

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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

Pastor

Tom Maehl

Vicar

Trevor Boe

Musician

Cynthia Niiler

Assistant Minister

Rachel Nederhoff-Rivera

Acolyte

Kalyse Black

Lector

Vicki DeVault-Nelson

Ushers

Pat Clem & Valarie Waters

A/V

Steve Hoff

Altar Care

LuAnn Kimker

Counters

Isabella van der Weide

Joan Clemens

Prelude: "Simple Gifts/I Danced in the Morning"

American Shaker melody/ arr. J. Wayne Kerr

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: "To Be Your Presence"



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



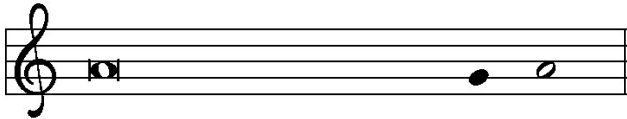
ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

Greeting:

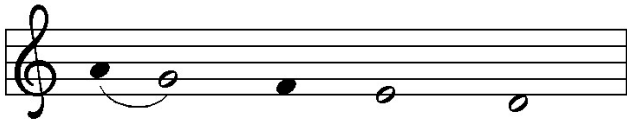
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

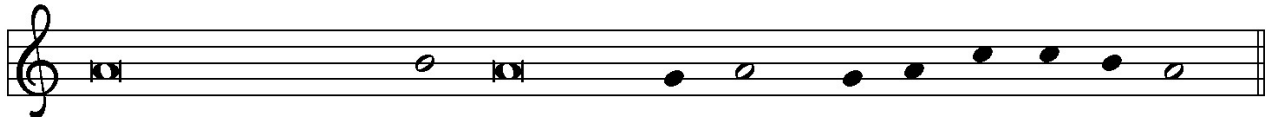
Kyrie



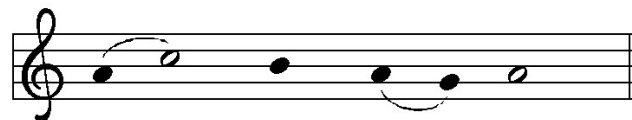
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



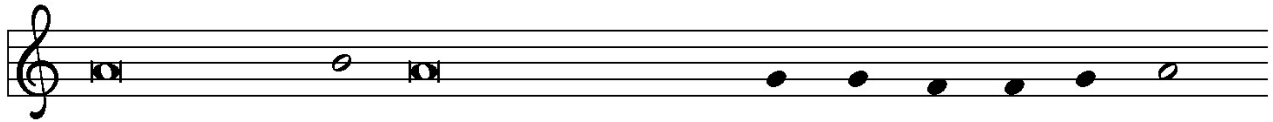
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



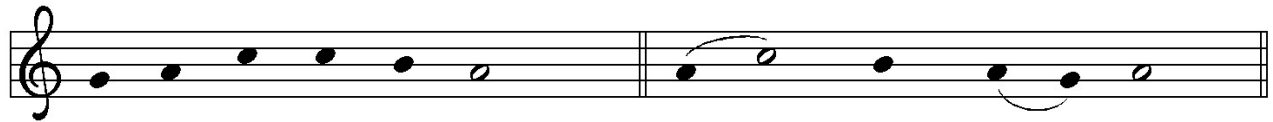
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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

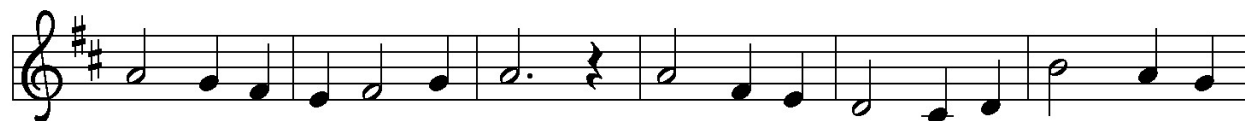


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

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

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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 7:55-60

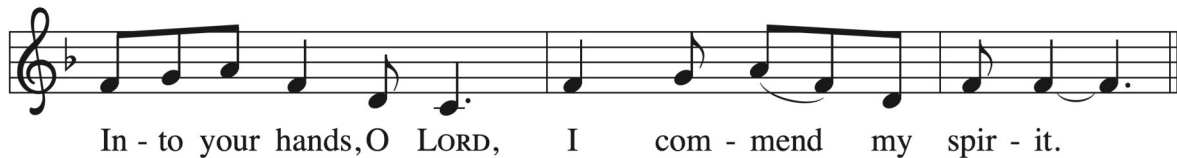
⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

