



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11/12, 2026

6:00 pm | 8:45 am

Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude “*Sheep May Safely Graze*”, J.S Bach, arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz
Betty Heggemeyer, organist

Please stand as you are able.

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of † the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

P: Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Have mercy on us, O God,

C: according to your loving kindness. In your great mercy, wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your Spirit. Amen.

P: God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Processional Hymn

"Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen" ELW 377



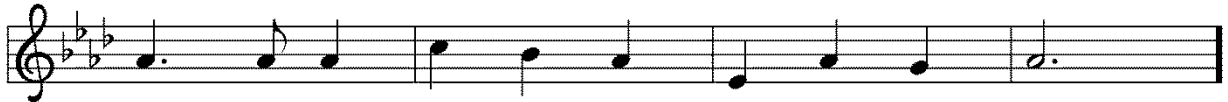
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



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,

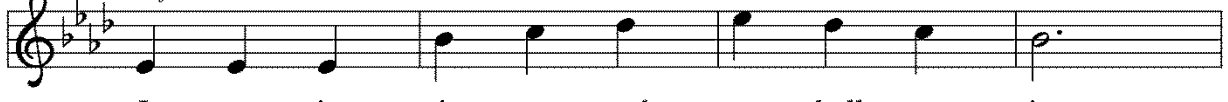


Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



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
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!

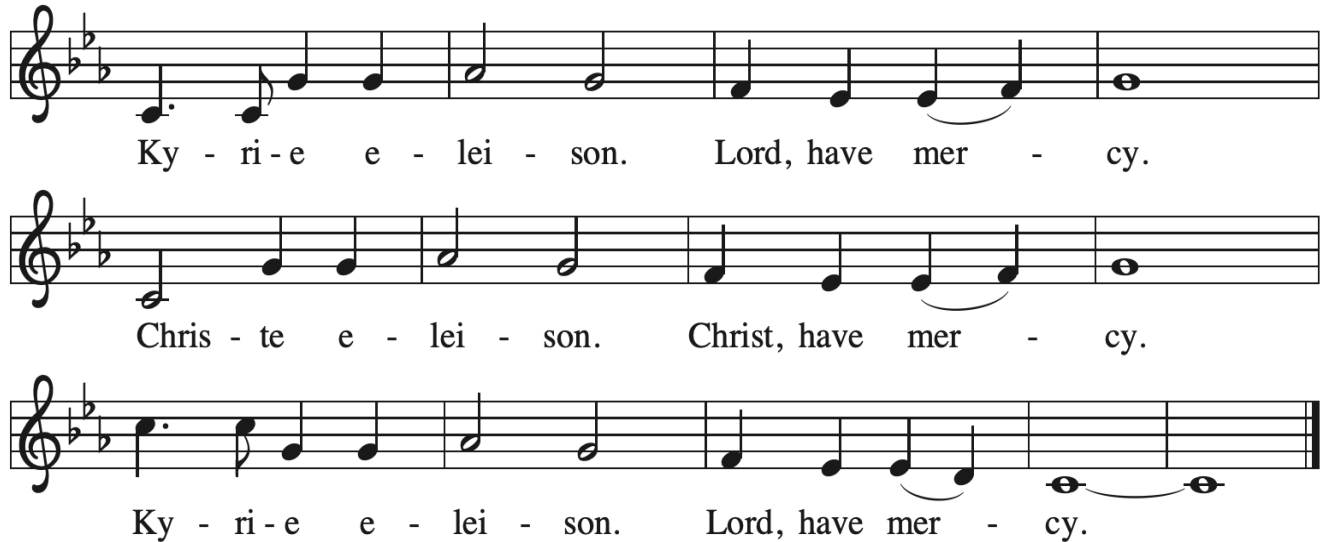
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Greeting

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.

Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

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Prayer of the Day

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

8:45 am ANTHEM “The Glory of the Cross”
Larry Shackley Chancel Choir

Word

A reading from Genesis the second chapter.

L: ⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground ⁷ then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

(Genesis 2:4b-7)

A reading from Ezekiel the thirty-seventh chapter.

L: ¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.” (*Ezekiel 37:1-14*)

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



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Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: 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 Judaeans, 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."

(John 20:19-23)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message and "Noisy" Offering

(Children's offering goes towards ELCA North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund)

Sermon Pastor Rick Carlson

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” ELW 367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



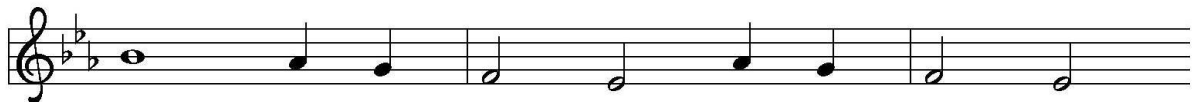
in praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
strife. “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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Nicene Creed

L: With the whole church, let us profess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: **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 Intercession

L: 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 for reflection.

L: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

L: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

L: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them.

