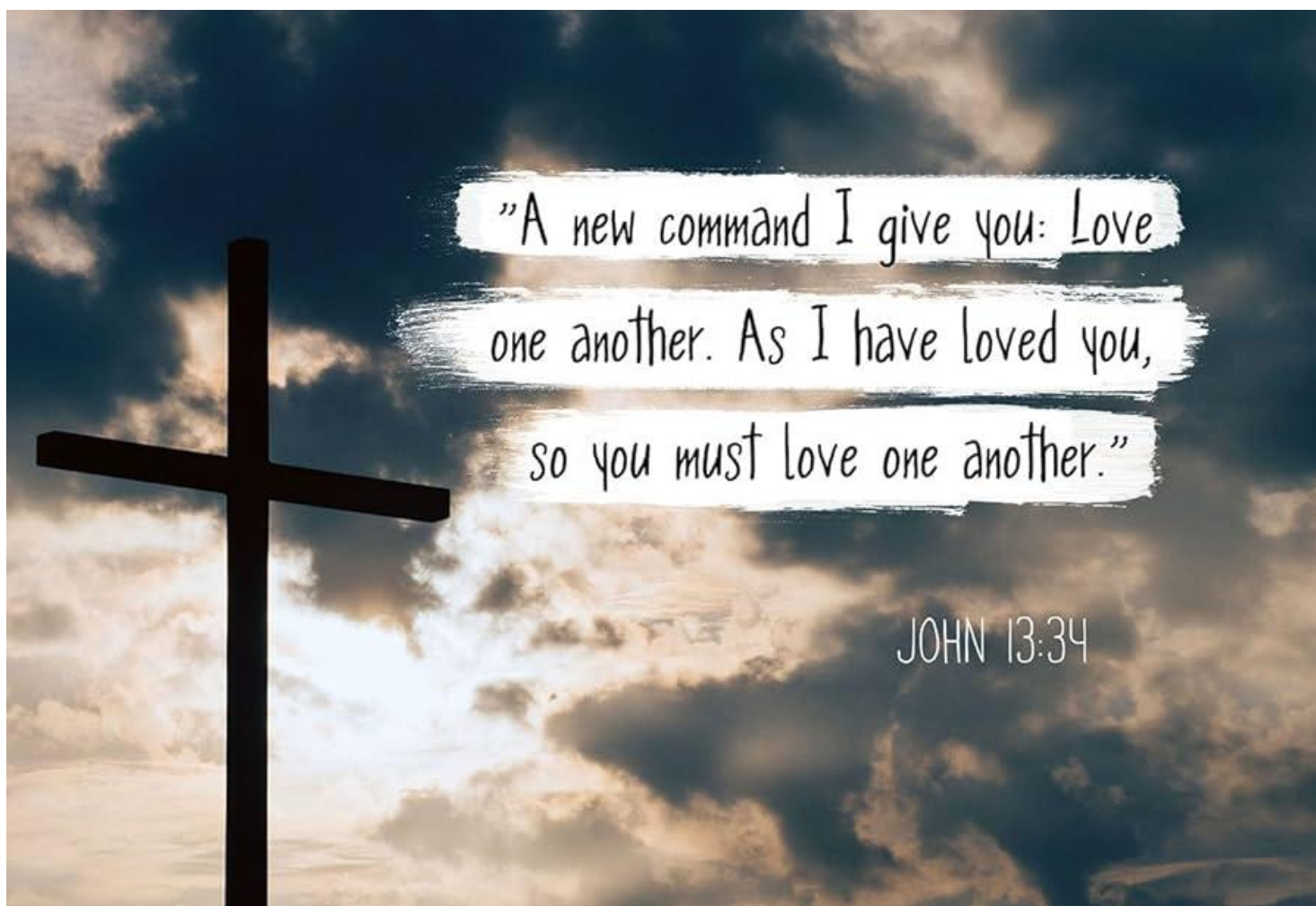


**First Lutheran**  
relationships that transform



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 18, 2025**

## Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church.

We worship God using the form of worship which has been used by Christians throughout church history, which is commonly called “liturgical worship.” Liturgy is defined as the “work of the people,” which means that this is a participatory form of worship for all people, whether leading from the front, or singing and responding as a part of the congregation.

In worship, we come out of the chaos of the world to prepare ourselves to meet God, who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through confession/forgiveness, prayer, and proclamation of the Word of God, we are led to the center of our worship which is the celebration of Holy Communion (also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist). It is in that act of eating and drinking the true body and blood of Jesus in the forms of bread and wine, that we make a sacred connection with God. As our worship concludes, we are sent back into the world, as people who have been changed by an encounter with God, to be light in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world.



### Are you having trouble hearing the sermon?

An assistive listening system is available in our sanctuary.

You may select a receiver from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary, near the sound booth; please return it following worship.

There are **printed** copies of the sermon available in the narthex near the bulletins

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**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MAY 18, 2025**                      **8:15 am & 10:45 am**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Welcome to worship, we are glad that God has brought us together today! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a card to receive more information about First Lutheran Church. The cards are in the narthex near the bulletins or from an usher or staff member.*

**NURSERY**

*Children 3 and under are invited to our staffed nursery.*

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

*Children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend Children's Church. Meet the leader at the back of the sanctuary. The children meet in the chapel and will return to the service just before Holy Communion.*

**PRELUDE**

*In the Presence of Jehovah*

**The Chancel Choir**

*Please stand.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
And of the ✙ Son,  
And of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
To whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
And from whom no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
That we may perfectly love you  
And worthily magnify your holy name,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

Let us make personal confession of our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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

Most merciful God,  
**We confess that we are captive to sin  
And cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,  
By what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
Have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
And for His sake  
God forgives us all our sins.  
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 sins,  
In the name of the Father,  
And of the Son,  
And of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

*The sharing of the peace is a time for us to be reconciled with one another  
through the peace, love, and forgiveness of Christ.*

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

# GATHERING SONG

## Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

The musical score is written for three voices (1, 2, 3) and a bass line. It is in the key of F major (three flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal melody line and a bass line. Chords are indicated above the vocal lines, and triplets are marked with a '3' and a bracket. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines.