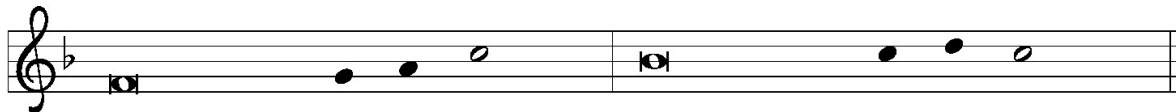
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Refrain:



Tone:



Refrain

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be ¹ put to shame;
deliver me ¹ in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ¹ ear to me;**
make haste to de- ¹ liver me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag ¹ and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead ¹ me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly ¹ set for me,**
for you are my tow- ¹ er of strength.

Refrain

⁵ Into your hands I com- ¹ mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, ¹ God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are ¹ in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ¹ persecute me.

¹⁶ Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant;
save me in your ¹ steadfast love."

Refrain

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious,

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸ and

"A stone that makes them stumble

and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,

but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy.

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



Gospel: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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: "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"



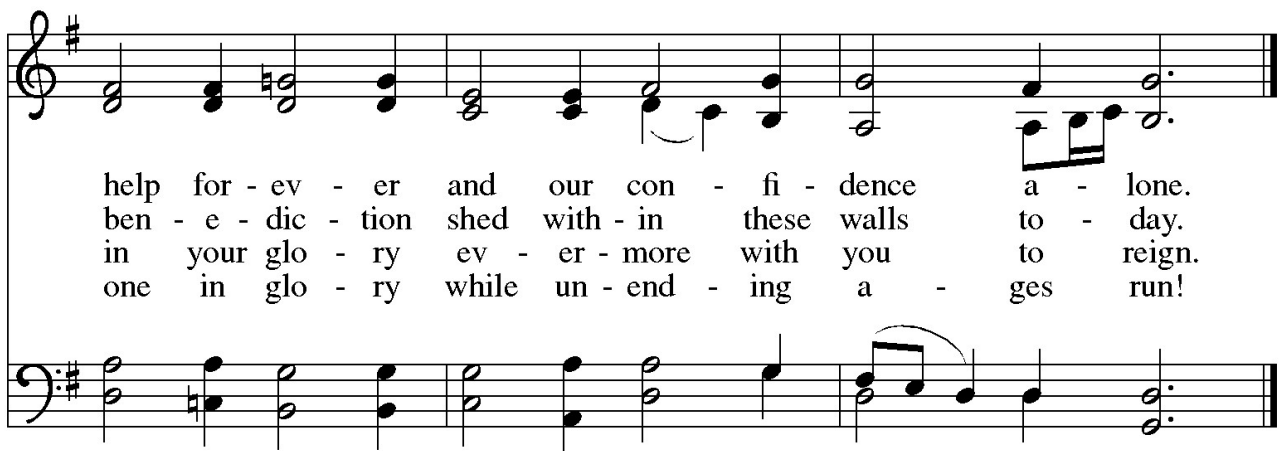
1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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

Prayer Concerns

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; Wendy Fournier; Lisa Fugger; Jay Higham; Josh Kalisa; Sylvia & Chris Lee-Thompson; Nathan Maehl; Pappas family; Roland Pesch; Rachel and sons; Lynn Reihart; Brian Schmitz; Roger & Margie Schroeder; JoAnn Shade; Fay Sieving; Lynn Smith; Wilson Viertel; Chip Weinkauff; Jim Wroe; Marlys Yu.

Thanksgiving for healing: Gloria Plamann; Giorgi Gabunia;

For those who grieve: the family and friends of Dawn Osness (cousin of Catherine Sukow)

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 Peace

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

The congregation is seated

Offering is Gathered

Musical Offering: "God Has Work for Us to Do"

Carl P. Daw/Mark A. Miller

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.

