

Seventh Sunday After Epiphany



February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

11:00 am

Holy Communion

Gathering Music



“Graves into Gardens”
Sound Offering

FEBRUARY 22/23, 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson,
Presiding

Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson,
Preaching





**“Sharing Shelf”
February S.A.F.E. Center Donations:
Feminine Hygiene Products.
Please set donated items
on the shelf in the Narthex.**



The S.A.F.E. Center is the Spouse/Sexual Abuse Family Education Center. The S.A.F.E. Center’s mission is to provide free and confidential serves for those affected by dating violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and stalking while bringing awareness and prevention efforts to all individuals across South Central Nebraska.



Join us for an Adult Forum: Updates on Compass and Care Portal

- **Sunday, March 2**
- **9:50 am**
- **Centennial Hall**
- **Brad Stolcpart and Kaylee Andersen**

**Please come to learn more about these ministries that
First Lutheran supports in our community.**



Ash Wednesday Worship Services March 5th

**Two Services:
12 noon and 6:30 pm**

Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick:

**Sundays | 9:50 am | Centennial Hall
March 9, 16, 23 & 30**

**The Nicene Creed:
Where it
came from and
why it still matters**



Wednesday Evenings During Lent:

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9

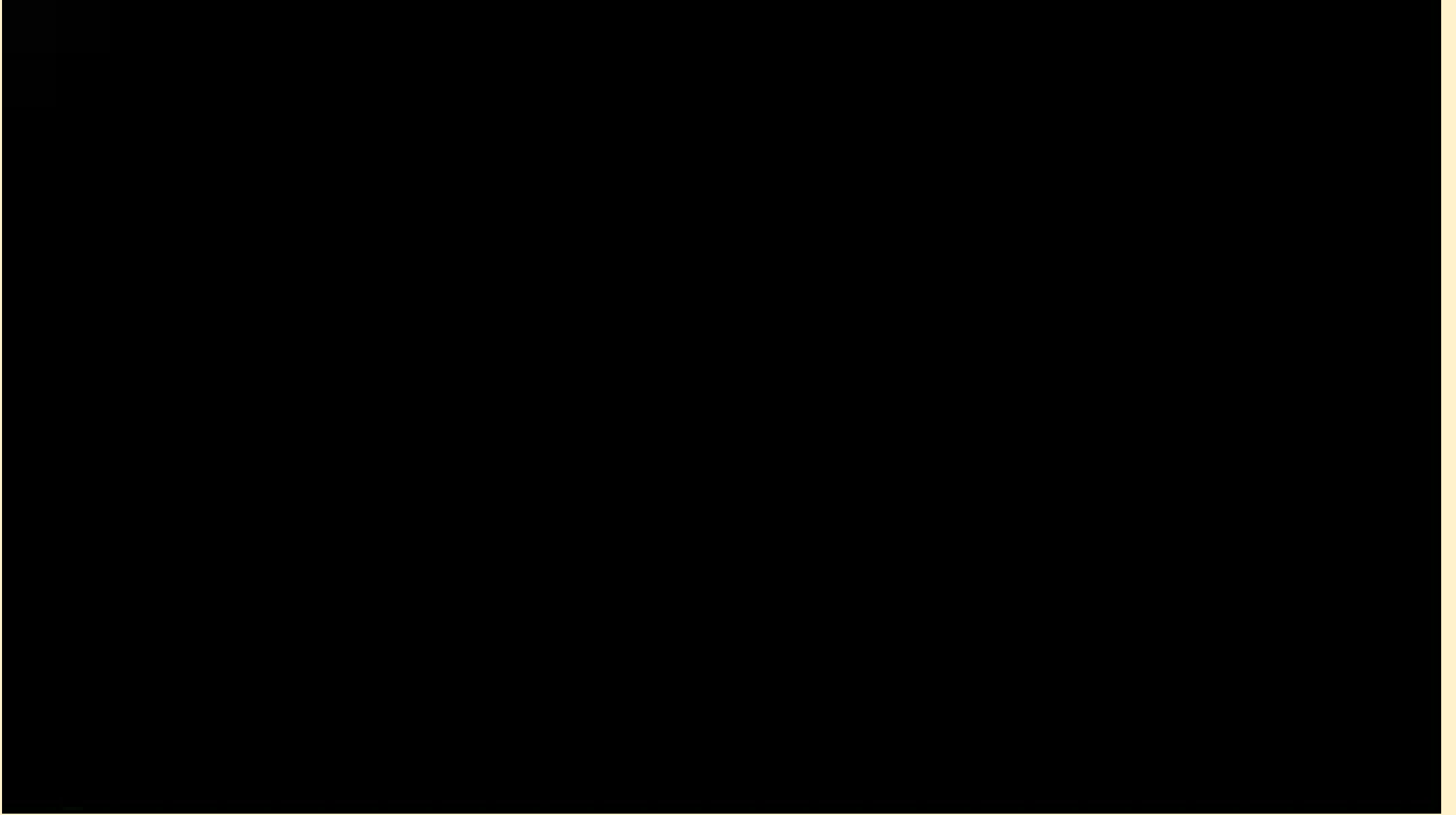
- 5:15 pm - Praiser Bells - Sanctuary
- 5:30 pm - Feeding the Flock - Centennial Hall
- 5:45 pm - First Communion Class - Fellowship Hall
- 6:10 pm - Heavenly Treble Makers-Sanctuary
- 6:30 pm - Midweek Lenten Worship - Sanctuary
Centering on Luther's Small Catechism
- 7:00 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- Fly - Check your emails for updates



