

Alleluia! – Second Sunday of Easter
at First Lutheran Church in St. Helens, Oregon
Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM



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

All are welcome in our worship! Your presence here is a gift from God. We particularly welcome visitors and guests. We'd love it if you came again.

Follow this worship bulletin as your guide to the service from beginning to end. Leaders speak the words in regular type; people speak (or sing) the boldface words. Please rise, whether physically or simply with your heart, during the portions of the liturgy marked by an asterisk.*

To get ready for Zoom worship (at home)

We celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you plan to take part. If you do not have access to wine/grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup; Christ is fully present as the "Bread of Life."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP – PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

Dr. Denise Reed

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Robert Neubert

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

* Gathering Hymn

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

ELW 377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

*GREETING

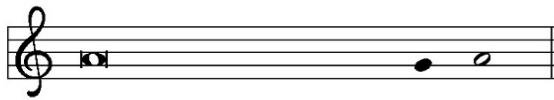
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.



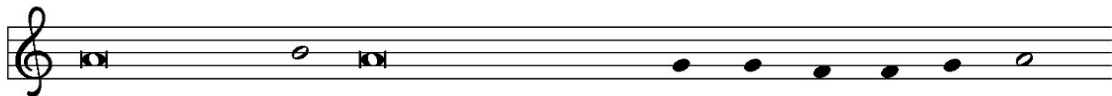
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

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.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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

~ **WORD** ~

Listen! God is calling.

FIRST READING – Acts 5:27-32

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ 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." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² 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.

PSALM 118:14-29

Pray responsively:

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ **By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- ²⁵ **Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**
- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷ **The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- ²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.**

SECOND READING –Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ 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, ⁵ 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, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

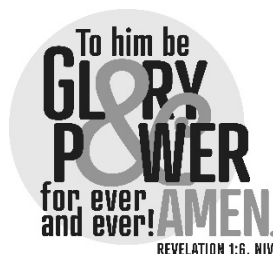
⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "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.



GOSPEL Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

* GOSPEL – Luke 24:13-35

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to

Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of our God.
Praise to you, O Christ.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Pastor Robert Neubert

SERMON

Pastor Robert Neubert

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.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

* APOSTLES' (BAPTISMAL) CREED

With the whole people of God, we make public profession of 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 again 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.**

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities especially those in Palestine and Ukraine. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way especially *Tim McAnnany, Sharyn Sundeen, Scott Bauska, Margaret Booth, Carlene Clore, Doreen Gordon, Kitty Heide, Marilyn Hensley, Brian Morse, Jayne Schilling, Donna Meyers, Richard Bourassa, Sandy Hora and all those we lift up upon our hearts or our lips.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. 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.

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you. Alleluia!

Greet those around you with gestures that signal Christ's peace.

~ Meal ~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING AND MUSICAL OFFERING

Thank you for supporting the ministries of First Lutheran Church.

If worshiping in-person, you may place your offering in the wooden bowl when it is passed to you. You may also make your offering by mail and/or through our website.

*** OFFERING HYMN**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together. 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

*** Dialogue**

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.

*** PREFACE**

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.

*** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray together, 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.

***About our communion practice:** All are welcome to commune at Christ's table! At the direction of an usher, those who wish to commune may proceed down the center aisle. You may kneel or stand at the altar rail and receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. After eating, you may select a cup of red*

wine or white grape juice. After drinking, return to your pew via the side aisle, placing your empty cup in the basket as you go. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may signal this preference by crossing your arms across your chest. If you would like communion to be brought to you in your pew, please inform an usher.

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Touch That Soothes and Heals

ACS 939

1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
 2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
 3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion, all earth's
 4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a
 break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
 ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
 peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of
 wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good
 wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
 shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
 kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
 tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain
 "See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the
 grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as
 ones I died to save."



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
 2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
 3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
 When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

*** BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace, now and forever. **Amen.**

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together. 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.

~ Sending ~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*** 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.



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

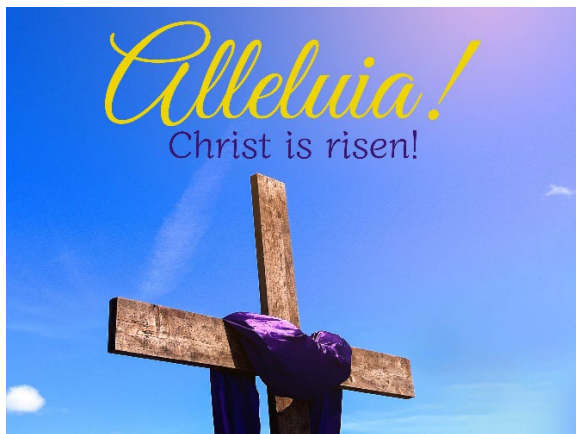
* SENDING

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



Today's Assisting Ministers

Worship Leader: Pastor Robert Neubert
 Worship Musician: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: TBD
 Lay Reader: Vincent Yellott & Bailey Kenny
 Communion Preparer: Katie Garman
 Communion Server: Frank Kenny
 Communion Clean-up: Geri Logan
 Tech: Teri Sherpe
 Ushers: Mike & Linda McCoy
 Altar Flowers: Terry Rude
 Coffee Hour: Matt & Kate Freitag

(Next Week – May 4)

Pastor Robert Neubert
 Dr. Denise Reed
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD
 TBD

Happening This Week

Sunday 4/27 Service at 10:00 a.m.
 Coffee/Fellowship at 11:00 a.m.

Monday 4/28 Zoom Book Club at 11:00 am
 AlAnon at 7:00 pm

Tuesday 4/29 Bible Study at 10 am
 Community Meals at 5:30 pm
 Bible Study at 6:30 pm

Wednesday 4/30 Quilters & Crafters at 10:00 am

Sunday 5/4 Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
 Coffee/Fellowship at 11:00 am

Celebrating This Week

Birthdays
 5/1 Annette Jensen
 5/3 Brian Morse (wife Edna too)

Anniversaries
 4/26 Andrew & Kristin Niemi
 4/29 Jessie & Mike McClintock

Last Sunday's Worship Attendance

In Person: 95 Zoom: 3

Last Sunday's Offering (Envelopes)

\$3,388.00

THANK YOU

A very special thank you to Pastor Robert and everyone else who had a part in making Holy Week so special for our congregation and guests. Each service was inspirational and memorable.

E-MAIL AND SPAM

Last week, our church email was hacked. An email went out supposedly from "Sandy" looking for gift cards. We would never ask for money via email. If you received this email, do not respond, delete it instead, and let the office know if you did receive it.

SIGN-UP SHEETS

We still need lay helpers in a variety of positions so please check the NEW sign-up sheet for May and also for coffee/fellowship from May through August. The flower chart shows spots are available for May, too.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study has resumed on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. We will be studying the Book of Revelation (it's actually about hope!). The 10:00 a.m. bible study will continue as normal studying the lectionary.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Once again this year, we will be doing a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. We will be pledging \$5,000 as we have done in the past. Please watch for more information as things progress on this.

BABY CARE KITS UPDATE

We have a great start collecting items for the kits. Check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall displaying the items needed. We really need **small sleepers, gowns or top/pants sets (6,9,12 months)** and **large sleepers, gowns or top/pants sets (18, 24 months)**. We need flannel to sew receiving blankets, too. Also, pick up precut cotton diapers to be hemmed.

Portions of our liturgy come from sundaysandseasons.com; Augsburg Fortress Annual License #23164 .

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