**System 1:**

Chords: Fm, C, Db, Bbm<sup>6</sup>, Fm

Lyrics:  
 1 Oh, the deep, deep love of Je - sus,  
 2 Oh, the deep, deep love of Je - sus—  
 3 Oh, the deep, deep love of Je - sus,

**System 2:**

Chords: Ab, C<sup>7</sup>/E, Fm, Bbm, C<sup>7</sup>, Fm, C, Db

Lyrics:  
 vast, un - mea - sured, boundless, free! Roll - ing as a  
 spread his praise from shore to shore! How he loves us,  
 love of ev - ery love the best! 'Tis an o - cean

**System 3:**

Chords: Bbm<sup>6</sup>, Fm, Ab, C<sup>7</sup>, Fm, Bbm, C<sup>7</sup>, Fm

Lyrics:  
 might-y o - cean in its full-ness o - ver me!  
 ev - er loves us, chang-es nev - er, nev - er more!  
 vast of blessing, 'tis a ha - ven sweet of rest!

9 A $\flat$  E $\flat$ sus E $\flat$  Fm Csus C

Un - der - neath me, all a - round me,  
How he watch - es o'er his loved ones,  
Oh, the deep, deep love of Je - sus—

11 Fm B $\flat$ m<sup>7</sup> Fm C D $\flat$

is the cur-rent of thy love—lead-ing on-ward,  
died to call them all his own; how for them he's  
'tis a heaven of heavens to me; and it lifts me

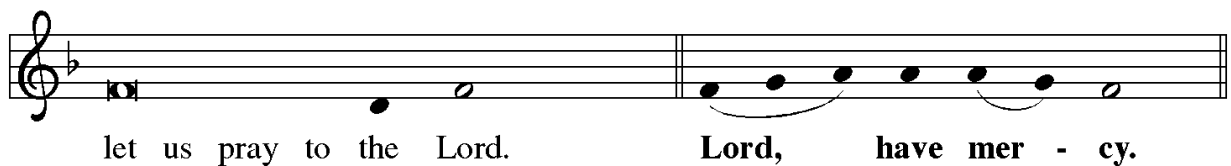
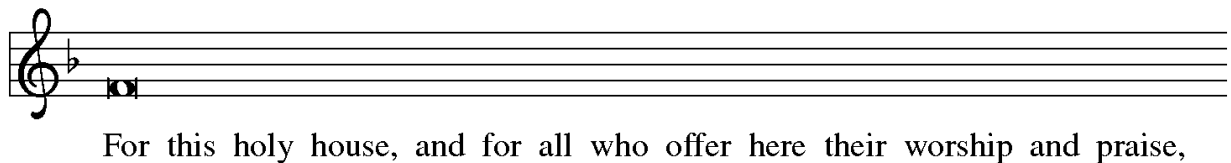
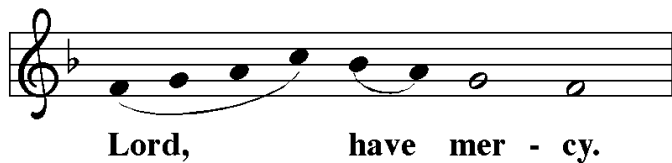
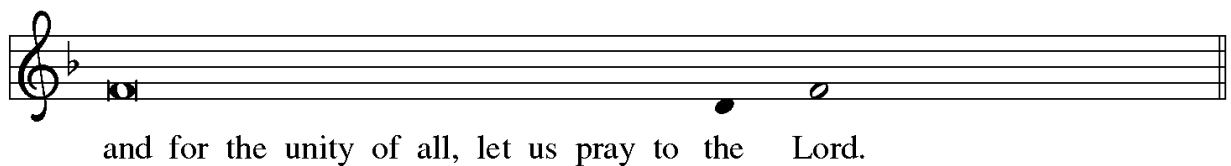
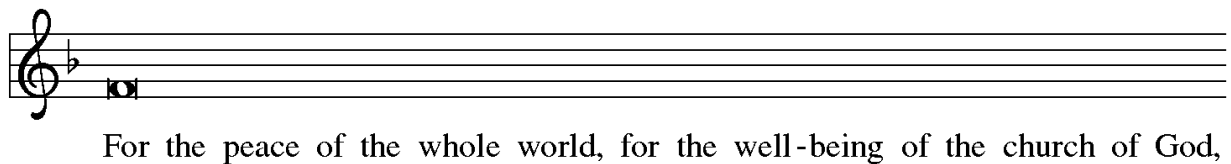
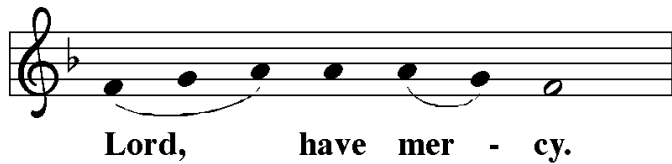
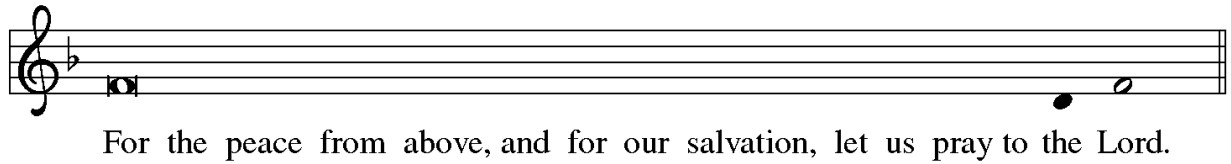
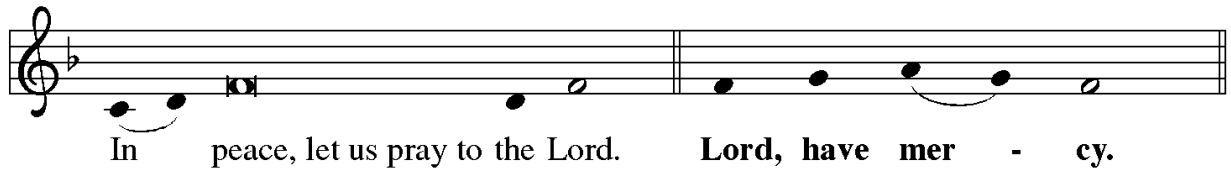
14 B $\flat$ m<sup>6</sup> Fm A $\flat$  Dm B $\flat$ m C<sup>7</sup> Fm

