# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH 1100 East Superior Street, Duluth, MN

Third Sunday of Easter—Celebrating Earth Day



In our readings today, we hear that "in Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created" (Col 1:16). This Easter season, we remember that God made peace with all of creation through the cross. We rejoice in Christ's resurrection, trusting that his arising frees us to be loving servants of all creation and of one another.

# GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

 PRELUDE
 Festival Prelude on "Thaxted"
 Gustav Holst, arr. D.H. Pettit

 (Hymn #710: Let Streams of Living Justice Flow Down Upon the Earth)
 prerecorded by Bob Boman, trumpet; Karen Sande, organ

# WELCOME

# THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water for Gitchi Gami, St. Louis River, Chester Creek, Amity Creek, Lester River, and the Boundary Waters, the rain that nourishes animals and plants, the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water. We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy, a river that healed leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water. We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from Jacob's Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda, washing the disciples' feet.

We praise you, O God, for water. We praise you, O God, for water. We praise you, O God, for this font, for through this water you have birthed us into the family of Christ, bathed us in forgiveness, and enlivened us in the Spirit.

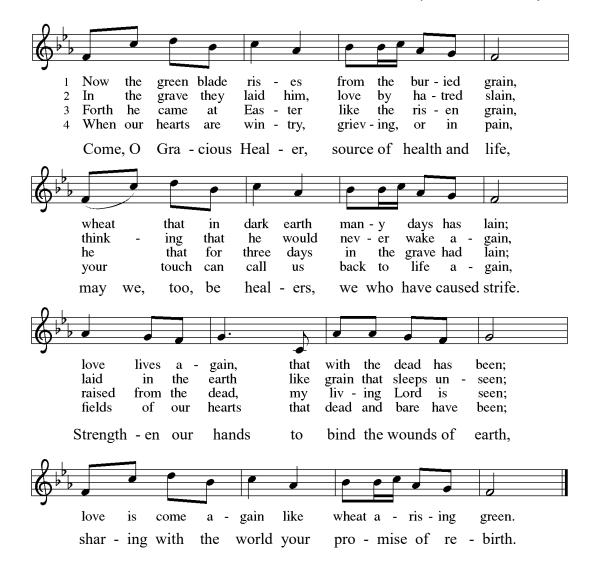
We praise you, O God, for baptism. We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth. O God, you are the River, saving us from death. O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being. We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever.

# Amen, and amen. Amen, and amen.

GATHERING HYMN #379 Now the Green Blade Rises (a

(additional verse by Paul Jacobson)



# **Apostolic 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.** 

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creating God, whose breath transformed dust into life, breathe upon your people and awaken us from our false sense of separation from creation; grow us in compassion so that we may care for land, water and air, through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

# Word

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

# TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

# FIRST READING Psalm 104:14-23

<sup>14</sup> You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, <sup>15</sup> and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. <sup>16</sup> The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. <sup>17</sup> In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. <sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coneys. <sup>19</sup> You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. <sup>20</sup> You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. <sup>21</sup> The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. <sup>22</sup> When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.<sup>23</sup> People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

Word of God. Word of Life.

# SECOND READING Colossians 1:15-20

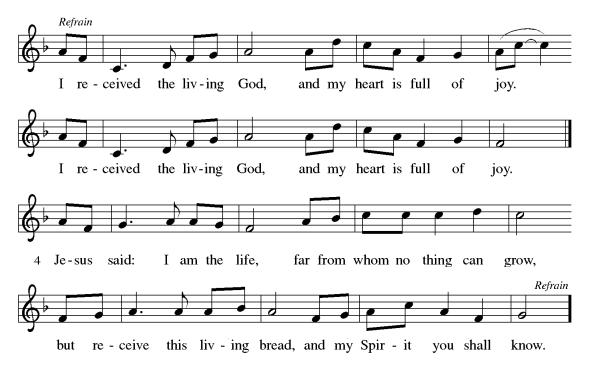
<sup>15</sup> Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Word of God. **Word of Life.** 

# read by Lise Lunge-Larsen

# read by Doug Frey

# **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



# **GOSPEL** Luke 24:36b-48

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>tt36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

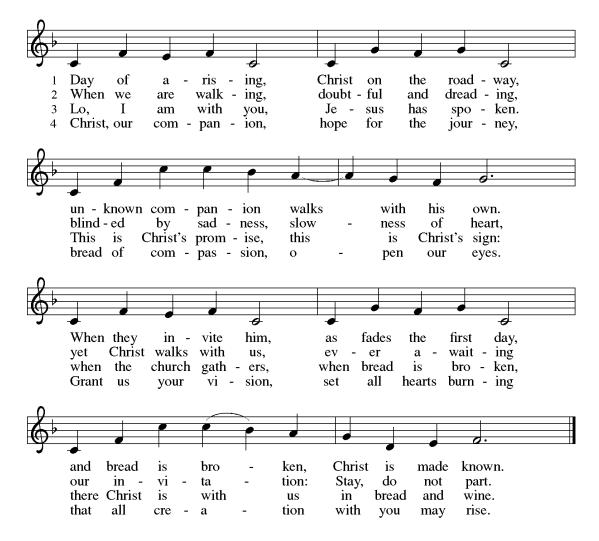
<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things."

