

# First Lutheran Church ELCA



## HOLY COMMUNION The Second Sunday of Easter Sunday ☩ April 27, 2025 ☩ 10:30 am

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In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of Holy Communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

## Gathering

PRELUDE	<i>"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"</i>	J. Wayne Kerr
OPENING HYMN	<i>"Good Christian Friends"</i>	ELW 385

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✝ the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,  
and called to live the baptized life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
**waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.**

Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
**waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to your people;  
waters that extend your boundless love**

Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
**waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,  
that our every day is shaped by these waters  
that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together:

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

## God's Word for Us

### FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

*Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.*

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4-8

*The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.*

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;

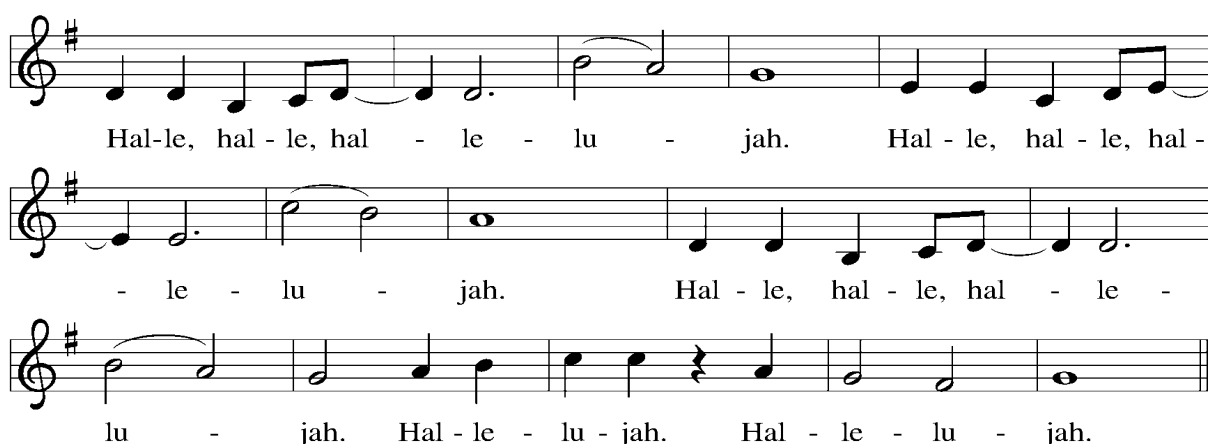
every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Music: Caribbean traditional

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel, according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## SERMON

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### “We Walk By Faith!”

ELW 635



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found:  
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## NICENE CREED

*We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.*

**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

*Following each prayer, we respond...*

**God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

## Welcome to God's table

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

*Greet one another with a gesture of peace.*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### MUSICAL OFFERING

*"The Strife Is O'er"*

*arr. Almon C. Bock II*

*Handbell Anthem*

### OFFERTORY SONG

*"Loaves were broken"*

ACS 966 (verse 1)

*Offerings are shared in the basket at the entry before or after worship.*

*Thanks to those who give on a regular basis through "direct deposit" giving.*

Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.

Jesus, Bread of life from heaven, was their food forevermore.

By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,

Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Let us pray.*

*Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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,  
 that we should at all times and in all places  
 give thanks and praise to you,  
 Almighty and merciful God.  
 You call your people to cleanse their hearts,  
 that renewed in the gift of baptism,  
 we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
 And so we praise your name,  
 and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

page 191

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

## Communion Prayers / Words of Institution

This is the day...

On the night before he was handed over to death,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father...**

### **Invitation to the Table**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God!

All are welcome to God's table!

