

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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  
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Ms. Cynthia Niiler,  
Director of Music & Parish Secretary  
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Vicar Trevor Boe, Intern  
firstlutheranwalthamvicar@gmail.com

## Today's Worship Participants

### Pastor

Tom Maehl

### Vicar

Trevor Boe

### Musician

Catherine Pinch

### Assistant Minister

Emily Codner

### Acolyte

Zander Diaz

### Lector

Brad Nederhoff

### Ushers

Krishonda Waters

Kalyse Black

### A/V

Scott & Henry Niemann

### Altar Care

Ann Sjodin

## 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: "God, We Gather as Your People"



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to  
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your  
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.  
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.  
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

## *Refrain*



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



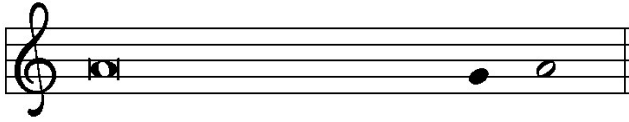
long. May that wel - come be our song.

**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**



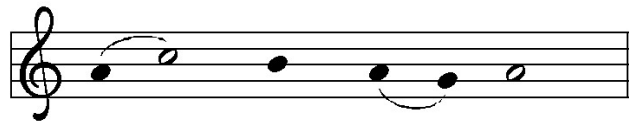
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



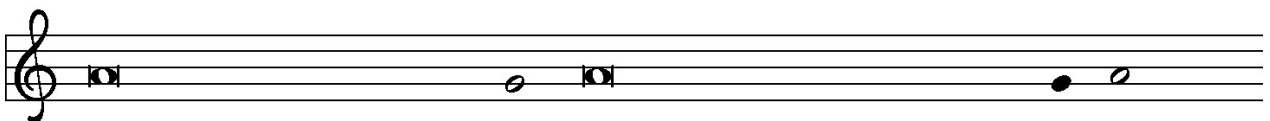
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



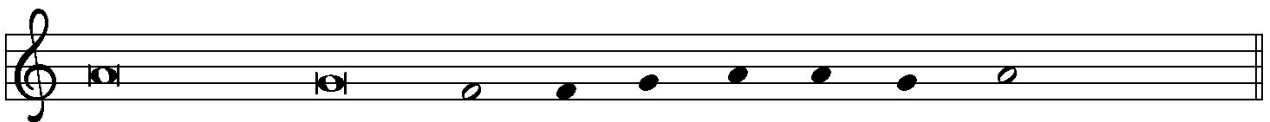
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



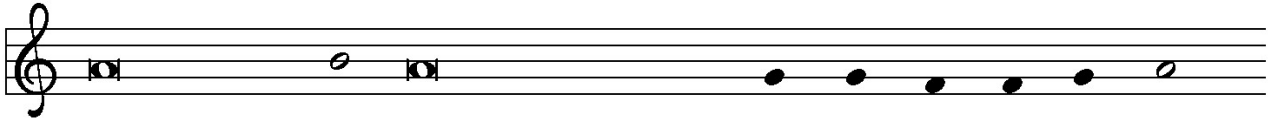
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



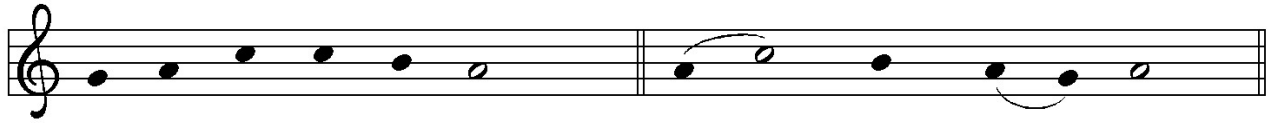
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**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