lead-ing homeward, to thy glo-rious rest a - bove!  
in - ter - ced - ing, watching o'er them from the throne!  
up to glo - ry, for it lifts me up to thee!

## 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



## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, your servant as they read to us the Holy Word. May our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 11:1 – 18

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1 – 6

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### CELTIC ALLELUIA!

Fintan O'Carroll/Christopher Walker

#### REFRAIN



*(Refrain sung by Cantor, then ALL sings before and after verse)*



## GOSPEL: John 13:13 – 35

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

***Resurrection Love***

**Pastor Jeff Borgwardt**

**SILENT REFLECTION**

*Please stand.*

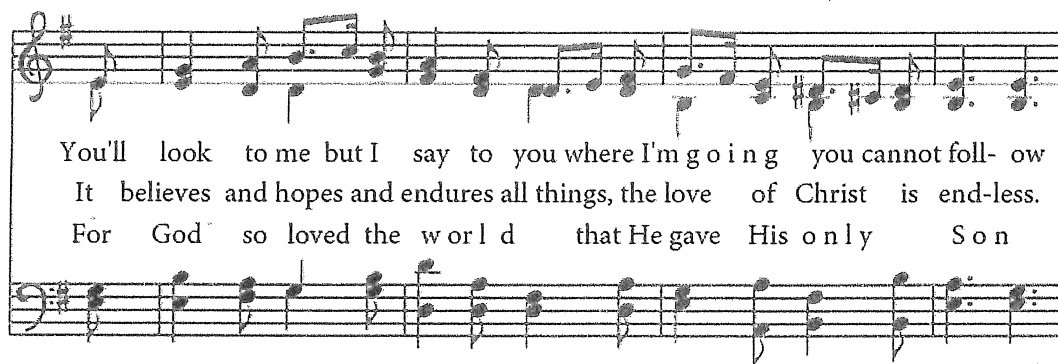
## A New Commandment

Music: Traditional English melody, 16<sup>th</sup> century  
GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7 with refrain

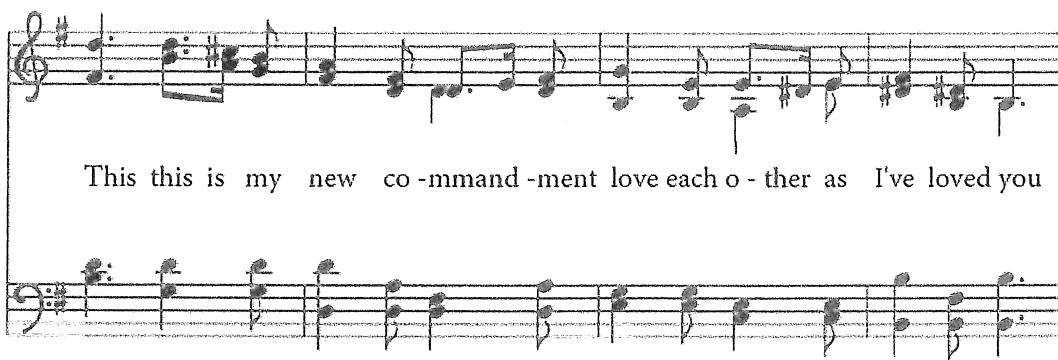
Text: Donna Ashby 2025



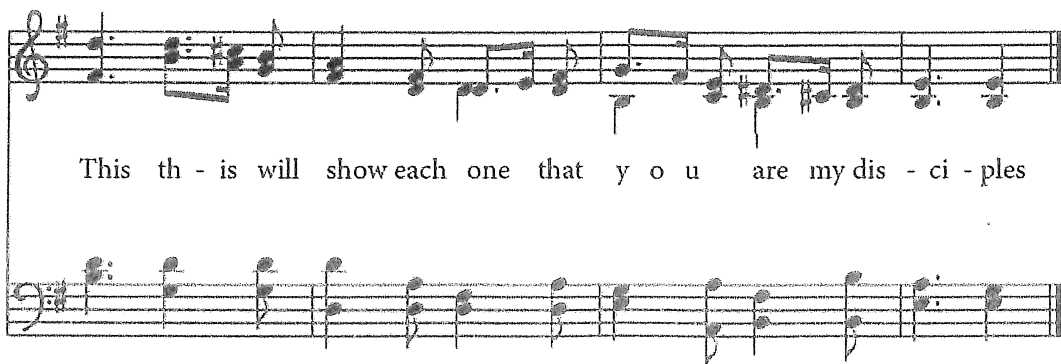
1 O list - en my chil - dren I am with you a little lon-ger  
2 Love is pa- tient love is kind not en - vi o u s or boast - ful  
3 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul