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

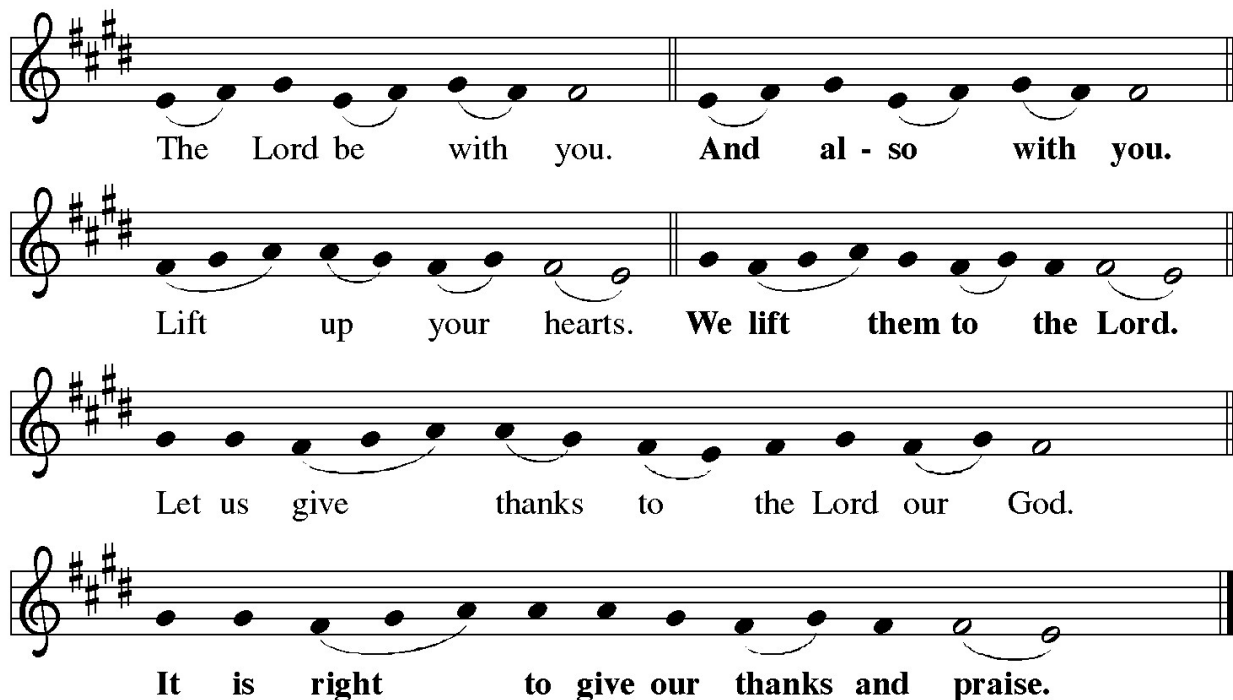
We believe that Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine we share and therefore he is the host of the meal. *In his name, we welcome all who desire to commune.*

- 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 congregation is invited to stand

