

Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026



First Communion

First Lutheran Church
116 Inner Drive
Le Sueur, MN 56058
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UNITED by Christ, God calls us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright **ELW #384**

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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 - (*Spoken*)

ELW page 138

CANTICLE—*Glory be to Christ*

**ELW page 204
(Vs. 2)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING—Exodus 15:1-11, 19-21

Song of Moses and Miriam at the sea

¹ [Then] Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

² The LORD is my strength and my might,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him;
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

⁵ The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

⁶ Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.

⁷ In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;
you sent out your fury; it consumed them like stubble.

⁸ At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up;

the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy said, 'I will pursue; I will overtake;
I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'

¹⁰ You blew with your wind; the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"

¹⁹ When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

²⁰ Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹ And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

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

PSALM—Psalm 111

¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

² **Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³ Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵ You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶ **You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷ The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸ **They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹ You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures
forever.**

SECOND READING—1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—Alleluia

ELW page 205

The Holy Gospel according to the twentieth chapter of John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

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

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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."

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue 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

MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

***We Walk by Faith* ELW #635
(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)**

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APOSTLES' CREED

**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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

Be Not Afraid ELW #388

One License #04238

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW page 144

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, holy, holy **ELW page 144**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

Lamb of God ELW page 146

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives ELW #380
(Vs. 1, 4 & 5)
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*



Acknowledgements:

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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

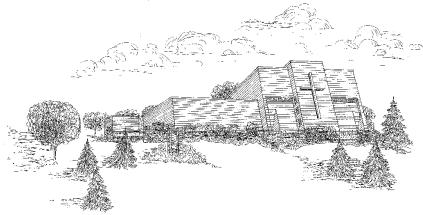
April Ministry Focus: Earth Day / Environmental

On Easter morning, as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the promise of new life, we are invited to receive a small but meaningful gift: pollinator seeds. These seeds, tucked into our hands as we gather in worship, become a living reminder of God’s renewing grace. Just as the tomb was opened and life burst forth in unexpected ways, so too do these tiny seeds hold the potential for beauty, growth, and transformation. In the life of an ELCA congregation, this simple act connects our faith to the world around us—reminding us that resurrection is not only something we proclaim, but something we participate in.

Planting these seeds becomes a sacred act of caring for creation. As they take root and grow, they will nourish bees, butterflies, and other pollinators—creatures essential to the flourishing of God’s earth. In tending to them, we live out our call to be stewards of creation, honoring the interconnectedness of all life. The seeds we receive on Easter become more than a symbol; they are a commitment to nurture what God has entrusted to us. In gardens, yards, and shared spaces, they will bloom as a visible sign of hope, echoing the Easter promise that new life is always possible, and that we are called to help it grow.

Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 at 9:00am. If you are able to help, please contact LeRoy May at 612-756-2157 or the church office. If inclement weather, it will be rescheduled.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
4-5-2026	\$8,947	\$4,542
YTD	\$72,957	\$67,844



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, April 12	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:15a	First Communion
		Bible Study with Pr. Sam
Monday, April 13—Sunday, April 19		Pr. Sam vacation
Tuesday, April 14	5:30p	Scholarship Meeting
Wednesday, April 15	9:00a	Staff Meeting
	6:00p	Meal @ UMC
	6:30p	Worship
	7:00-7:30p	RISE
	7:00-8p	RISE UP
	6:00-8p	FLY
Sunday, April 19	9:00a	Worship with Holy Communion
		Pr. Matt Larson

Worship Assistants

April 12, 2026		April 19, 2026	
Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller	Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick	First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Ezra Carlen	Acolytes:	Everett Greisen
Reader:	Owen Greisen	Reader:	Rachel Wagner
Usher:	John Miller	Usher:	Bob & Joan Reasoner
Greeters:	Stefanie Eischens	Greeters:	
Communion Asst:	LeRoy & Joan May	Communion Asst:	Bonnie Keech
Council Member:	Miles Heille		Lisa Radloff
Fellowship:		Council Member:	Callie Greisen
Projection:	Tech Team	Fellowship:	
Audio:	Tech Team	Projection:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack	Audio:	Tech Team
Offering Counters:	Dave Johnson	Videographer:	Becky Pollack
	Joanne Graff	Offering Counters:	Bob Bartle
Altar Guild:	Bob & Rita Patrias		Joan May
		Altar Guild:	Bob & Rita Patrias