February is our **Month of Thanks** as we
remember our great partners in
ministry!

Today we are ReConnecting with
Habitat for Humanity.

“Minute for Mission” with Patrick Waltemath from Habitat.



Greeting

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

We greet one another in the name of the Lord using words such as “Peace be with you.”



Worship Song



“Your Grace is Enough”

“Your Grace is Enough”

**Great is Your faithfulness, oh God.
You wrestle with the sinner’s heart.
You lead us by still waters into mercy,
and nothing can keep us apart.**



“Your Grace is Enough”

**So, remember Your people,
remember Your children,
remember Your promise, oh God.**



“Your Grace is Enough”

**Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.**



“Your Grace is Enough”

**Great is Your love and justice, God.
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of
Your salvation,
and all Your people sing along.**



“Your Grace is Enough”

**So, remember Your people,
remember Your children,
remember Your promise, oh God.**



“Your Grace is Enough”

**Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.**



“Your Grace is Enough”

**Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.**



“Your Grace is Enough”

**So, remember Your people,
remember Your children,
remember Your promise, oh God.**



“Your Grace is Enough”

**Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough for me.**



“Your Grace is Enough”

**Your grace is enough,
Heaven reaching down to us.
Your grace is enough for me.
God, I sing Your grace is enough;
I'm covered in Your love.
Your grace is enough for me, for me.**

Text and Music: Matt Maher. Additional lyrics by Chris Tomlin. © 2003, 2004, 2005 Matt Maher.
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Worship Song



“This is Amazing Grace”

This is Amazing Grace

**Who breaks the power
of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and
so much stronger
The King of Glory
the King above all kings**



This is Amazing Grace

**Who shakes the whole earth
with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless
in awe and wonder
The King of Glory
the King above all kings**



This is Amazing Grace

**(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free**



This is Amazing Grace

**Oh Jesus I sing
for all that You've done for me**



This is Amazing Grace

**Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan
a son and daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory**



This is Amazing Grace

**Who rules the nations
with truth and justice**

Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance

**The King of Glory
the King above all kings**



This is Amazing Grace

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

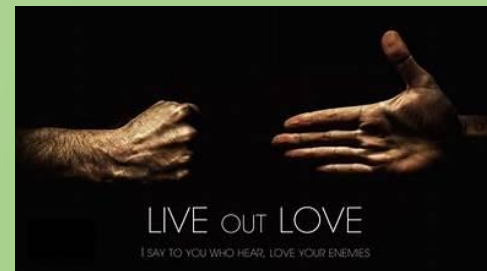
Worthy is the King

who conquered the grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy is the King

who conquered the grave



This is Amazing Grace

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King
who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy worthy worthy

Text and Music: Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickham. CCLI Song #6333821

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Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope.