We pray especially for:

Jim Anderson	Patty Ibsen	Garth Scism
Bertha Boyer	Tami Jobman	Debbie Steinbrecher
Vicki Buschelman	Derek Johnson	Carrie Stithem
Pastor John Carlson	LaVern Krenke	Joanne Suing
Gregory Carrico	Tom Meyer	Tony Tauer
Rich Ferris	Laura Morton	Martha Tiede
Corinne Fischer	Russell Radcliffe	Misty White
Leonard Fowler	Mary Renshaw	Dean Wiese
Randy Fritson	Daniel Rheome	Miranda Wright
Larry Giddings	Eileen Richter	Paula Yoachim
Keith Halliwell	Kristen Richter	James Ziebarth
Jerry Ibsen	Myron Riddle	Midge Zimmer
	Daryl Rodgers	

L: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

Meal

Offering *“My Lord, What A Morning!”* arr. Cindy Berry
Betty Heggemeyer, organist

Communion Servers: Please come forward at this time.

Offertory Response

"As the Grains of Wheat" ELW 465



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

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Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray.

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,

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

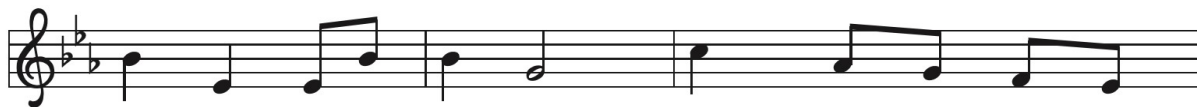
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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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.

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.

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

We practice open communion at First Lutheran. All are welcome to receive the elements. Gluten-free wafers are available. In addition to the cups filled with wine (red) in the tray, there are cups containing grape juice (clear) in the center.

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.

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Communion Music

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”
(with) “In The Cross of Christ I Glory” arr. Cindy Berry
Betty Heggemeyer, organist

Please stand as you are able.

Table Grace

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.

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,

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

"With High Delight Let Us Unite" ELW 368



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to



songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all
in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now
Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To
van - quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So



set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says
shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536-1599; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976, alt. Music: Medieval European tune

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Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude "Lift High the Cross" arr. Cindy Berry
Betty Heggemeyer, organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Worship Schedule**—Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 8:45 am & 11:00 am
- **Church Office Hours**—Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- **Brookestone Garden Services: First Sunday** monthly at 2:00 pm
- **For the hard of hearing FLC offers a loop system** for wearers with a “T” (t-coil) setting; the coverage works **best** on the main floor in the **center** aisles. (It is not available in the balcony.)
- **S.A.F.E. Center donations** - for April are Adult and Children’s Coloring Books, Colored Pencils and Crayons. Please put donations on the sharing shelf in the Narthex.
- **Volunteer of the Month** – for April is Michelle Johannesen. Michelle serves on several committees and is always willing to jump in and help – even on ones she’s not officially part of. Thank you, Michelle, for all you do!
- **Communion registration**—Please register annually to maintain membership. Registration cards in pew racks & on Welcome Stations.
- **Visitors**—please complete a visitor card, found in the pews.
- **The Nursery** is available for anyone to use with services livestreamed inside. A toddler restroom is located inside.
- **Tuesdays** – 5:30pm – Chancel Bells – Sanctuary
- **Wednesday Evening Activities**
 - Praiser Bells – 5:15 pm.
 - Feeding the Flock Meal 5:30pm – 6:30pm. (open to all)
 - FROG – Pre-K through 5th grade 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm.
 - Heavenly Treble Makers – 6:15 pm.
 - FLY—Wednesday night Youth Group, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm.
 - Chancel Choir – 6:30 pm.
 - Confirmation Class 6:50 pm – 7:55 pm.
- **Sat. April 18** – 10am - Women’s ELCA Spring Brunch. Centennial Hall
- **Sun. Apr. 19** – 3pm - Natalie & Friends Concert -Sanctuary
- **Sun. Apr. 26** – Spring Together for Joy Unity Sunday:
 - One Sunday Service 11am. (Traditional)
 - Potluck Luncheon following service.
- **Sat/Sun Apr. 25/26** - Spring Cantata Sat. 6pm & Sun. 11am
- **Wed. Apr. 29** – F.R.O.G. End of Year Celebration!
- **Save the DATE:** Vacation Bible School July 13-16 & 19th



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

**First Lutheran Church ~ 3315 G Avenue ~ Kearney, NE 68847
308-237-5544 ~ office@firstlutherankearney.org**

**Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson, Presiding
Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson, Preaching**

**Assisting Ministers:
6:00 pm – Kim Deyo
8:45 am – Amy Behrhorst
11:00 am – Lori McArthur**

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Offertory: “*My Lord, What A Morning!*” arr. Cindy Berry © 2013 by Alfred Music.

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Communion: “*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (with) In The Cross of Christ I Glory*” arr. Cindy Berry

by William Howard Doane and Ithamar D. Conkey. Arr by Cindy Berry. © 2013 by Alfred Music

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Postlude: “*Lift High The Cross*” arr. Cindy Berry by Sydney H. Nicholson, Arr by Cindy Berry. © 2013 by Alfred

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