

FIRST  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
COLORADO SPRINGS



**vigil of easter**

04.04.26

## Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

Today, as since 1892, we welcome members and guests to glorify God and exalt his name.

### NEW HERE? HAVE A QUESTION?

Visit the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place, just north of the Sanctuary. First-time visitors receive a special gift.

### HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion at every worship service; all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome at his table. To receive a blessing instead, simply cross your arms over your chest. Our children celebrate First Communion in Grade 3. Earlier participation in communion is at the discretion of parents or guardians.

### NEED HEARING ASSISTANCE?

Assistive Listening Devices are available and may be used with headphones or with a neck loop for T-Coil-equipped hearing aids. Please leave the devices in the Sanctuary after the service.

### CHILD CARE

All ages are welcome in worship; our professionally-staffed child care center is, however, an option for young children during services. The center is near the elevator on the main level.

### A PLACE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Our **Sunday School** program meets at 9:30 a.m. downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Children may be dropped off as early as 9:15 a.m. Adults are invited to join our quarterly Adult Education classes.

### JOIN US FOR COFFEE

Following the worship service, please join us in the Gathering Place for coffee, treats, and fellowship.

### CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Our newest service takes place at 10:15 a.m. in the Worship Center on the second level – a distinctively Lutheran approach to contemporary worship. During the sermon, **First Kids** is offered in the Fireside Room for children aged Preschool through Grade 2.

### ONLINE WORSHIP: YOUTUBE

Never miss a service on our YouTube channel! Search for *First Lutheran Colorado Springs* and click **SUBSCRIBE** to be notified when we upload or stream new videos.

### DOWNLOAD OUR APP

With the First Lutheran app, you can watch online services and live streams, manage your giving, update your contact information, sign up for events, and more. Navigate to your app store and download *Church by MinistryOne*. Search for **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH** or use our ZIP code, 80907.

# The Vigil of Easter

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

6:30 P.M.

📖 · Hymn found in the bulletin

Congregational responses are printed in **bold type**

PRELUDE: *Grazioso* by Arnold Sherman

## THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

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LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

*The Paschal candle represents the presence of our risen Lord among us.*

SOLO: O Gracious Light

O gracious Light,

pure brightness of the everlasting Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

and our eyes behold the evening light,

we sing your praises, O God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised

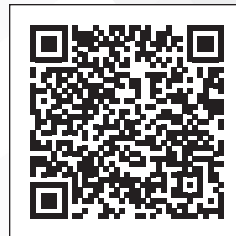
by happy voices, O Son of God,

O Giver of life, and to be glorified

through all the worlds. *Repeat Chorus.*

We extend a special welcome to all who are new to First Lutheran today! Please text **GUEST** to **719.988.3524** to let us know about yourself.

If you already support First Lutheran, thank you! Gifts of any size make a difference to the ministries and outreach of our congregation. Scan the QR code, text **GIVE** to **719.988.3524**, or place your offering in the plate as it is passed.



PRAYER

Let us pray. O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning forever and ever. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN:  O Matchless Beauty of Our God

*The light from the Paschal candle spreads throughout the congregation as individual candles are lit, representing the light of Christ shining over all the world.*



1. O\_\_\_ match-less beau - ty of our God so\_\_\_ an - cient and\_\_\_ so  
2. You\_\_\_ called and cried, yet we were deaf; our\_\_\_ stub-born wills\_ you  
3. And\_\_\_ should our faith grow weak and fall, tried\_ in the wild - er -



new, kin - dle in us your fire of love; fall\_\_\_ on us as\_\_\_ the  
bent; you\_\_\_ shed your fra-grance and we caught a\_\_\_ mom - ent of\_\_\_ its  
ness, let\_\_\_ beau - ty blos - som out of ash and\_\_\_ streams of wa - ter



dew! How\_\_\_ late we came\_\_\_ to love you, Lord; how\_\_\_  
scent. You\_\_\_ blazed and spark - led, yet our hearts to\_\_\_  
bless! O\_\_\_ match - less beau - ty of our God so\_\_\_



strong the\_\_\_ hold of sin! Your\_\_\_ beau - ty speaks\_ from\_\_\_  
less - er\_\_\_ glo - ries turned; your\_\_\_ ra - diance touched us\_\_\_  
an - cient\_\_\_ and so new, en - fold in us\_\_\_ your\_\_\_



all that is: your\_\_\_ like - ness pleads\_ with - in.  
far from home; your\_\_\_ beau - ty in\_\_\_ us burned!  
fire of love; a - noint us with\_\_\_ your dew!