Prayer of the Day

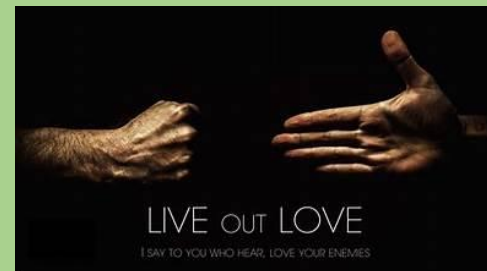
Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



Word: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians the Fifteenth Chapter.



Word: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

L:³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.



Word: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.



Word: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual.



Word: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven.

⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.



Word: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

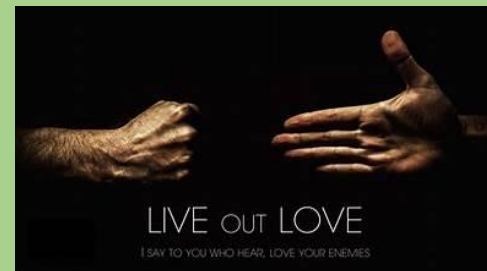
(1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50)



Word: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Word: Luke 6:27-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
the Sixth Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**



Word: Luke 6:27-38

P: Jesus said: ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.



Word: Luke 6:27-38

³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.



Word: Luke 6:27-38

³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.



Word: Luke 6:27-38

Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you.



Word: Luke 6:27-38

A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

(Luke 6:27-38)



Word: Luke 6:27-38

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



Children's Message

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND "NOISY" OFFERING

*Children's Offering goes to
Operation Shine*



Sermon



SERMON

Pastor Rick Carlson

Worship Song



“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”

“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”

**Amazing grace,
how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**



“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”

**‘Twas grace that taught my
heart to fear;**

And grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed.



“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”

**My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.**



“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”

**The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**



“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”

**My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.**



“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”

**My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.**



“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below,
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine,
You are forever mine.**

Traditional American Melody. CCLI Song #4768151
Arrangement and Chorus by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
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Reception of New Members

Please be seated.

P: This is a really exciting time at First Lutheran! Part of the excitement is that we are receiving new members this weekend to join us in God's mission and ministry.



Reception of New Members

Jane David
Jantha Jamison
Chuck and Kathy Meyers
Linda Peterson
Jimmy and Courtney Riley



Reception of New Members

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.



Reception of New Members

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,



Reception of New Members

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.



Reception of New Members

P: Do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Each new member: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.



Reception of New Members

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

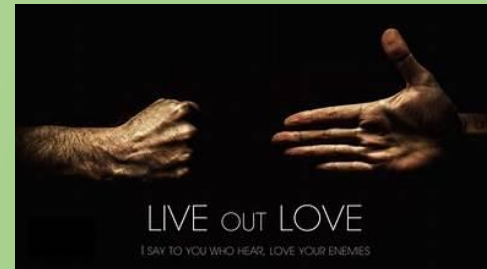
C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**



Reception of New Members

P: Congregation, do you believe in God the Father?

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



Reception of New Members

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.



Reception of New Members

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.



Reception of New Members

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.



Reception of New Members

P: Let us pray, Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace:



Reception of New Members

the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.



Reception of New Members

P: Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.



Prayers of Intercession

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence for reflection.



Prayers of Intercession

L: Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all.



Prayers of Intercession

L: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way.



Prayers of Intercession

L: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints.



Prayers of Intercession

L: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities.



Prayers of Intercession

L: We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. We pray especially for...



Prayers of Intercession

Skylar Marie Adams

Jim Anderson

Bertha Boyer

Vicki Buschelman

Gregory Carrico

Jim Catterson

Tammy Chamberlin

Ann Day

Wayne Deterding

Terry Eirich

Randy Fritson

Chuck Gilson

Deb Hargins

Karen Hiskett

Linda Sue Jensen

Betty Kempf

Ron Kruse

Amy Lammers



Prayers of Intercession

Bob Lammers

Emily McArthur

Bob Placzek

Eileen Richter

Brent Roemmich

Tricia Samuelson

Garth Scism

Addison Sullivan

Tony Tauer

Dave Vest

Eunice Warner

Carl Weber

Misty White

Dean Wiese

Marty Wilcox

Miranda Wright

Xander Wright

Paula Yoachim



Prayers of Intercession

L: We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace.