You'll look to me but I say to you where I'm go i n g you cannot foll- ow  
It believes and hopes and endures all things, the love of Christ is end-less.  
For God so loved the world that He gave His o n l y S o n



This this is my new co -mmand -ment love each o - ther as I've loved you



This th - is will show each one that y o u are my dis - ci - ples

## **APOSTLE'S 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.**

HYMN

# Let My Prayer Rise Up

All



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
lift-ing up of my hands as an of - fer-ing to you.

Leader or Group One



O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my  
voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like  
in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an  
of-fer-ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;  
deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing

bright. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: Lord, in your mercy

**Congregational response: Hear our prayer**

Receive our prayers...in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.



*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING ANTHEM

## They'll Know We are Christians

## The Chancel Choir

*Please stand.*

## PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*As the gifts are presented, the congregation sings.*

## Give Thanks

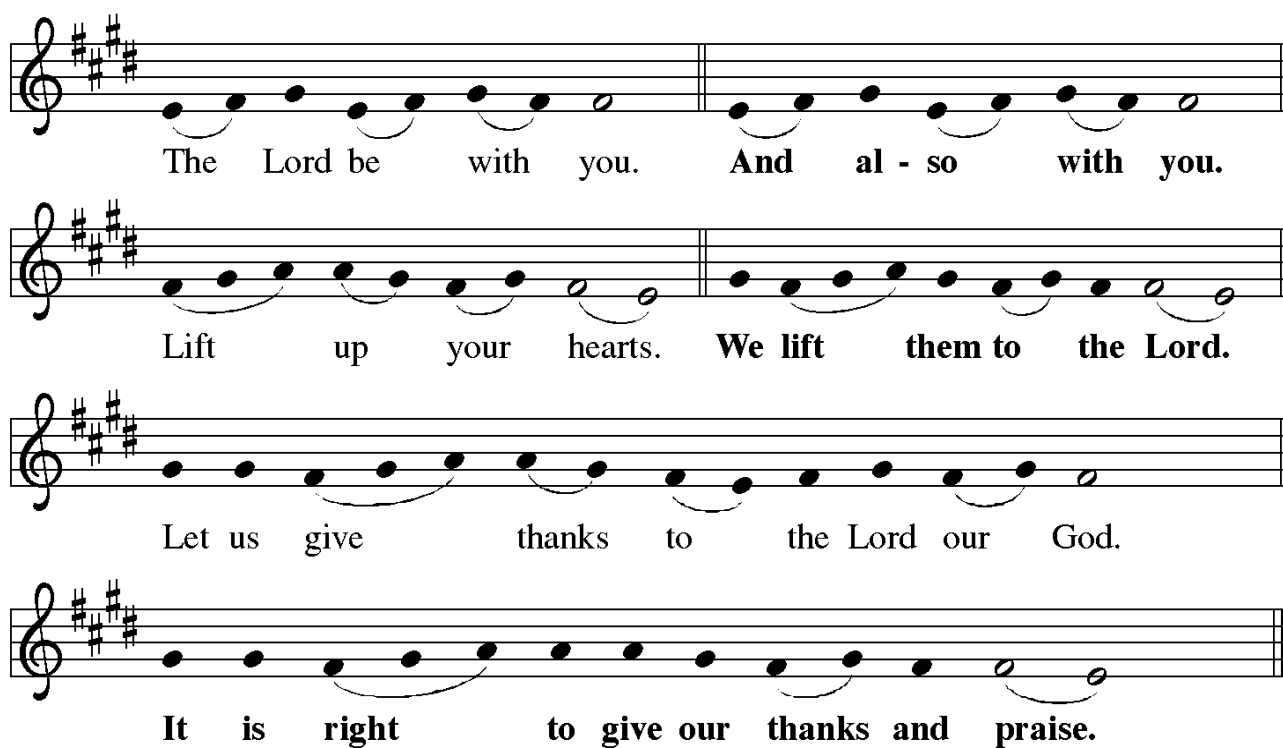
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And  
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Risen One,  
you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.  
Come among us again,  
breathe your life into us,  
and enliven us with this meal,  
that we may live as your risen body in the world.  
**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