The Great Thanksgiving



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

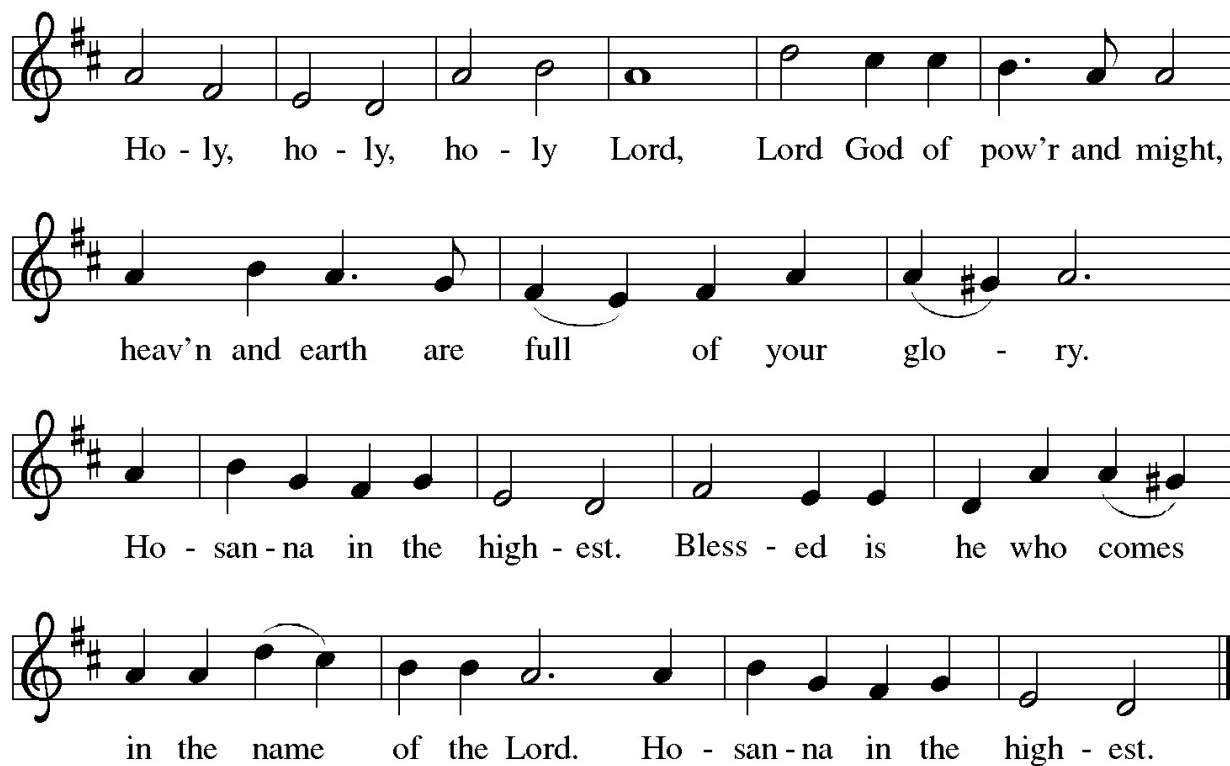
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

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:

"O Christ, Surround Me"



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

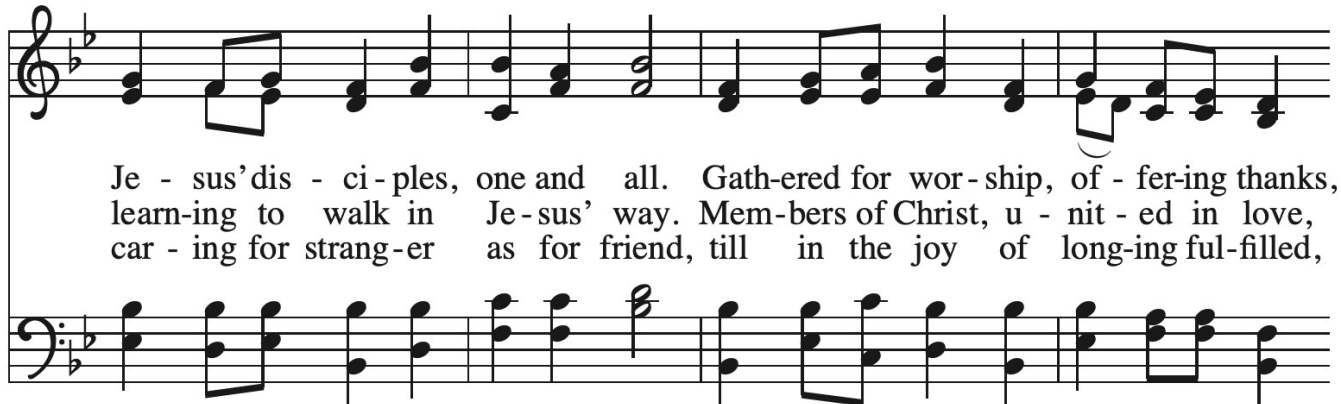
“Making Their Way”



