

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

April 18, 2021

10:00 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—CELEBRATING EARTH DAY



In our readings today, we hear that “in Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created” (Col 1:16). This Easter season, we remember that God made peace with all of creation through the cross. We rejoice in Christ’s resurrection, trusting that his arising frees us to be loving servants of all creation and of one another.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *Festival Prelude on “Thaxted”* **Gustav Holst, arr. D.H. Pettit**
(Let Streams of Living Justice Flow Down Upon the Earth)
Bob Boman, trumpet; Karen Sande, organ

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water—
for Gitchi Gami, St. Louis River, Chester Creek, Amity Creek, Lester River,
and the Boundary Waters,
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories—
a flood that cleansed the earth,
the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus—
baptized in the Jordan River,
calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob’s Well,
healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples’ feet.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for this font,
 for through this water
 you have birthed us into the family of Christ,
 bathed us in forgiveness,
 and enlivened us in the Spirit.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.

O God, you are the River, saving us from death.

O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.

We praise you, O God,
 today, tomorrow, forever.

Amen, and amen.

Amen, and amen.

GATHERING HYMN #379 *Now the Green Blade Rises* (additional verse by Paul Jacobson)



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Come, O Gra - cious Heal - er, source of health and life,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,
 May we, too, be heal - ers, we who have caused strife.



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

Strength - en our hands to bind the wounds of Earth,



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.
 Shar - ing with the world your pro - mise of re - birth.

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creating God, whose breath transformed dust into life, breathe upon your people and awaken us from our false sense of separation from creation; grow us in compassion so that we may care for land, water and air, through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

FIRST READING *Psalms 104:14-23*

read by

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, ¹⁵ and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. ¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. ¹⁷ In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. ¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the conies. ¹⁹ You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. ²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. ²¹ The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. ²² When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. ²³ People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING *Colossians 1:15-20*

read by

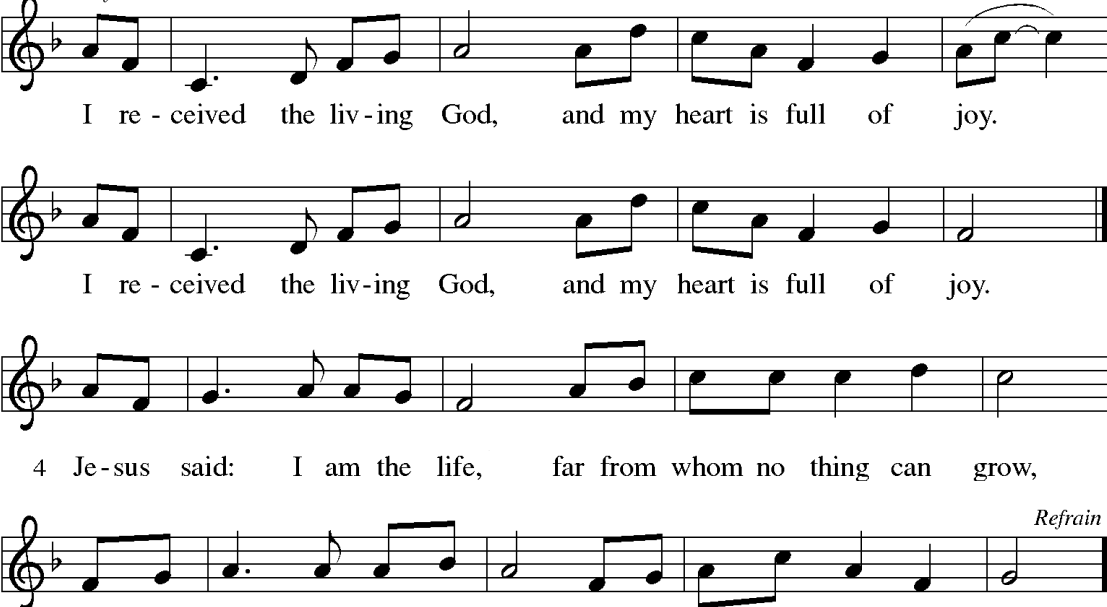
¹⁵ Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know. *Refrain*

GOSPEL *Luke 24:36b-48*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{tt36b} Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.”