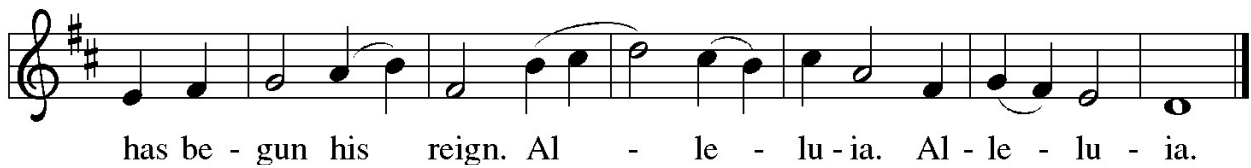
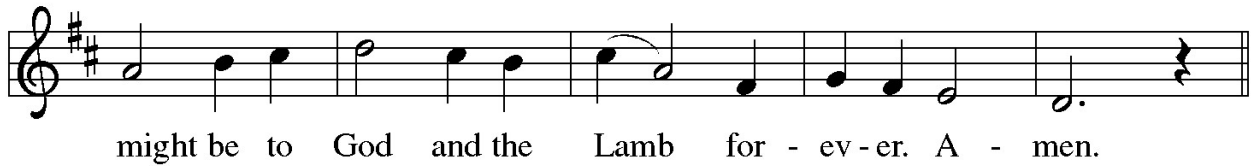
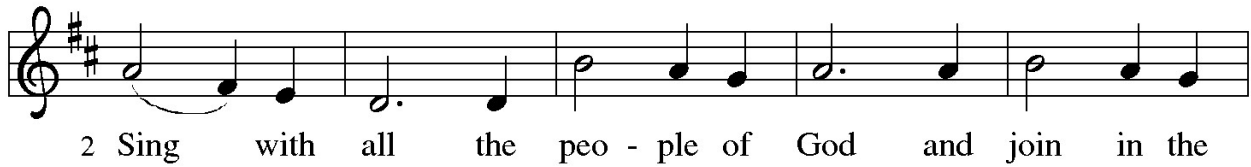


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



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



### The Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 17:22-31

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

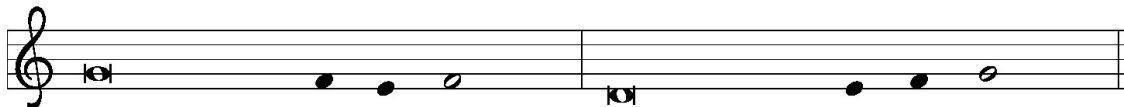
**Psalm:** Psalm 66:8-20

Refrain:



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Tone:



**Refrain**

<sup>8</sup> Bless our <sup>|</sup> God, you peoples;  
let the sound of <sup>|</sup> praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us a- <sup>|</sup> mong the living  
and has not allowed our <sup>|</sup> feet to slip.**

**Refrain**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have I tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us in- I to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- I on our backs.**

<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through I fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place I of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house I with burnt offerings  
and will pay I you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup> those that I promised I with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the I smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- I en and goats.**

### Refrain

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you I who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has I done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God I with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord I with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil I in my heart,  
the Lord would I not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup> **but in truth I God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound I of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not reject- I ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing I love from me.

### Refrain

## Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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 two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first two lines of the acclamation. The second system contains the next two lines, including a vocal entry for the second part. The third system contains the final line of the acclamation. The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some notes tied across bar lines. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes.

**Gospel: John 14:15-21**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is seated*

**Children’s Sermon**

**Sermon**

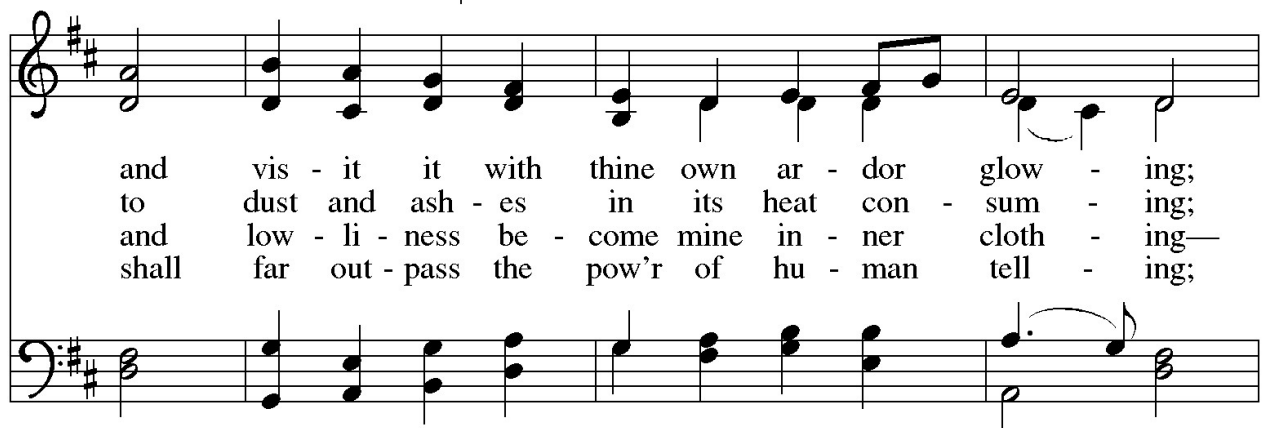
## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*The congregation is invited to stand*

