

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

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 Trevor Boe, Intern
firstlutheranwalthamvicar@gmail.com

Today's Worship Participants

Presiding

Rafaela Radcke

Vicar

Trevor Boe

Musician

Cynthia Niiler

Assistant Minister

Inpakala Pandian

Acolyte

Haven Waters

Lector

Holly Diaz

Ushers

Steve Latter & Ken Kimker

A/V

Curt Schroeder

Altar Care

Catherine & Peter Pinch

Counters

Steve Latter & Scott Niemann

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: "This Joyful Eastertide"

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - - row.
wake the dead in num - - ber.
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

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 a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



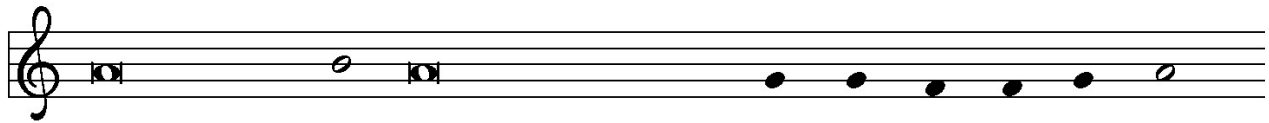
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



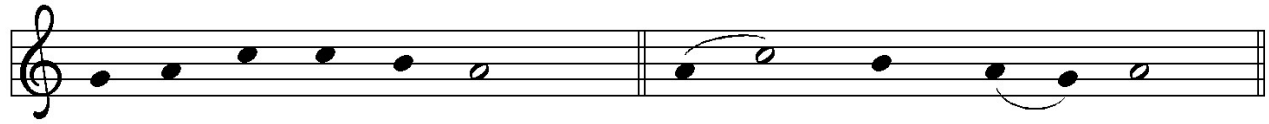
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



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

Hymn of Praise

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

The Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The congregation is seated

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

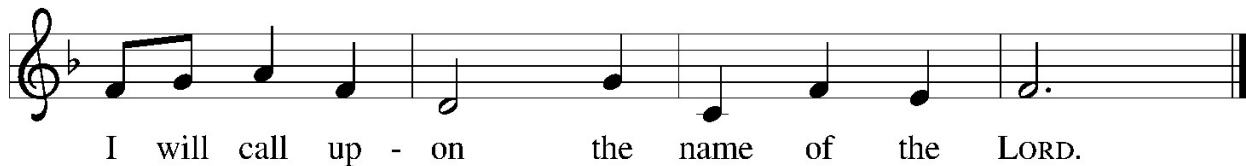
³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 116:

Refrain



Tone



Refrain

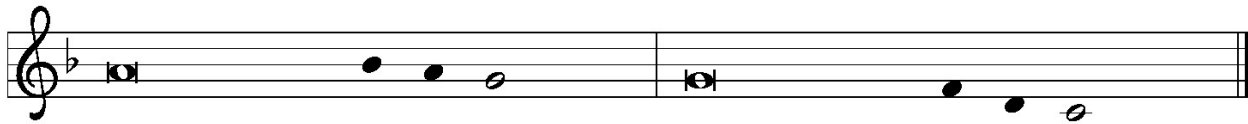
¹ I love the LORD, who has ¹ heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹ supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ¹ ear to me**
whenever ¹ I called.

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹ came upon me;
I came to ¹ grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name ¹ of the LORD:**
“O LORD, I pray you, ¹ save my life.”

Refrain



¹² How shall I re- | pay the LORD
for all the good things God has | done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your | sight, O LORD,
is the death | of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the LORD.**

Refrain

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of | the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah!**

Refrain

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation is invited to stand

Gospel Acclamation

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written for a congregation and consists of three systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next two lines of lyrics. The third system contains the final line of lyrics. The music is primarily homophonic, with chords and simple melodic lines. There are some fermatas and slurs used for phrasing.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

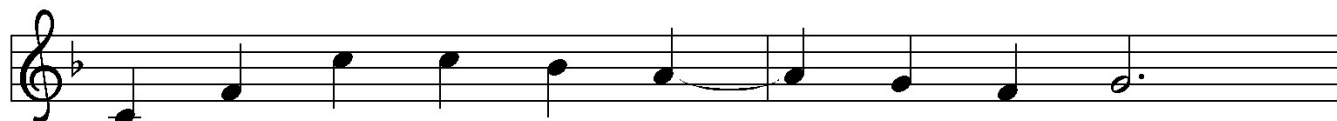
RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

The congregation is invited to stand

Hymn of the Day: "Day of Arising"



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

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.

