

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *An Easter Prelude* NELSON

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ 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 beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. 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, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.*

*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.*

**HYMN** #379 *Now the Green Blade Rises* NOËL NOUVELET

**GREETING**

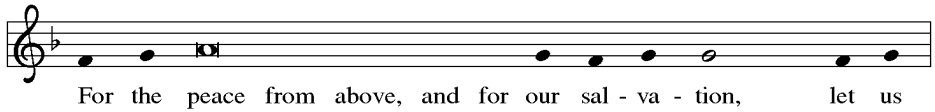
*Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!*

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

# KYRIE



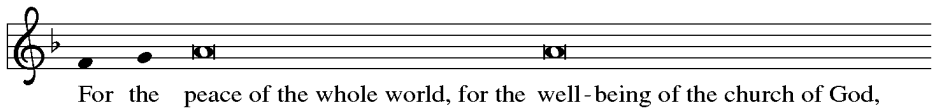
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



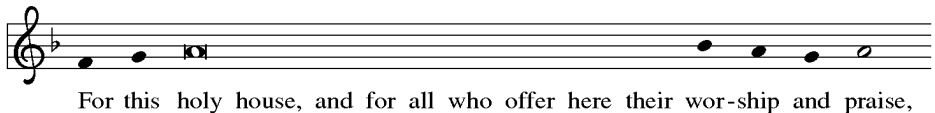
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



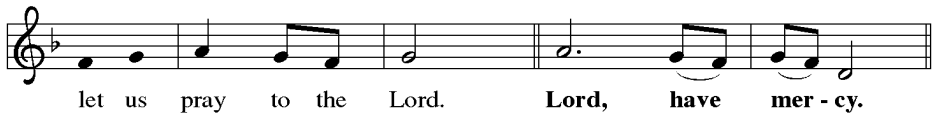
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**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.**

# WORTHY IS CHRIST

*Refrain*



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




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



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



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



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

*Refrain*




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



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, 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, hon - or, glo - ry, and



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



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, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray together. O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## FIRST READING: Acts 11: 1-18

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction



<sup>12</sup>young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together.

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful  
servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!

**SENIOR CHOIR (10:45):**    *All Things New*    COURTNEY

## **SECOND READING: Revelation 21: 1-6**

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

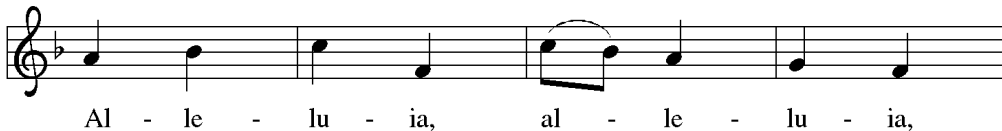
for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## HOLY GOSPEL

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

### GOSPEL: John 13: 31-35

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

## SERMON

Coming to a pulpit near you! A world premier sermon and skit!

### **The Little Things**

*Rev. Christian Dittmar, preaching*

Including the original stewardship skit

### **It Takes Two**

*Starring Greg Johnson as Jimmy Steward; Cloe Smith as Martha Steward; Payton Peyton Snyder as Rod Steward; and Liz Snyder as Kristen Steward.*

**HYMN**    #482    *I Come with Joy*    DOVE OF PEACE

## APOSTLES' CREED

*With voices united, let us confess our faith*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;**

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### THE PRAYERS

*God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need*

*...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*

*We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.*

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING *I Come with Joy* MARTIN

OFFERTORY #692 *We Are an Offering* OFFERING

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you,  
we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours:  
we are an offering.

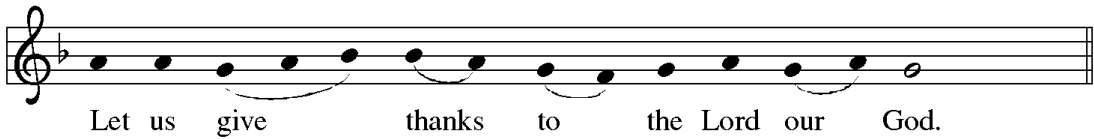
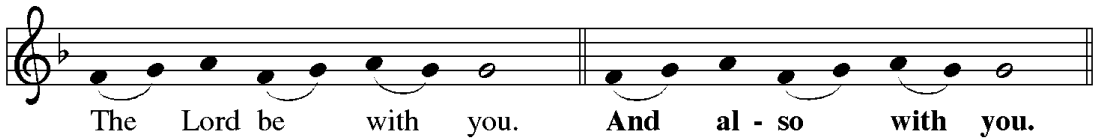
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,  
we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you,  
we are an offering, we are an offering.

