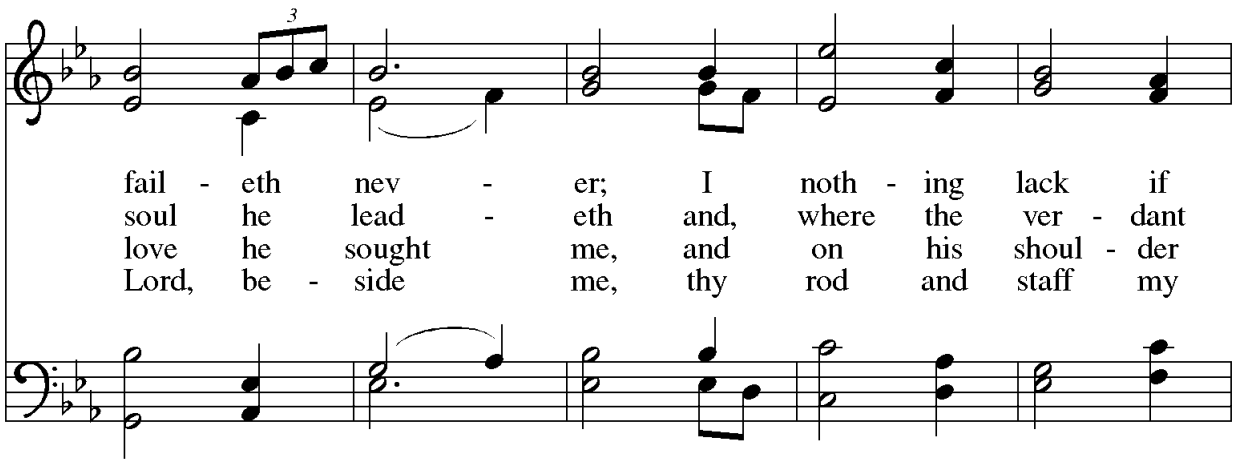
Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymns:

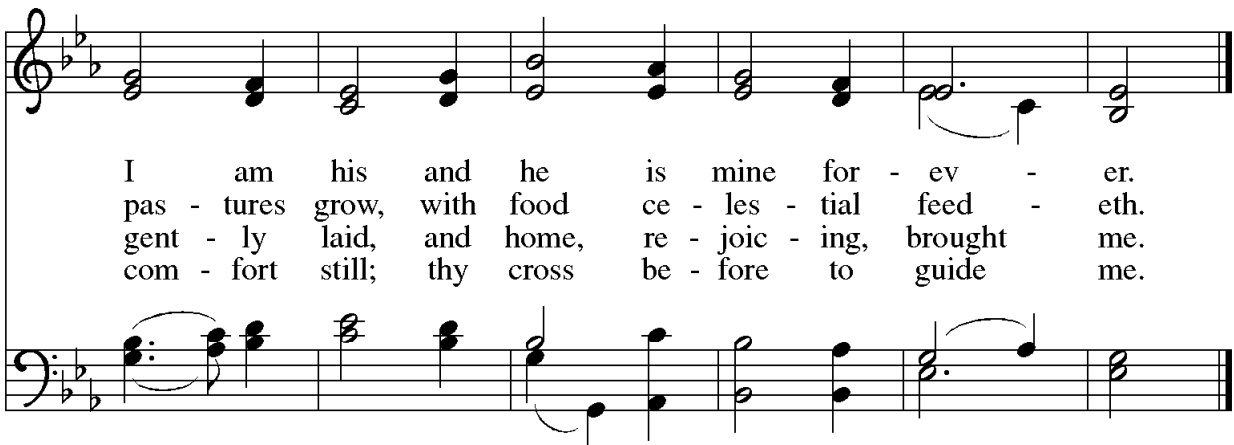
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

“Be Thou My Vision”



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

The congregation is invited to stand

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

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.

