

Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026



First Lutheran Church
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UNITED by Christ, God calls us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Joan/Jennifer

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.

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

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! ELW #377

(Vs. 1, 2 & 5)

One License #01600

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 OF PRAISE—*Glory Be to Christ*

ELW page 204

(Vs. 2)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHOIR ANTHEM

All Heaven Declares

Arr. Fettke

One License #231672

WORD

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

FIRST READING—Isaiah 51:1-6

The enduring foundation of God's salvation

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 34:1-10

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

² **I will glory in the LORD;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

³ Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.

⁴ **I sought the LORD, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.**

⁵ Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶ **I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.

⁸ **Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!**

⁹ Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.
¹⁰ **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

SECOND READING—1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—Alleluia! Lord and Savior

ELW page 205

The Holy Gospel according to the twenty-fourth chapter of Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these

things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then 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?" ¹⁹ He 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, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But 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. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and 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. ²⁴ Some 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." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But 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. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They 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?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then 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 the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Matt Larson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day of Arising ELW #374

(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)

One License #06553 & #06552

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.

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick especially those in our hearts and on our prayer list. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of 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

Send Forth by God's Blessing ELW #547

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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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Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2026

Church ArtPro—Account #74057560

Expires 12/15/2027

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Ministry Focus: Earth Day / Environmental

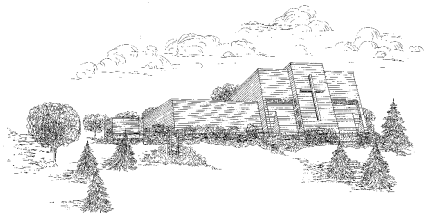
On Easter morning, as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the promise of new life, we are invited to receive a small but meaningful gift: pollinator seeds. These seeds, tucked into our hands as we gather in worship, become a living reminder of God's renewing grace. Just as the tomb was opened 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.

Welcome to Pastor Matt Larson. Pastor Larson is the Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Leadership and Congregation Care for SE MN Synod. Thank you for leading us in worship today.

Thank you to Liz Osborne for providing our Altar flowers today.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
4-12-2026	\$1,875	\$4,523
YTD	\$74,832	\$72,367



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, April 19	9:00a 10:15a	Worship w/Holy Communion First Choir Rehearsal
Monday, April 20	6:00p	Church Council
Tuesday, April 21	10:00a 10:15a	Coffee/Mary Unit Bible Study/Mary Uni
Wednesday, April 22	9:00a 6:00p 6:30p 7:00-7:30p 7:00-8p 6:00-8p	Staff Meeting Meal @ UMC Worship RISE RISE UP FLY
Sunday, April 26	9:00a 10:15a	Worship Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Worship Assistants

April 19, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Everett Greisen
Reader:	Rachel Wagner
Usher:	Bob & Joan Reasoner
Greeters:	
Communion Asst:	Bonnie Keech Lisa Radloff
Council Member:	Callie Greisen
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Bob Bartle Joan May
Altar Guild:	Bob & Rita Patrias

April 26, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	LeRoy Haaland
Reader:	Liz Osborne
Usher:	LeRoy May
Greeters:	Edrie Barton Rachel Wagner
Council Member:	Mike Johnson
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller Joan May
Altar Guild:	Bob & Rita Patrias