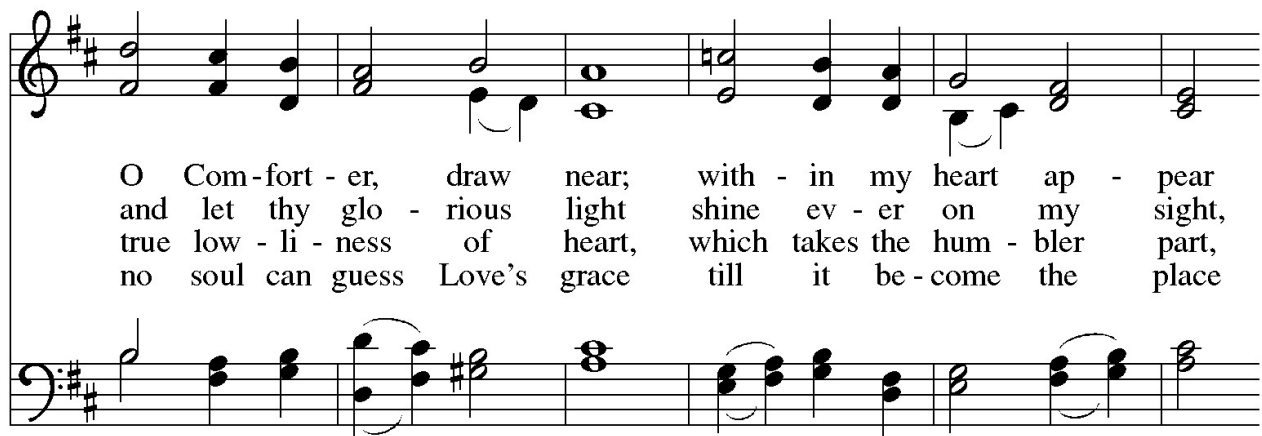
Hymn of the Day: "Come Down, O Love Divine