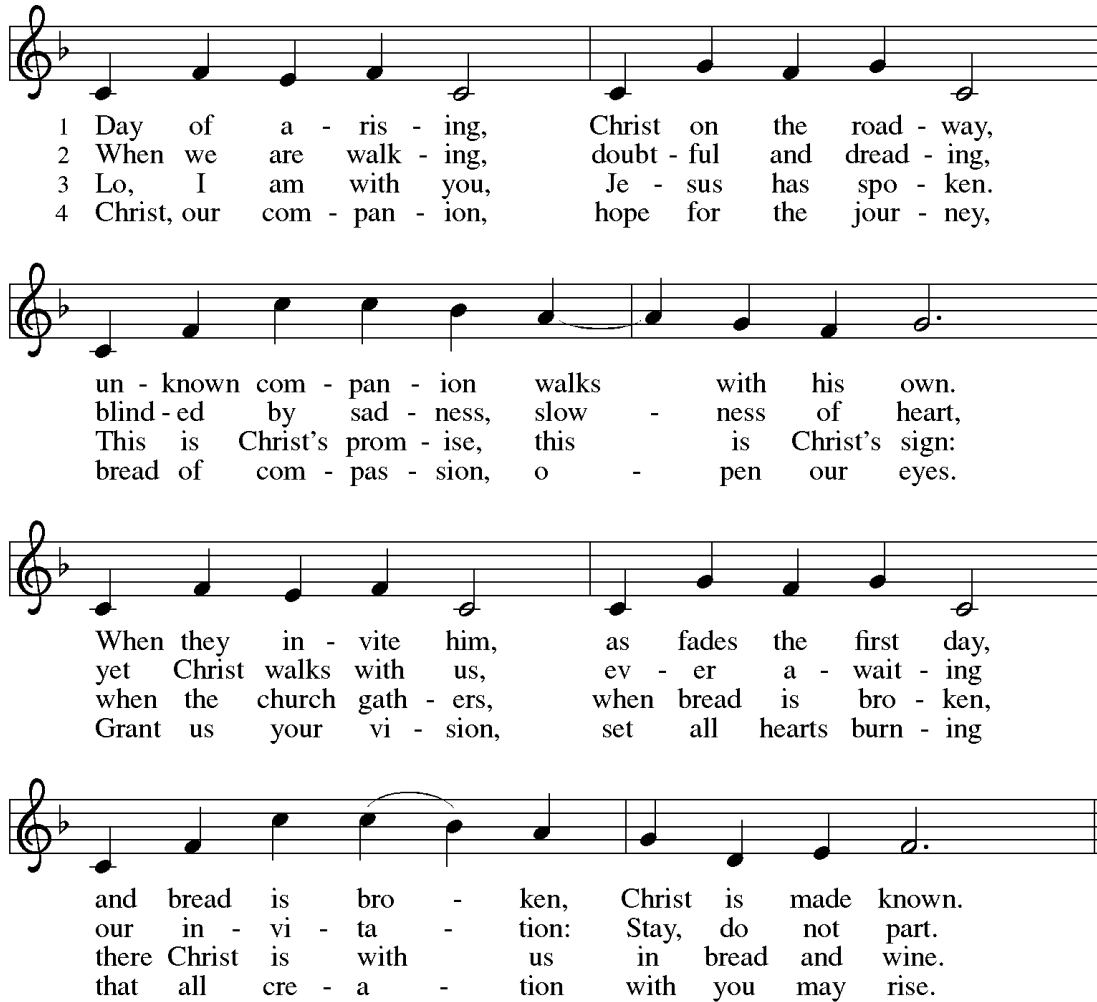
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

HYMN OF THE DAY #374 *Day of Arising*



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,

un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.

When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing

and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

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 THE CHURCH

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

or

**Bless we the Lord,
Thanks be to God!**

THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to **218-325-9525** with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM ***Hymn of Promise or The Earth Adorned***

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of love,
you call us into beloved community and welcome all to your table.
Receive our lives and all that we offer that together we might extend your reign.
In the name of the Risen One.
Amen.**

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

By God's great mercy we have been given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

We've made it to Easter;

We have been strengthened, carried and raised through another year—

Fed by Christ through word, song, glimpses of God in creation and one another, and this bread for the journey. We eat it with joy and thanksgiving.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed; alleluia!

HYMN #477 *Be Not Afraid*



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the hope of new life in Christ, we pray:

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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom*



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light-ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum-ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won-der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi-der, hu - man, red - wood, geck-o, mon-key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring-ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with-in a sin-gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace, sent as joyful witnesses to this good news.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

MINISTERS All People of First Lutheran Church
PASTOR The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
PASTORAL INTERN Logan McLean Strike
PROGRAM STAFF Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
MUSICIANS Susanna Ojakangas, Beth Storaasli, Mark Knutson, Brad Anderson, and Michael Fuchs, singers;

VIDEO TEAM Shania Krause, David Sproat, Dale Stahl, Sam Weston
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Stacie Curnow

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*The Sanctuary is open for quiet prayer and reflection each Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Use the Superior St. entrance door leading directly into the Sanctuary.*

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.
We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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