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: Merciful God,
receive 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: "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

James Montgomery/Jay Althouse

Prayer Concerns

New: Lynn Smith (hip surgery, friend of Joan Clemens)

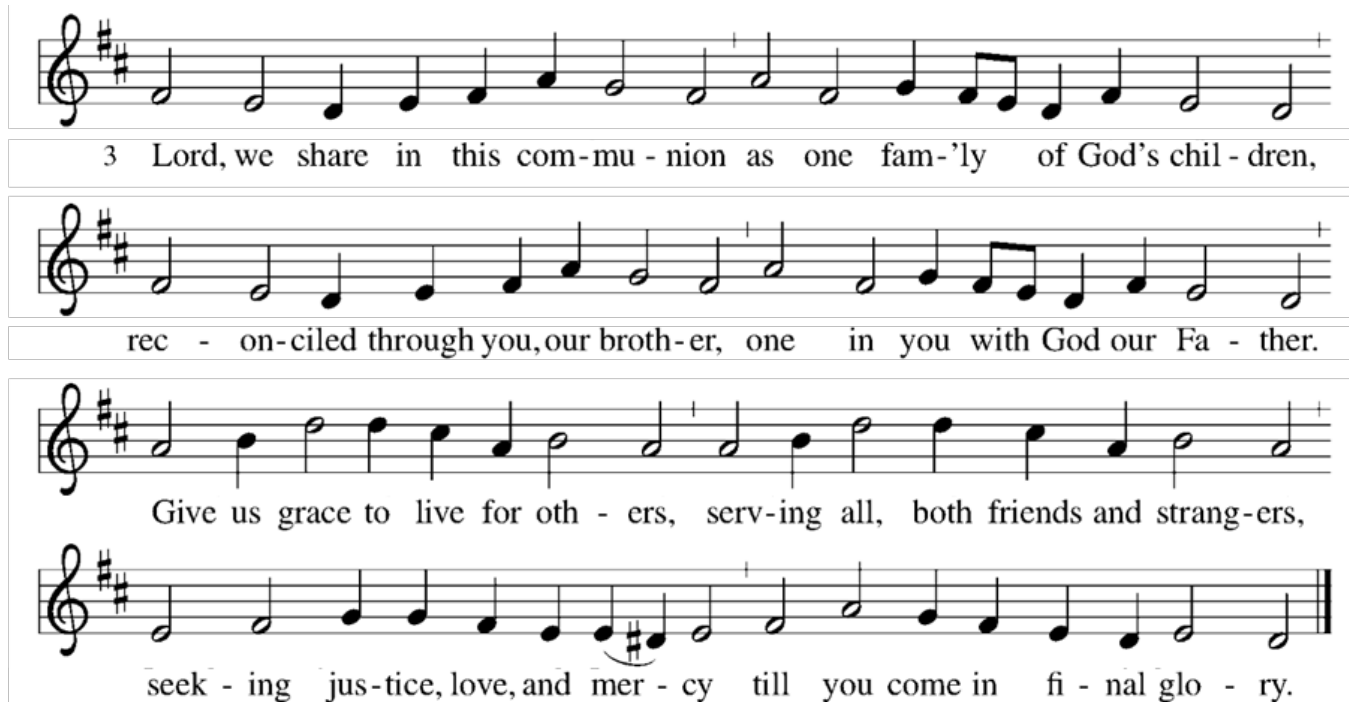
Members of our First Lutheran Community: Norm Adams; Glow, Bethany, and Roland Adams; Joyce Anderson; Jen Biter; Ardeith Froeberg; June Jahrling; Erika Jerram; Lovequist/Shread family; Kathryn McCowan; Don & Britta McNemar; Kerry Meaney; Cynthia Niiler; Joan Niiler, Stacey Reed; Karson Sprague; Valarie Waters.

Friends and Family: Clinton Braganza; Rhona Chen; Emily Dallman; Evan DaRos; Sheila Dumbrowik; Lisa Fugger; Giorgi Gabunia; Jay Higham; Josh Kalisa; Sylvia & Chris Lee-Thompson; Nathan Maehl; Pappas family; Roland Pesch; Gloria Plamann; Rachel and sons; Lynn Reihart; Brian Schmitz; Roger & Margie Schroeder; JoAnn Shade; Fay Sieving; Wilson Viertel; Chip Weinkauff; Jim Wroe; Marlys Yu.

For our partners: Santuario Luterano, the Spanish speaking Lutheran congregation in Waltham. For other organizations we actively support: the Waltham Family School, the Waltham Community Day Center, Chaplains on the Way, WATCH, Camp Calumet, and ELCA World Hunger.

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.

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.

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 congregation is invited to stand

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The lyrics are: '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.', and '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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,', 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Communion Hymns:

“As We Gather at Your Table”

1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

“We Who Once Were Dead”



1 We who once were dead now live, fully know - ing Je - sus
2 We were lost in night, but you sought and found us. Give us
3 He be - came our bread; Je - sus died to save us. On him
4 Let us share the pain you en - dured in dy - ing; we shall



as our head. Life is o - ver - flow - ing when he breaks the bread.
strength to fight; death is all a - round us. Je - sus, be our light.
we are fed, eat - ing what he gave us, ris - ing from the dead.
then re - main liv - ing; death de - fy - ing, we shall rise a - gain.

5 Jesus, you were dead,
but you rose and, living,
made yourself our bread,
in your goodness giving
life though we were dead.

