



**February 20, 2022**  
**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Worship: Sundays at 10:00 am & 11:30 am  
Pastor: Pr. Ryan Rouse

*Called to proclaim and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are nurtured,  
prepared, and sent to be the light of Christ in our world.*

# First Lutheran

You are created uniquely by God and you are welcome here.  
Your Abilities· Age· Culture· Economic Status· Gender Expression/Identity· Life Circumstances·  
Marital Status· Questions· Race· Sexual Orientation· are welcome here.

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

L = Leader; **C = Congregation**

### **PRELUDE**

#### **GREETING:**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *(2 Corinthians 13:13)*

**All: And also with you.**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you  
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory  
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word  
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality  
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done  
and the things we have left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe  
in the glory of your Son born among us,  
and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

L: Rejoice in this good news:

In Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** “*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*” ELW HYMN #310

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

L: Let us pray, O Lord Jesus,

**C: 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. 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. Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 45:3-11, 15

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

<sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

## THE PSALM: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

<sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;

do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD<sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>**Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart's desire.**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light  
and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land.

<sup>10</sup>**In a little while the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will <sup>1</sup> not be there.**

<sup>11</sup>But the lowly shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- <sup>1</sup> dance of peace.

<sup>39</sup>**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup>You, O LORD, will help them and <sup>1</sup> rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you <sup>1</sup> they seek refuge.

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

<sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

*Continues...*

<sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup>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. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup>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.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

**L: THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE    C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bles those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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

**L: THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Lift Every Voice and Sing*” ELW HYMN #841

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each portion of the prayer ends with the following responses*

**L:** ... God of grace, **C:** hear our prayer.

### CREED:

**L:** In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C:** We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)

**L:** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

**L:** Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C:** pray in the Holy Spirit. (*Jude 20*)

**L:** Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C:** look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Jude 21*)

**L:** If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C:** Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!  
(*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

## WE SHARE THE MEAL

OFFERING/MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Gracious God, you have done great things for us and holy is your name.  
Bless all we offer you – ourselves, our time, and our possessions – that  
through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world.  
Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORDS PRAYER

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION: RECEIVE CHRIST IN BREAD AND WINE

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

## WE SEND TO SERVE

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “*O Lord, Now Let your Servant*” ELW HYMN #313

DISMISSAL

**L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

## **Semi-Annual Meeting**

### **FEBRUARY 27**

Our Semi-Annual Meeting will take place between worship services next Sunday, February 27th. **It is vital for voting members of First Lutheran to attend, so that we have enough people for a quorum, as required in our church constitution.**

We will be hearing reports from our 2021 church council and voting on two updates to our constitution. Information about the amendments to the model constitution, approved at the 2019 churchwide assembly, were included in this week's e news. Please note that every three years updates are made to the model constitution at the church wide assembly. Congregations then vote to make these updates in each, individual church in the ELCA.

If you would like to see the updates printed out, information is posted on the bulletin board across outside of the fellowship hall.

Our other vote will be the second vote to affirm the change to the number of voting members needed to constitute a quorum. If you have any questions, please contact Donn Hollenbeck, Council President ([president@firstlutheranmv.org](mailto:president@firstlutheranmv.org)).

## **Sign-up to Serve**

Please take a look at all the sign-up sheet in the narthex.  
Take a look and see where you can plug in.