### **Communion**

*All are invited to receive these gifts of God. Children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.*

*Communion is served by intinction. Dip the bread in either the wine or the grape juice.*

*Gluten-wafers are available, simply ask your server. If you prefer to remain in your pew, the pastor will come and serve you there. All are welcome at God's table!*

### **Music during Communion**

"Come and Fill Our Hearts" *sing three times*

ELW 528

"O Living Bread from Heaven"

ELW 542

## BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you,  
and keep you in his grace. Amen.

*Let us pray.*

*We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.  
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,  
in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

## Sending

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

"God be With You"

ELW 536

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

### POSTLUDE

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

Michael Helman

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## SERVING TODAY

Pastor David Halaas	<i>presider, preacher</i>
Janet Gross	<i>assisting minister</i>
Yvonne Hazlett	<i>organist, handbell director</i>
Richard Storm	<i>reader</i>
David Gross	<i>sacristan</i>
Alison Hertenstein	<i>communion minister</i>
Lee Knop	<i>usher</i>
Mike VanBeest, Dee Bertram	<i>greeters</i>
Ben & Ellie Hertenstein	<i>sound and media technicians</i>
David and Lorna Halaas	<i>radio broadcast and livestream sponsor</i>
Mary McCoy, Jeanne Hanna	<i>coffee fellowship</i>

## First Lutheran Church ELCA

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Office Manager: Lindsey McGinty  
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**Welcome to worship**

***You are valued and we welcome you!***

***We are grateful for God's gift of a diverse community.***

### **Children always participate here!!**

- Adults are encouraged to help children participate in the times we sing and pray together.
- All children are welcome at Holy Communion.  
If parents prefer, children can receive a pastoral blessing.

### **About Holy Communion today**

- Everyone (yes everyone!) is invited to God's table of grace!
- We believe that Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine
- Communion will be served today by intinction... dip the bread in either the wine (dark Color) or the grape juice (light color)
- If you prefer to remain seated, the pastor will come and serve you there
- Gluten-free communion bread may be requested

### Happening every week!

- ❖ **Sunday School! at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays**
- ❖ **Confirmation Together: Wednesdays at 6:30 pm**
- ❖ **High School Youth: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm**

### This week at First Lutheran

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 2pm.

#### **Wednesday, April 30**

9:00-11:30 am Holy Family Food Pantry,  
volunteers: Ann Doellinger, Nadine Holst  
6:00 pm Handbells, choir room  
6:30 pm Confirmation Together  
7:00 pm Choir, choir room  
7:30 pm High School Youth

#### **Thursday, May 1**

1:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Halaas - reads the New Testament book of Acts

#### **Friday, May 2**

7:00 pm AA Meeting

#### **Sunday, May 4**

10:00 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Fellowship

### Today !!!

Today **purple is** in honor of Candy Noonan Johnson. Candy is having treatments now. To let Candy know we are thinking of her, some of her friends have been wearing purple. We would like her to know how much we think of her and support her. After church today, we will take a picture and post it on Facebook and let Candy know that we wear "**purple for Candy**".

**Cards are available to sign.**

**Bakeless Bake Sale** on April 27 and May 4 – share a generous gift to First Lutheran Church Women ... Happy Bakeless Bake Sale to all! Forget looking for a recipe, forget shopping, and forego baking! (Please make checks payable to WELCA)

### Daily Devotional Books

"Christ in Our Home" devotional books for April-May-June are available today

**Prayer concerns and pastoral care:** There are several ways for you to share your prayer concerns and needs when ill, homebound, or celebrating. Please communicate your wishes and expectations to Pastor Halaas by phone, text, or email.

**Tell others about the First Lutheran radio broadcast** – every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on iHeart radio 620 am. ... **and that this worship service is also available at any time** on our Facebook livestream page: <https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheransiouxcity/>

Help us display an **“Angel Chorus of ALLELUIAS”** to celebrate our risen Lord for the Easter season! We would like to ask congregation members to bring a favorite angel or two to display on our hallway shelves for the next few weeks.  
All angels are welcome - from simple to fancy.

Save the date!!

- Saturday, May 3 **SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT CHURCH**
  - inside and outside projects! (bring cleaning supplies, rakes)
  - delicious lunch served
  - fun for all ages!
- Saturday, May 10 Special event for all women –  
Women from the area Lutheran churches meet at 9:30am  
at St. Mark - presentation by Jean Logan of the  
Community Action Agency
- June 23-26 City-wide Vacation Bible School at  
St. John Lutheran Church, 28<sup>th</sup> and Jackson