6 This is your design;
in this meal we meet you.
Be our bread and wine,
Jesus, we entreat you.
This shall be our sign.

The congregation is invited to stand

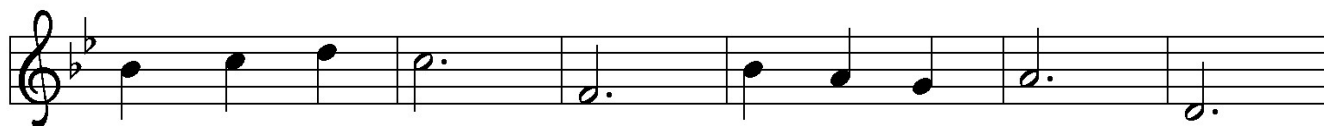
Post-Communion Prayer

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

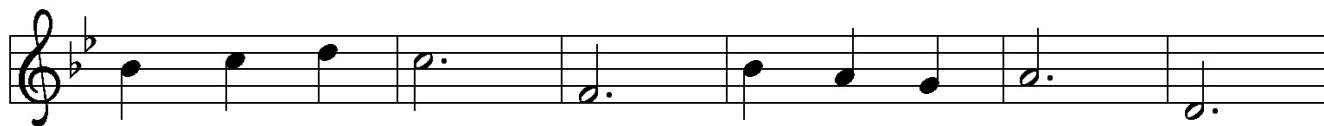
Sending Hymn: "Touch the Earth Lightly"



1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - rend - er,
we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

Spring Garden Help Needed! Cynthia will be working in the garden every weekend for the next two months and could use your help in caring for the church grounds. You can work alongside Cynthia or get a task from her and work on your own time. Current projects include:

- Pruning shrubs
- Edging garden beds
- Spreading mulch
- Planting leftover Easter bulbs

Talk to Cynthia for more information and check the “This Week” newsletter each Thursday for what days she will be in the garden on the upcoming weekend.

Jigsaw Puzzle Social—Saturday 4/25, 4:00—7:00 pm: All ages are invited to join us for a fun evening of jigsaw puzzles and make your own tacos. You are invited to bring taco toppings and/or a jigsaw puzzle. Talk to Sarah Rauhut for more information.

Upcoming Adult Forums (9:15 am in the Pearson Room)

- April 26 - Pastor Maehl will continue a Bible study on the Beatitudes.
- May 3 - Bishop Nathan Piphon will be the guest at our Adult Forum and preacher in worship
- May 10 - Pastor Maehl will continue a Bible study on the Beatitudes.

Coffee Hosts Needed! Can you help foster community by hosting coffee? Sign up in the Pearson Room or by using the link in the This Week email. First time hosting? We’re happy to provide instruction.

Can you help take care of our Blessing Box? We could use help checking the sidewalk box—refilling it with items from the Pearson Room and occasionally emptying out some items. You can find a sign up in our This Week email. Thank you!

“For Such a Time as This”

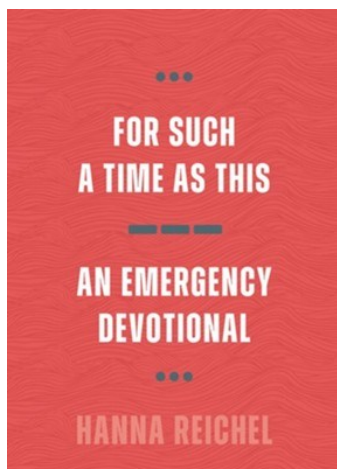
Zoom book study.

Wednesdays at 7 pm,

April 15 & 29, May 13 & 27.

The author, Hanna Reichel, draws upon theologians, philosophers, historians, and advocates the likes of Karl Barth, Reinhold Niebuhr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and others as they navigated the choppy and dangerous waters of Nazi Germany in the 1930s and 40s. As we process what it means to live in the United States in 2026 as polarization climbs and democratic processes are weakened, with war and uncertainty constantly in the headlines, this book calls itself to be “*a guide for ordinary Christians seeking to live faithfully in extraordinary times.*”. A Zoom link will be in the weekly e-news.

All are welcome to participate.





Visit from our Bishop Sunday, May 3

Bishop Nathan Piphon, our New England Synod bishop, will join us on May 3 and will be our preacher in worship. During the learning hour (beginning at 9:15) he will lead conversation, by first sharing a bit about himself and his priorities as bishop and then inviting questions. Please make an effort to attend church this day as together we greet our bishop.

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“Now We Join in Celebration”

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990 © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Music Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954 © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

“This Joyful Eastertide”

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent; arr. hymnal version © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

“Day of Arising”

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Rontgen, 1855-1932

“We Who Once Were Dead”

Text: Muus Jacobse, 1909-1972; tr. Composite

Music: Rik BVeelenturf, b. 1936

Text and music © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV., Baarn, The Netherlands. U.S agent OCP Publications

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: Colin Gibson, b. 1933

Text and music: © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

Other music Livestreamed under OneLicense.net License Number: A-709997

Musical offering: “Be Know to Us in Breaking Bread” James Montgomery/Jay Althouse. © 1993 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.



First Lutheran's 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.