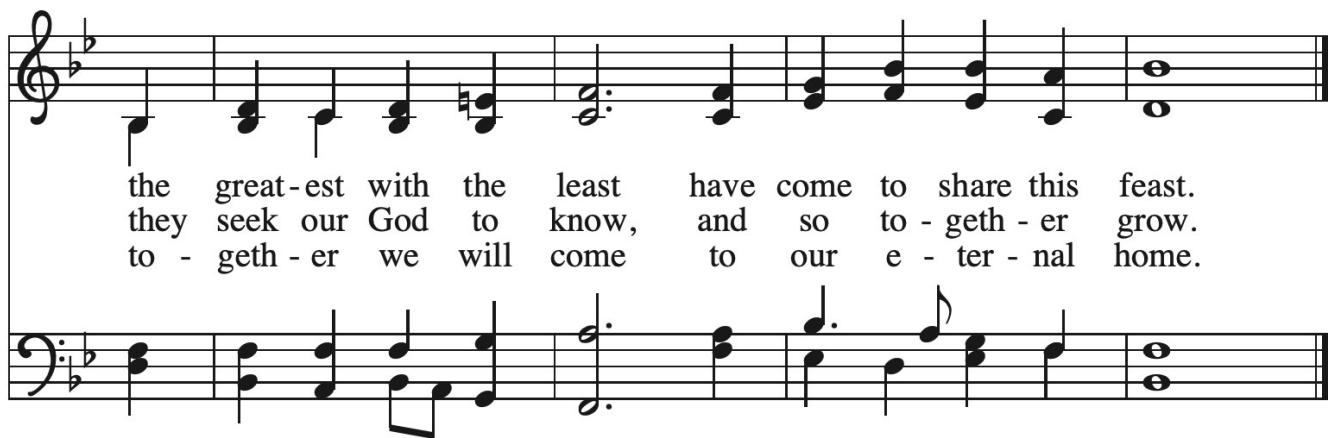
1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

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.**

Copyright Information

Liturgical Music from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ©2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Reprinted and Livestreamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB147106.

Worship Texts: Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and Livestreamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB147106.

Scripture: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, Copyright © 2021, National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Psalm refrain and tone reproduced by permission from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

Hymns as below. Reprinted and Livestreamed with permission under OneLicense.net License Number: A-709997 or CCLI License #20823990. All rights reserved.

“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

“To Be Your Presence”

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Text” Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Music: Henry Purcell, 1659-1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802-1868

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me/ O Christ Surround Me”

Text and music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1937 © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus and L’Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931

Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus and L’Arche Community

Text and music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress

“Making Their Way”

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, 1906-2003 © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV, Baarn, The Netherlands, admin. OCP

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

Text and Music: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

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

Prelude: “Simple Gifts/I Danced in the Morning” American Shaker melody/arr. J. Wayne Kerr © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

Musical offering: “God Has Work for Us to Do”

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1996 Hope Publishing Co.

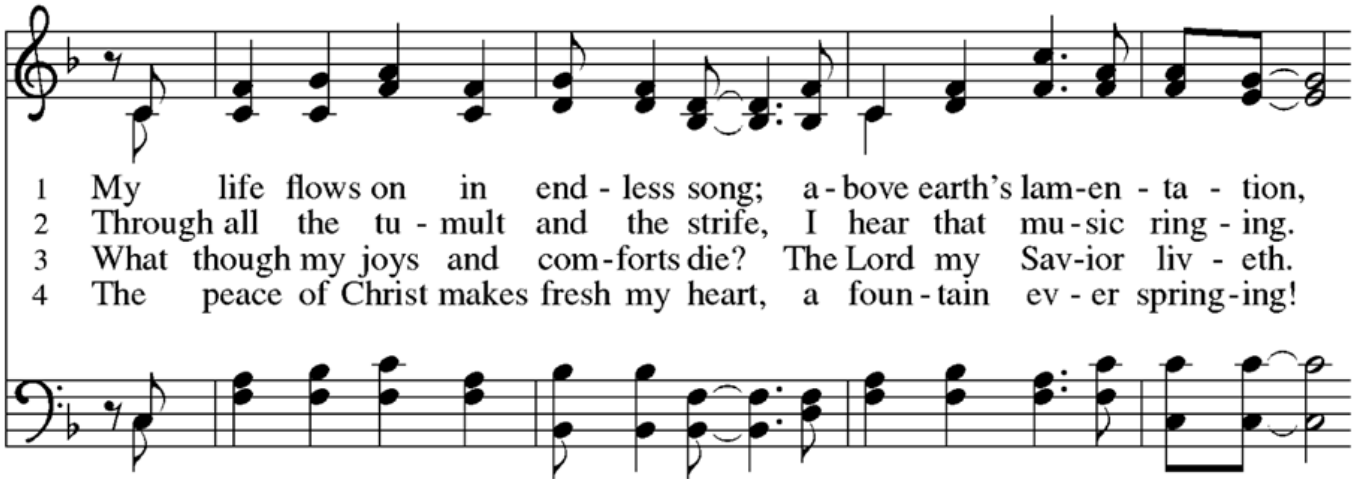
Music: Mark A. Miller © 2012 Choristers Guild