SENDING

Benediction

Sending Hymn: "Build a Longer Table"



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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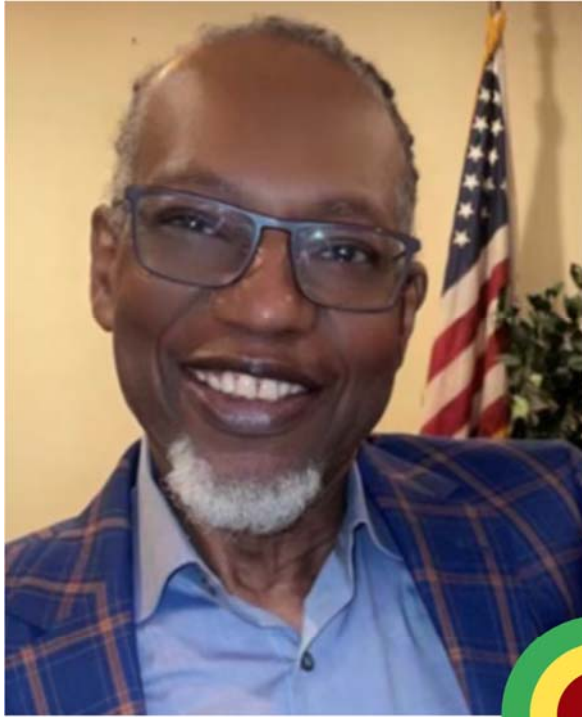
Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude


First Lutheran's Justice & Service Team Presents:




BOOK SIGNING



 SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH

 12PM - 1:30PM

 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
6 EDDY STREET
WALTHAM, MA 02453

MORE INFORMATION

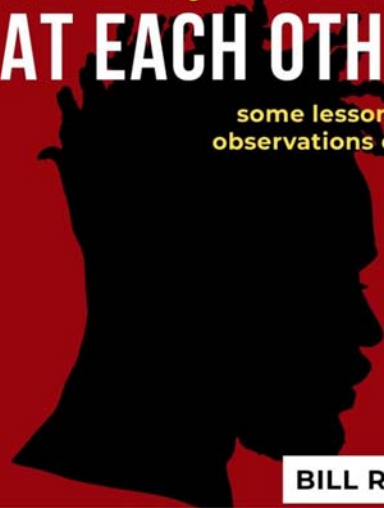
 raynorbooks@gmail.com

 www.raynorbooks.com

A MEMOIR

WHY BLACK MEN *Nod* AT EACH OTHER

some lessons and
observations on life



BILL RAYNOR

Announcements

Spring Clean Up Day - Saturday April 27, 9:00 to 1:00 pm: Members of the property team invite you to help with Spring Clean up. Tasks to choose from include: dusting, polishing pews, yardwork, washing windows, etc. **We will provide pizza!** Note that you do not need to stay the whole time, an hour or two of help would be much appreciated

Adult Forums in April. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am as we share and discuss readings from the book **Perseverance**, by Margaret Wheatley. In this book, bestselling author Margaret Wheatley offers guidance for how to persevere through challenges in our personal lives, with families, at workplaces, in communities, and in our struggles to make a better world. Drawing from a variety of traditions, she provides hope, wisdom, and perspective for learning the discipline of perseverance. Copies of the book will be on hand and no pre-reading is required. **Join us.**

Vacation Bible School 2024—July 8-12, 10:00 am—3:00 pm: We welcome children who have completed **kindergarten** through those who have completed **6th grade**. Older youth may apply to be a youth helper. Watch your email for registration information soon!

Integral Steps Summer Music Program at First Lutheran: We invite flute and piano students (ages 5-13) to join us to create, play, and make some beautiful new memories together in community. Let's start buzzing together in harmony! Give your child a musical boost and joy in their instrumental journey! This program will offer not only the joy of learning socially, but give individualized attention for the in-depth growth of your child. **integralsteps.org/summer**

***The Justice and Service Team invites you
to join us for a book signing!***

Sunday April 28, 12:00 pm—1:30 pm

***“Why Black Men Nod at Each Other”
By Bill Raynor***

This book explores the phenomenon of Black males' connection to each other through their shared experiences of intentional and unintentional institutional racism.

The author, Bill Raynor, offers personal examples from his time at a private catholic high school, to his time at Dartmouth college and his long tenure as a college basketball coach, and his experience as a Director of the Young Men of Color initiative. “Why Black Men Nod at Each Other: some lessons and observations on life (A Memoir)” serves as a guide for coaches, educators, administrators and the growing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion community. It also provides insight to all interested in better understanding the human condition.

Join us!



First Lutheran's RIC Welcome Statement:

Walking together in God's love, we rejoice in the diversity of God's wonderfully made children. We celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and non-binary people and all members of our human family regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, physical and mental ability, faith history, economic status, education, family configuration, or immigration status. We renounce the sin of racism and all forms of discrimination. We welcome all to join us in worship, leadership, participation in rites and sacraments of the church, and fellowship on our journey of nurturing faith, doing justice, and serving all.