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

## 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

## 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 Weinkauf; Jim Wroe; Marlys Yu.

**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.

### 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.

*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

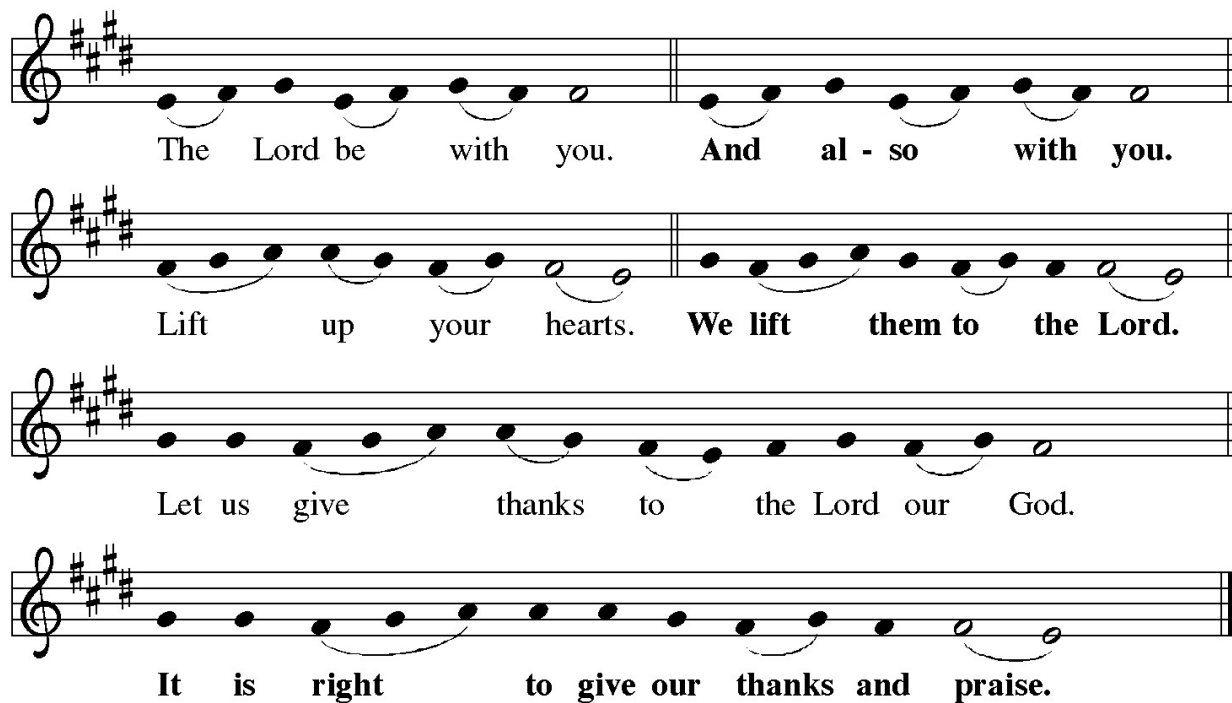
We believe that Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine we share and therefore he is the host of the meal. *In his name, we welcome all who desire to commune.*

- 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.

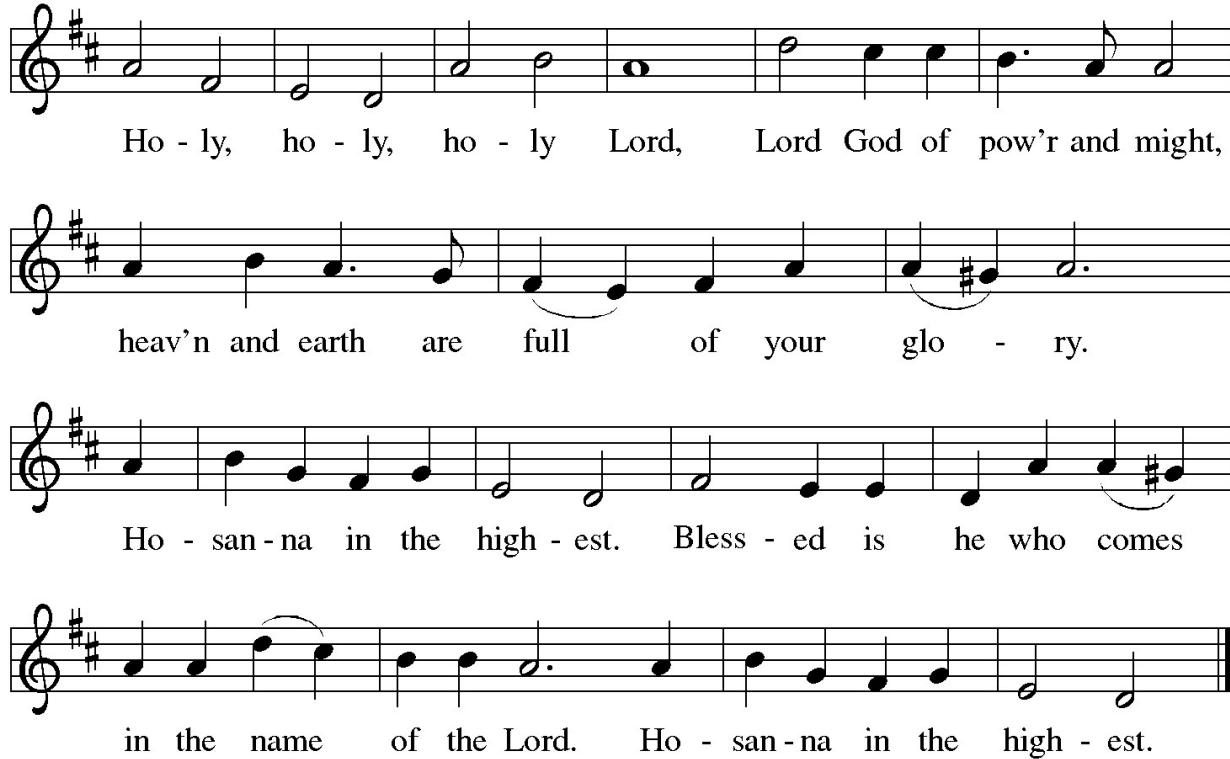
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