Postlude: “How Can I Keep from Singing” Robert Lowry/arr. Jeremy Young © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

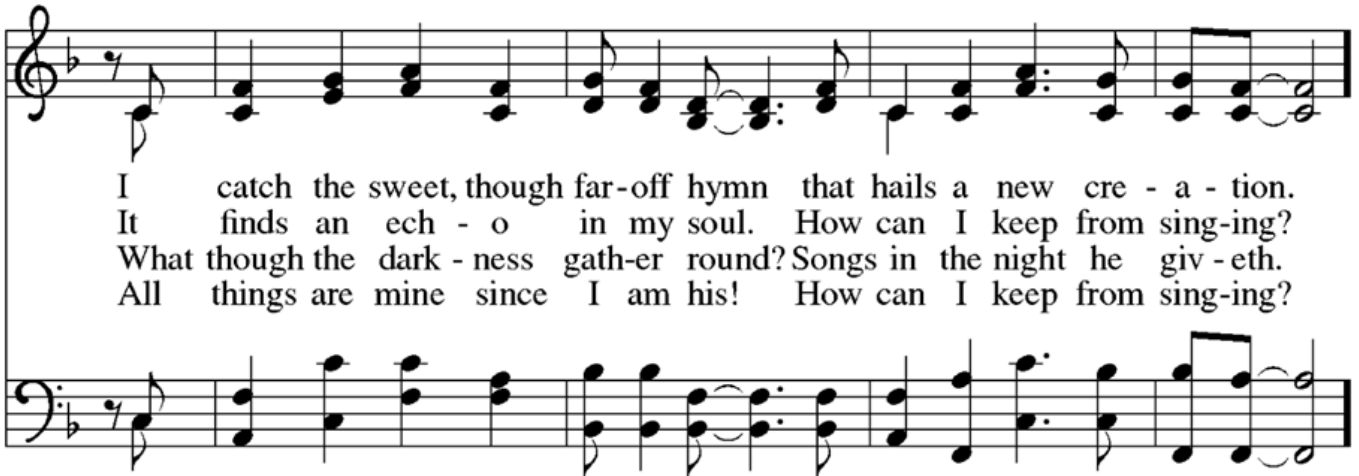
SENDING

Benediction

Sending Hymn: "My Life Flows On in Endless Song"