### OFFERING PRAYER

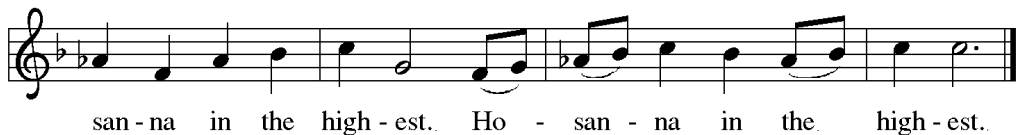
*Let us pray. Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.*

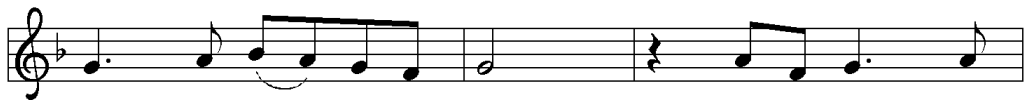
## LAMB OF GOD



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.

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

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.*

**BLESSING**

*The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. Amen.*

**SENDING HYMN #369 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!* LLANFAIR**

**DISMISSAL**

*Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE *The Rhythmic Trumpet* MARTIN**



Through April

Total Receipts \$132,903

Total Expenses \$127,598

Income over Expense: \$5,305



### **Welcome to First Lutheran Church.**

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

**WE ASK EVERYONE** to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given to the Glory of God by Kyle & Kaysie Penzinski, in loving memory of Phylis (Meemaw), Henson, and Andrea Penzinski, and Geri Harrington.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to the Sr. Choir for their contribution to our worship at the 10:45 service, singing *All Things New*.

**TODAY IS THE LAST SUNDAY** you will be hearing our fabulous, professional choir sing until next September. We are very fortunate to 1. Have a choir, 2. Have a choir made up of such talented musicians who are dedicated to bringing you live choral anthems almost each week of the church year, and 3. Use the piano or organ for their accompaniments and not a recorded track playing through the sound system. We take great pride in how we use our musical talents and keep our standards high at First Lutheran, we have heard that our music programs may have attracted some of you to our worship services and we want to continue that trend! Hallelujah! That's a wonderful thing! 🎵🎵🎵🎵

**THE 2025 FLOWER CHART** is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** is needed each Sunday throughout summer. If you have a special musical talent and would like to provide a vocal solo or duet, a piano solo, a bassoon solo, a saxophone or guitar ensemble during the summer months, please contact Miriam Gibson at 419-615-8224 or sign up on the calendar that is attached to her office door which is located upstairs. Many thanks!

**HELP IS NEEDED ON TUESDAY** afternoons from 4:15 or at least by 5:15 to pick up the donation from Riehm Farms. The donation box can be picked up and given to City Mission, CHOPIN Hall or used by the volunteer picking up the donation box. Please consider helping with this project. It takes only a few minutes. If you have any questions. Call Carolyn Bryant, 567-232-0160.

**SEARCHING FOR USHERS!!** Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and be sure to sign up if you're available! It's a wonderful way to meet new people and show our community what a welcoming church we are!

**WE ARE SO CLOSE** to being done redecorating the women's bathroom on the first floor! If you would like to contribute to the finishing touches, take a look at the bulletin board to see suggested offerings, or you can make a note on your offering envelope. Thank you!

**SEVERE STORMS, HURRICANES, AND NATURAL DISASTERS** across the United States have left many without power and/or without homes. With your support our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors as they rebuild. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that survivors don't have to face the road to recovery alone. Through these disasters and others across the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities for as long as the recovery process takes. Together we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need. There are Lutheran Disaster Response envelopes in the narthex or you may mark your gift Lutheran Disaster Response.

**A CARD WRITING MINISTRY** has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!