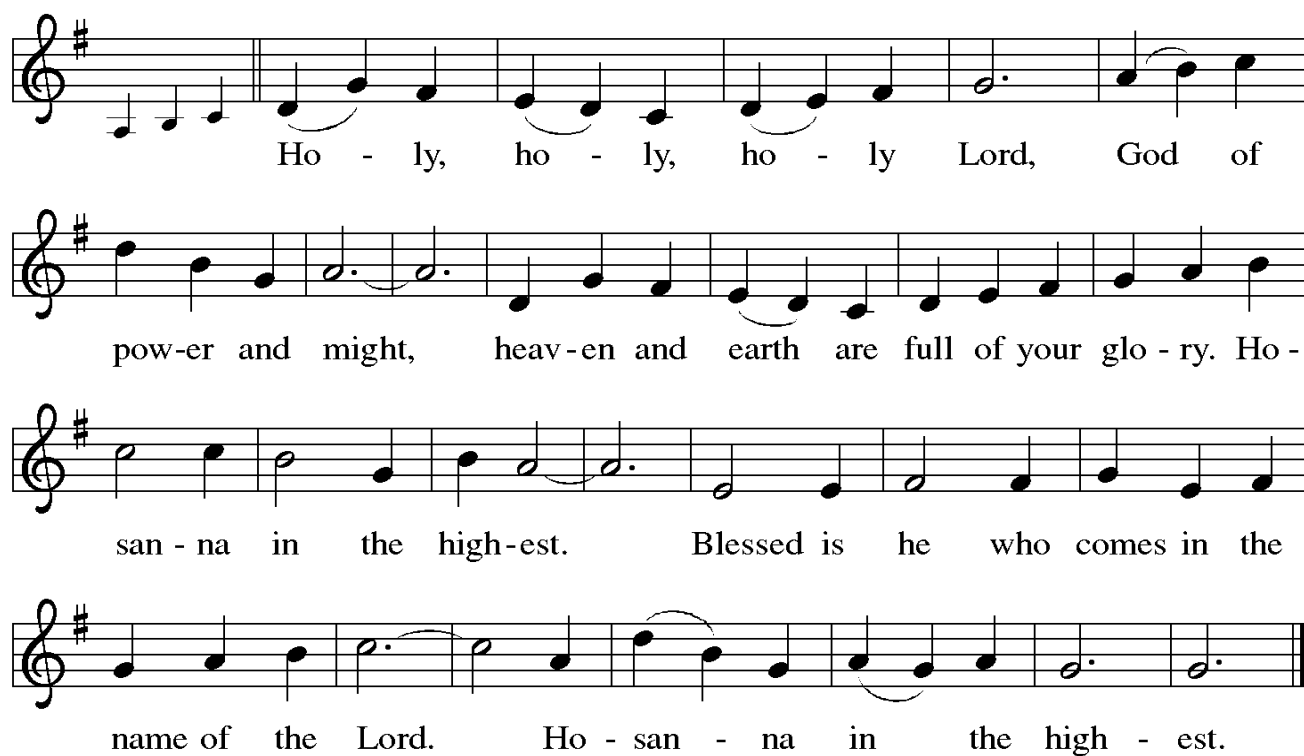
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and uses whole and half notes with slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### LORD'S 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. . .

*Please be seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. We teach that Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ under forms of bread and wine. For those who prefer, cups in the center ring of the tray are filled with white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing, signal this by crossing your arms against your chest.*

## COMMUNION SONG

### Lamb Of God

Tod Sechrist

*Women* *Men* *All*

Je - su, Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, have

*Women* *Men* *All*

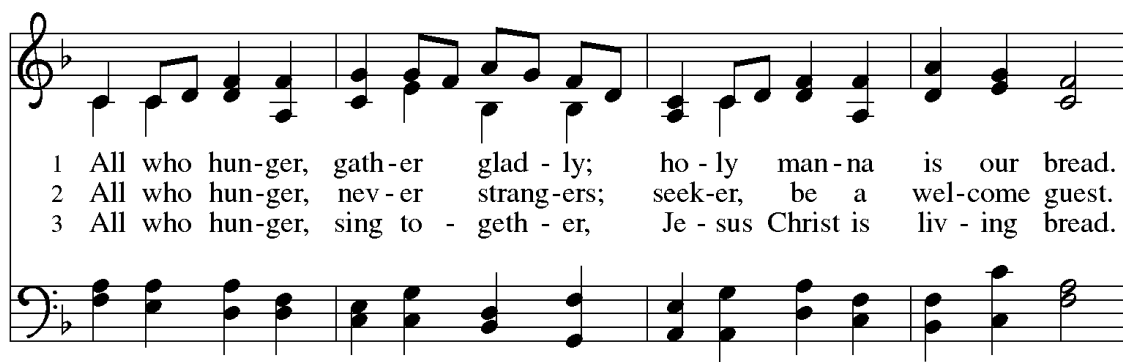
mer - cy on - - - us. Je - su, Bread of Life, You take a - way the

*Women* *Men* *All*

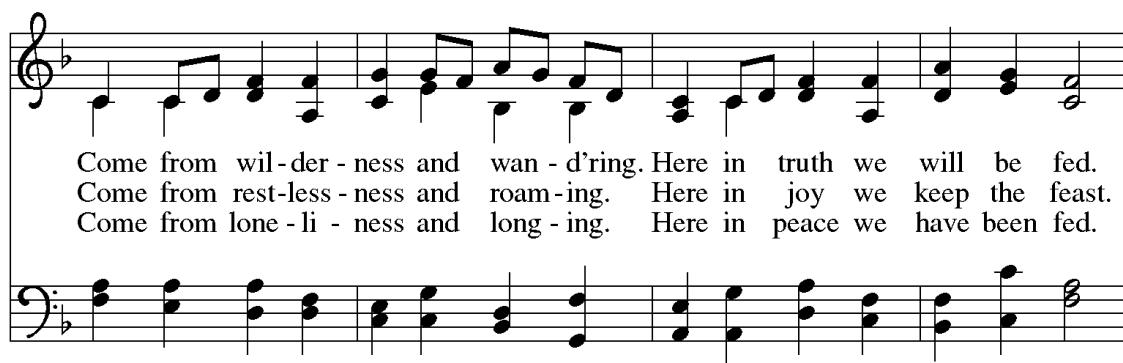
sins of the world, have mer - cy on - - - us. Je - sus, Prince of Peace, You

take a - way the sins of the world, Grant us You - - r peace.