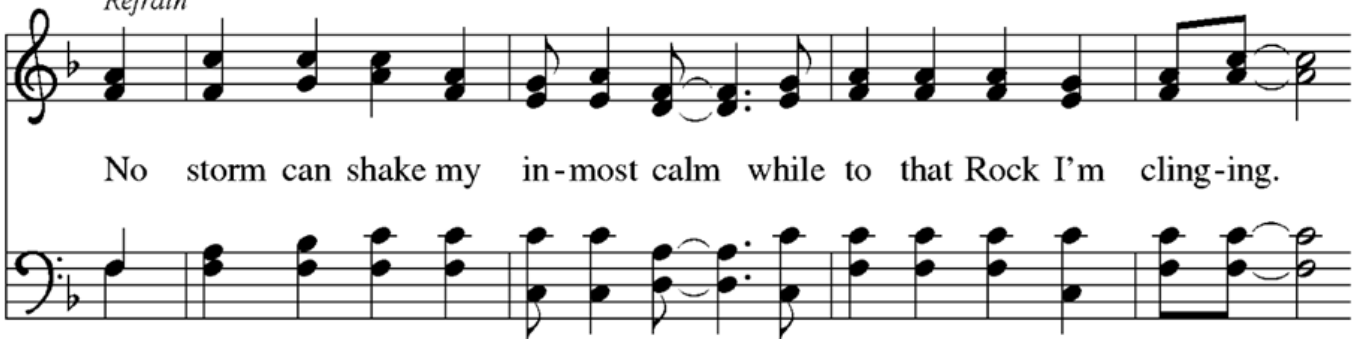


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

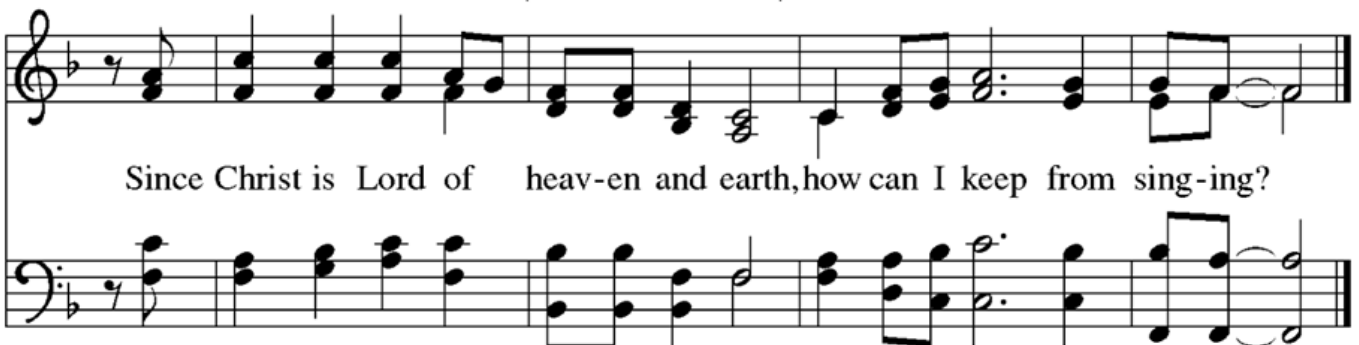


I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “How Can I Keep from Singing”

Robert Lowry/arr. Jeremy Young

Announcements

This morning please welcome Bishop Nathan Pipho, our New England Synod Bishop. We give thanks for his ministry and pray that God will continue to give him strength, courage, and insight in serving his important public office.

Work Day, Saturday May 16, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm: Members of the property team invite you to help with Spring Clean up. Tasks to choose from include: spring gardening, 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.

A Sustainability Event, Sunday, May 17, After worship: Please join us on for a program focused on sustainability, and what we can do as individuals to help heal our planet. The day’s events include a presentation from our community partner, Waltham Fields Community Farm about ways to partner with them, and their work within the community. Also we will have a series of testimonies from fellow congregants about what they are doing in their households to help ease contributions to global warming. We will also have fun craft activities for youth; and our first annual Book Swap! ***If you are interested in contributing books to the Book Swap, please be sure to drop them off at Church by Sunday, May 10th.*** We hope you all can make it!

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:

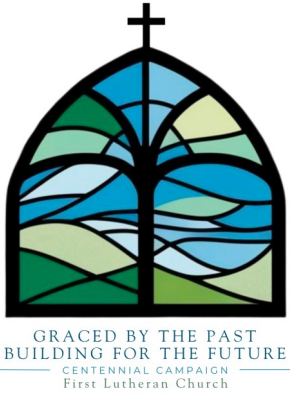
- Pruning shrubs
- Edging garden beds
- Spreading mulch
- Planting leftover Easter bulbs

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.

Upcoming Adult Forums (9:15 am in the Pearson Room): May 10 & 24 - Pastor Maehl will continue a Bible study on the Beatitudes. On May 17 we will address issues of affordable housing.

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!



Centennial Campaign—Celebrating Blessings Thus Far

Sunday, May 31—Following 10:30 am worship

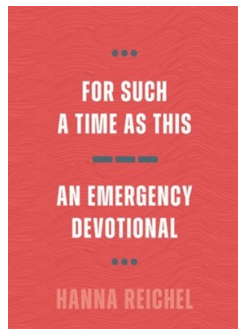
It has been a year since we began our Centennial Campaign. Join us as we give thanks for the accomplishments to date including: the repair and restoration of our stained glass windows, completed architectural drawings for the Pearson Room renovation project, and the replacement of the sanctuary lift. We will also describe our process for applying for Community Preservation Funds from the City of Waltham and give an update on financial gifts and pledges offered to date.



Vacation Bible School July 6-10

Ages 3 and older

To register and for more information
use this QR code!



“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.



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.