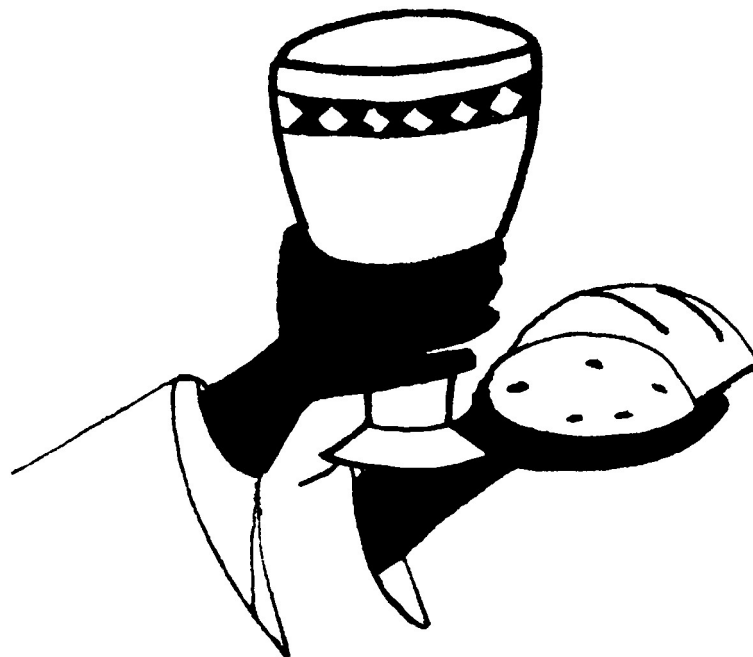
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



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:

#### "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

*Refrain*



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;

2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude

3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?

4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:

5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



*Refrain*

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.

that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.

Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?

whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.

to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes. The first system ends with a double bar line.

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line from the first system. It features the same treble and bass staves and key signature. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes. The second system ends with a double bar line.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The Refrain section begins with a treble and bass staff in the same key signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes. The Refrain section ends with a double bar line.

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

The final system of music continues the melody and bass line from the Refrain section. It features the same treble and bass staves and key signature. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes. The final system ends with a double bar line.

*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: "Alleluia! Sing the Jesus"

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the  
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -  
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to  
tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your  
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful  
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -  
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of  
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you  
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our  
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the  
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on  
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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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

“God, We Gather as Your People”

Text and music: David Lohman, b. 1961 © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833-1890

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997

Music: Robert E. Kreutz, 1922-1996

Text and music: © 1977 Arch diocese of Philadelphia

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Text and music: African American spiritual

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

## Announcements

**This morning please welcome** Catherine Pinch who is leading our music while Cynthia is away for the weekend.

**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 10<sup>th</sup>.*** We hope you all can make it!

**Spring Garden Help Needed!** Cynthia plans to be in the garden tomorrow, Monday 5/11. Get in touch with her if you'd like to join her.

**Adult Forums (9:15 am in the Pearson Room):** On the remaining Sundays in May we will continue a Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount.

**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

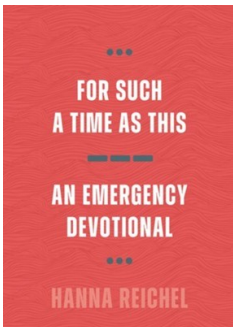
Ages 3 and older

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.*