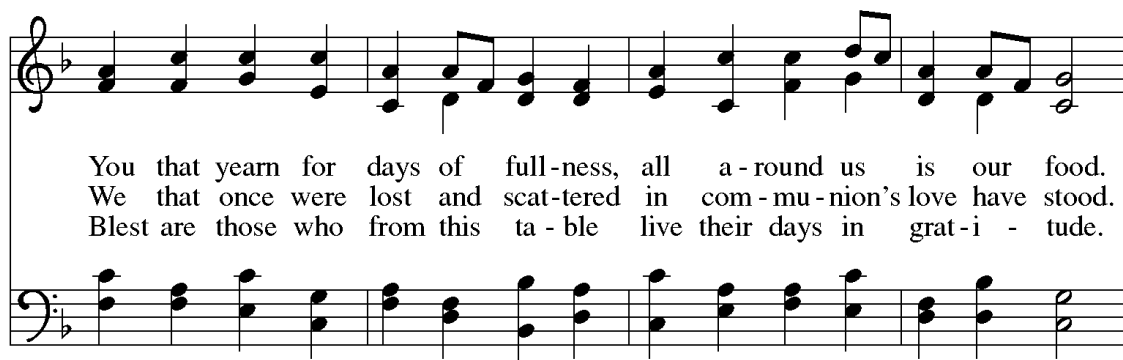
## All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

## Jesus, Name Above All Names

D F#m<sup>7</sup>

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful

Em<sup>7</sup> A

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em -

D F#m<sup>7</sup>

man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re -

Em<sup>7</sup>

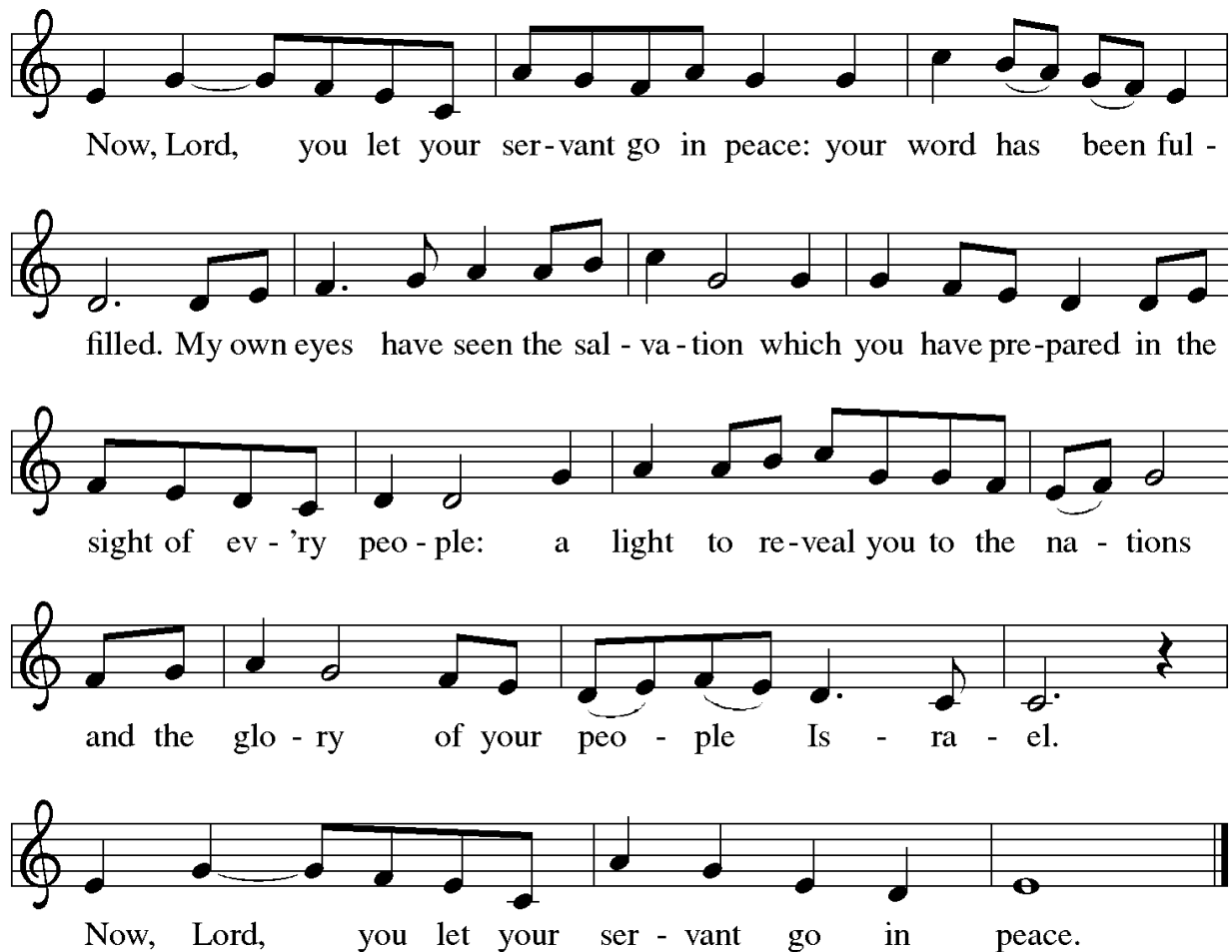
Optional repeat	Last time
D G/A A	D

deem - er, liv - ing Word. Word.