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

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

#### Sermon

# HYMN OF THE DAY #374 Day of Arising



#### **NICENE CREED**

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 THE CHURCH**

Hear us, O God.	or	Bless we the Lord,
Your mercy is great.		Thanks be to God!

#### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

#### OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to **218-325-9525** with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *The Earth Adorned* text: Carl David af Wirsén, music: Waldemar Åhlén

The earth adorned in verdant robe sends praises upward surging, while soft winds breathe on fragrant flow'rs from winter now emerging. The sunshine bright gives warmth and light to budding blossoms tender, proclaiming summer splendor.

From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its song now raises, to join with all the universe in voicing thankful praises. With hope and joy their songs employ a rapturous exultation in praise of God's creation.

O God, amid these joys of life, creation's glory beaming, grant us the grace to keep your word and live in love redeeming. All flesh is grass, the flowers fade, and time is fleeting ever; God's word remains forever.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of love,

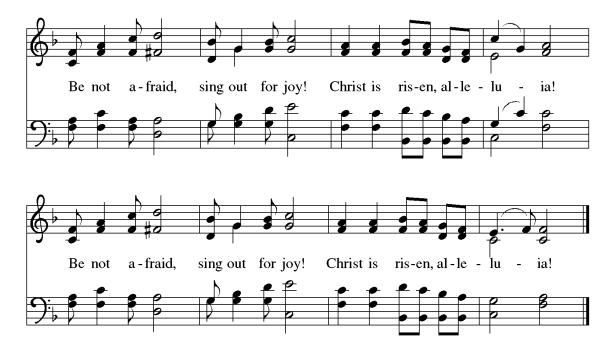
you call us into beloved community and welcome all to your table. Receive our lives and all that we offer that together we might extend your reign. In the name of the Risen One. **Amen.** 

# FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

By God's great mercy we have been given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

We've made it to Easter; We have been strengthened, carried and raised through another year— Fed by Christ through word, song, glimpses of God in creation and one another, and this bread for the journey. We eat it with joy and thanksgiving. Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed; alleluia!** 

# HYMN #477 Be Not Afraid



**SENDING** God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the hope of new life in Christ, we pray:

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,

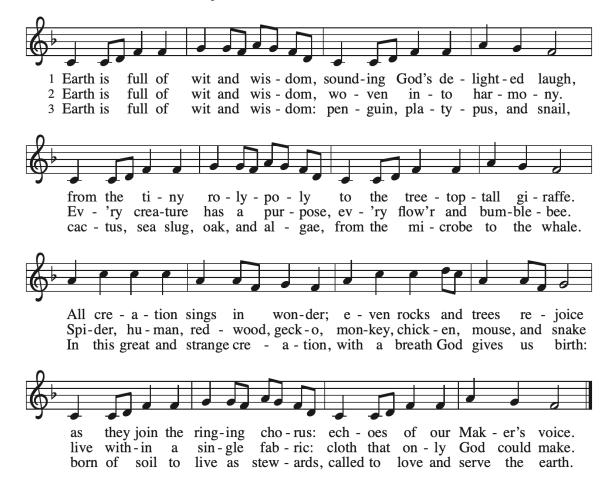
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

# **Opportunities to Serve**

### BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.* **Amen.** 

# SENDING HYMN Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom



DISMISSAL Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace, sent as joyful witnesses to this good news. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE** All Glory be to God on High

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Ministers	All People of First Lutheran Church
Pastor	The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
Pastoral Intern	Logan McLean Strike
Program Staff	Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate Karen Sande, Director of Music Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
Musicians	Susanna Ojakangas, LoAnn Stone, David Haavik, Dennis Paulson, and Michael Fuchs, singers; Bob Boman, trumpet
Video Team	Shania Krause, David Sproat, Dale Stahl, Sam Weston
Digital Communic	ATIONS MANAGER Stacie Curnow

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*The Sanctuary is open for quiet prayer and reflection each Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Use the Superior St. entrance door leading directly into the Sanctuary.* 

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land. We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.



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