Prayers of Intercession

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God,
in the sure and certain hope that your
promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.



Meal

OFFERING

“How Great is Our God”
Sound Offering

*Communion Servers,
please come forward at this time.*

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS

VANCO

FAITH

ON-LINE
visit FLC's
website

**MOBILE
APP**
iPhone & Android

**VANCO MOBILE IS SIMPLE AND SECURE.
TRY IT TODAY!**

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.



Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.



Confession and Forgiveness

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.



Confession and Forgiveness

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one
another.**



Confession and Forgiveness

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your
world, that we may live in Christ's
ways.
Amen.**



Confession and Forgiveness

P: God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven.



Confession and Forgiveness

In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
C: Amen.



Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.



Offertory Prayer

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: Amen



The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.



The Great Thanksgiving

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was handed over, 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.



Words of Institution

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.



Words of Institution

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.



The Lord's Prayer

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

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven.**



The Lord's Prayer

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

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Please be seated.



Communion

*We practice open communion at First Lutheran.
All are welcome to receive the elements. Please let
the Pastor know if you need a gluten-free wafer.
The wine is red, and the grape juice is clear in the trays.*

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

*If you would like prayers of healing, join the pastor in the
Narthex after you have received communion.*

COMMUNION MUSIC
“Come to the Table”
Sound Offering



Table Grace

Please stand as you are able.

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

C: Amen.



Prayer after Communion

L: Let us pray.

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.



Prayer after Communion

Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good
news of liberation and healing for the
sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen



Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

C: Amen.



Sending Song



“Jesus Thank You”

“Jesus Thank You”

Thank you for your goodness

Thank you for your kindness

Thank you for all the things you do

Jesus, thank you.



“Jesus Thank You”

**Jesus I can hardly count the times
Your grace has pulled me out
Sin and shame had left me bound
I once was lost, but now I'm found
I once was lost, but now I'm found**



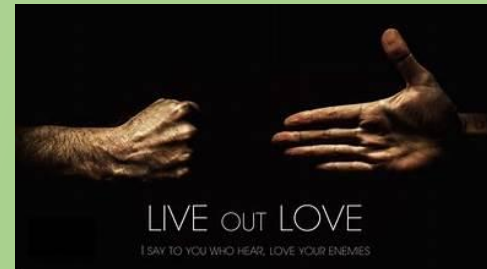
“Jesus Thank You”

Thank you for your goodness

Thank you for your kindness

Thank you for all the things you do

Jesus, thank you.



“Jesus Thank You”

**Thank you for the blessings
Thank you for a million little things
Thank you for the ways that
You've come through,
Jesus, thank you.**



“Jesus Thank You”

**Looking back all I can see
Is a history of miracles
I know if You're here with me
Then nothing is impossible.**



“Jesus Thank You”

**Thank you for your goodness
Thank you for your kindness
Thank you for all the things you do
Jesus, thank you.**



“Jesus Thank You”

**Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you
Jesus, thank you,
thank you, thank you**



“Jesus Thank You”

I can't say it enough

I can't say it enough

I can't say it enough



“Jesus Thank You”

I can't thank You enough

I can't thank You enough

I can't thank You enough



“Jesus Thank You”

Thank you for your goodness

Thank you for your kindness

Thank you for all the things you do

Jesus, thank you.



“Jesus Thank You”

**Thank you for the blessings
Thank you for a million little things
Thank you for the ways that
You've come through,
Jesus, thank you**



“Jesus Thank You”

**Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you
Jesus, thank you,
Thank you, thank you.**

Words and Music: Katy Nichole

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Upside down Under, Be Essential Songs (Admin by Essential Music Pub)

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Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Sending Music



Sending Music
Sound Offering