*Please stand.*

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace. **Amen.**

## CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory,  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.  
**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

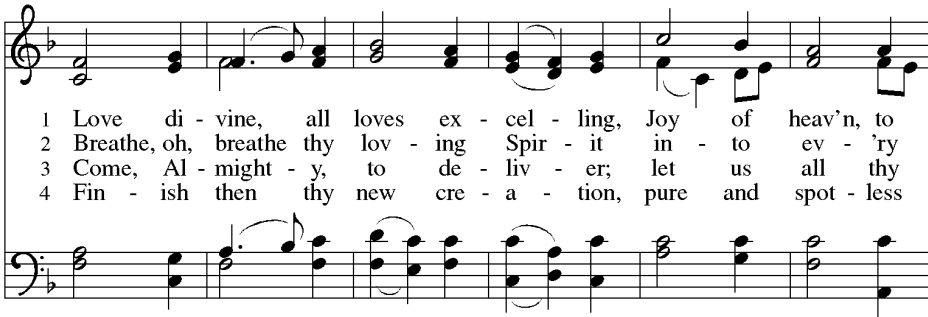
May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.


**Amen.**



## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Go in peace. We are formed and loved by Christ to live!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

## LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK:

Monday, May 19	Tuesday, May 20	Wednesday, May 21
<b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:00 pm</b> 3 B's for Men <b>6:00 pm</b> Bunco	<b>9:30 am</b> Friendship Circle <b>4:30 – 5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class <b>6:00 pm</b> Book Club <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey	<b>10:00 am</b> Quilters <b>5:45 pm</b> Mentoring Plus <b>6:45 pm</b> Bell Choir <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir
Thursday, May 22	Friday, May 23	Saturday, May 24
<b>4:30 – 5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class		<b>2:00 – 4:00 pm</b> Private Event in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, May 25 Graduation Sunday	Volunteer Schedule this week: May 18	Volunteer Schedule next week: May 25
<b>8:15 am</b> Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church. <b>9:30 am</b> Graduation reception <b>10:00 am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>10:45 am</b> Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church. <b>6:00 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>Lector:</b> <b>8:15 am:</b> Carolyn Ramirez <b>10:45 am:</b> Jim Meyer <b>Communion:</b> <b>Set up:</b> Gloria Bero <b>Clean Up:</b> Eva Touchstone <b>Offering Counters:</b> Ranette Carter & Arlene Hicks	<b>Lector:</b> <b>8:15 am:</b> Corrine Perry <b>10:45 am:</b> Nancy Lineberry <b>Communion:</b> <b>Set up:</b> Ed Bero <b>Clean Up:</b> Leslie Jenkins <b>Offering Counters:</b> Kyle Lybarger & Teresa DeShazer

### Readings for in preparation for Sunday, May 25:

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5; John 14:23-29

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to  
Graduate Hayley Lybarger!

She will be honored on Sunday May 25th  
with a Reception at 9:30 am



**Bibles, Buddies & Beverages**

**Men's Fellowship**

**May 19 @ 6:00 pm**

**FLC Fellowship Hall**

*Tuesday Morning Bible Study*

**FRIENDSHIP  
CIRCLE**

**May 20 9:30 am**

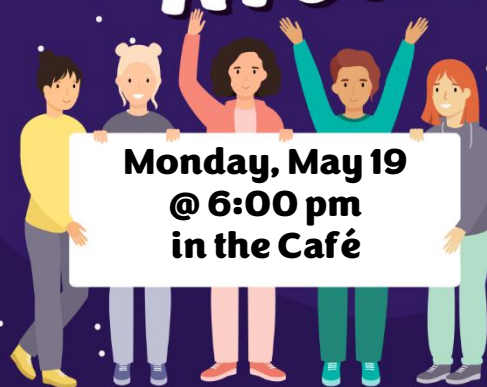
Come and join the  
First Lutheran

**BOOK  
CLUB**

- Meetings monthly on 3rd Tuesday in the Cafe' @ 6:00 pm
- Discover New books
- Make friends

**The next meeting is  
May 20**

**BUNCO  
NIGHT**



**Monday, May 19  
@ 6:00 pm  
in the Café**

**GOD AT WORK** ⚠️

**DAY  
CAMP**

**July 14-18  
9am - 3pm**

**Register at  
[www.firstlutheran.us/daycamp](http://www.firstlutheran.us/daycamp)**

**GOD AT WORK** ⚠️



15<sup>th</sup> Annual Ladies Retreat

July 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mark your calendar now!

## A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Stepping into God's will and purpose for your life

**TUESDAYS**  
**6:30 PM**

Join us in taking steps that can help develop a healthy, peaceful, and harmonious relationship with God, with others, and with yourself.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, & the wisdom to know that one is Me. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus Christ did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that Jesus will make all things right if I surrender to His will. So, that I may be reasonably happy in this life & supremely happy with Him forever & ever in the next! Amen!

SERENITY PRAYER

First Lutheran Church  
3901 Bill Owens Parkway  
Longview, Texas 75605  
(903) 295-7423



**Family Improvement**

Food & Childcare Provided

**Tuesdays**  
6:30 - 7:30pm

**A New Parenting Class**  
Starting May 27th

### **FLC Members**

Holland Caraway having cancer treatments.

Gerri Aude's son, Scott, is in kidney failure and is about to start dialysis and has RSV.

Pray for the children and teens who attend our church and The Success Center.

Pray for church growth, numerically and spiritually.

Pray for wisdom and direction for our church leadership.

Pray for the homebound of our church and their caregivers.

Jane Bailey

Robert Kohnfelder

Durwin Sewell

Mary Ann Gamel

Chuck & Paula Kaplan

Bruno Schueler

Patty Lowe

Johnnie Owens

### **Family and Friends of FLC Members**

Carmella Davis is having reconstruction on her hip.

Linda Spina, friend of Kathleen Bullock, has cancer. She is not tolerating her Immunotherapy well.

Neil Thompson's sister, Jeanette, is recovering from a car wreck that has paralyzed her.

Bob Rogers, Carolyn Ramirez' brother-in-law, has been admitted to hospice.

Bob Farrish, brother-in-law of Renee Slegeir, has pancreatic cancer.

Kerri Craddock, daughter-in-law, of Larry & Carol Craddock, has breast cancer.

Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Those who are imprisoned.

The homeless

### **Members Serving in the Military**

Eric Jenkins – Ft. Meade, MD

Timothy Martin – Navy

Terrina Anderson – Army, Ft. Huachuca, Az

Hannah Perry – Army, San Antonio, Tx

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Church Cash Flow Year to Date as of:

05/11/2025

Regular Church Offering: 2025	
Contributions:	\$ 171,710
Expenditures:	\$ 208,922
Difference:	\$ (37,212)

Building Maintenance Fund Activity: 2025	
Contributions:	\$ 32,156
Expenditures:	\$ 550
Difference:	\$ 31,606

Summer Camp: 2025	
Donations	\$ 8,925
Expenditures:	\$ 13,928
Difference:	\$ (5,003)

*Respectfully,  
Karen Smith*



Those who want to help with our Campership Fund for kids going to Camp Chrysalis please use the blue envelopes in the hymnal racks in each pew.

We have 23 kids and 5 adults who will be attending camp this year  
June 8 - 13.

The adults are Pastor Jeff, John Parsons, Belinda Walenta, Ann Hanley and Lakeita Walker.  
(Prayers are appreciated. 😊)

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**May 18, 2025**

### **The Deceptive Simplicity of Love**

As the Gospel of John portrays Jesus, the rabbi often speaks in cryptic terms, and his teachings in today's reading are no exception. "The Son of Man has been glorified"? "Where I am going, you cannot come"? (John 13:31, 33). The disciples must have heard Jesus' instructions about love with a sigh of relief—finally, clear words. They are given a new commandment, to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them. All they must do is love each other, and everyone will know they're Jesus' disciples.

One wonders how long it took before the disciples realized just how complicated this was going to be. If we're honest, we have to ask, Have we figured it out in the past 2,000-plus years? After all, Jesus' love often mystifies us. Whom does he love? The leper. The tax collector. The outcast. The rich young man. The person living with addiction. The collections agent. The teen who just tagged your wall with spray paint. The wealthy CEO.

Suddenly, this loving doesn't look so easy.

The context of this week's passage makes it clear that Jesus isn't averse to speaking truth in love. Just before today's exchange, Jesus signals to Judas that he knows what he's up to. Just after, he cautions overeager Peter that despite his best intentions, he too will betray Jesus. Love isn't syrupy and bland, slathered across our world in rosy hues that cover up injustice or hard times.

Love is a commitment. Love extends outward from Jesus, through us, to bring everyone whom Jesus loves into the communion of saints. That means Judas, and Peter, and the graffiti tagger, and the CEO—and you. Us. Every person, in every pew, and every child of God who couldn't identify a pew if they skinned their shin on one.

Each of our communities is a little different. Our everyday "each others" are different too. But the good news is, "each other" always includes everyone—even us.



## **Assisting In Worship Today**

**Celebrant:** Jeffrey Borgwardt

**Musicians:** Donna Ashby, Pat Mueller  
and The Chancel Choir

**Live Stream: 8:15 am** Deb Butts,  
Eric Chandler, and Daniel Chandler

**10:45 am:** Diane Borgwardt

**Lectors:**

**8:15 am:** Carolyn Ramirez

**10:45 am:** Jim Meyer

## **Church Staff**

Jeffrey E. Borgwardt, Pastor

Donna Ashby, Director of Music

John Parsons, Dir. of Youth and Family Min.

Tina Sewell, Secretary

Karen Smith, Bookkeeper

## **2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

Kyle Lybarger (*President*)

Beverly Bell (*Vice-President*)

Rachel Grundmann (*Secretary*)

Ranette Carter (*Treasurer*)

Jenn Belcourt (*Relationship with God*)

Johnny Davis (*Relationship with Community*)

Peri Topel (*Relationship with One Another*)

3901 Bill Owens Parkway

Longview, Texas 75605

903-295-7423

[churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us](mailto:churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us)

[www.FirstLutheran.us](http://www.FirstLutheran.us)

***We receive gifts for the mission of the congregation and the Church in the world. An offering plate is available in the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card you may do so at [www.firstlutheran.us/donate](http://www.firstlutheran.us/donate) or by scanning the QR code below***



*FLC regularly supports the work of the following ministries of our denomination and community with financial, volunteer, and food offerings:*

*Longview Community Ministries*

*Newgate Mission*

*Living Water International*

*Lutheran World Relief*

*Lutheran Disaster Response*

*For more information on how to get involved contact the church office (903)295-7423.*