## EASTER PROCLAMATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice we should praise the invisible God, and his only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to sin.

We therefore pray to you, O God, that these candles, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of night and be mingled with the lights of heaven. May Christ the Morning Star find it burning, that Morning Star who, rising from the grave, faithfully sheds light on the whole human race.

And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection your whole church, giving us peace in this time of our Easter rejoicing; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*You may extinguish your candle and be seated.*

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

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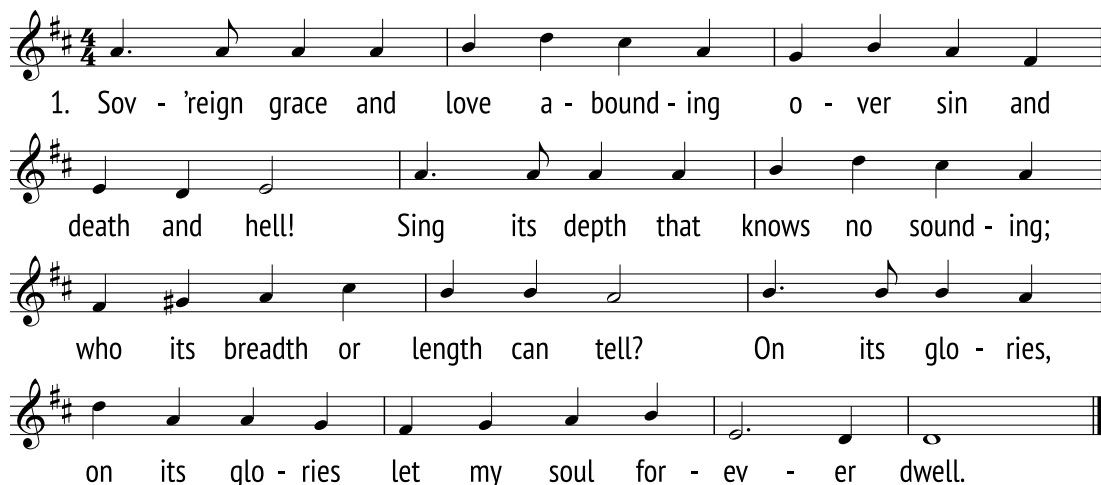
### INTRODUCTION

#### GOD CREATES A PLACE

Readings from Genesis 1:26 – 31a; Genesis 3:1 – 7;  
Genesis 6:5 – 8; and Genesis 7:17 – 24.

HYMN 📖 *Sovereign Grace and Love Abounding*

*The music to the hymn may be found on the next page.*



1. Sov - reign grace and love a - bound - ing o - ver sin and  
 death and hell! Sing its depth that knows no sound - ing;  
 who its breadth or length can tell? On its glo - ries,  
 on its glo - ries let my soul for - ev - er dwell.

#### GOD CALLS A PEOPLE

Readings from Genesis 15:12 – 15; Exodus 14:26 – 31;  
 and Joshua 3:14 – 17.

HYMN: *Sovereign Grace and Love Abounding*

2. What from Christ that soul shall sever,  
 bound by everlasting bands?  
 Once in him, in him forever –  
 thus th'eternal cov'nant stands.  
 None shall tear us,  
 none shall tear us  
 from the Strength of Israel's hands.

#### GOD PROMISES A KING

Readings from 1 Samuel 8:4 – 9; 2 Samuel 7:8 – 17;  
 and Isaiah 9:6, 7.

HYMN: *Sovereign Grace and Love Abounding*

3. Heirs of God, joint-heirs with Jesus,  
 called and chosen in the Son!

To his name eternal praises  
for the wonders he has done!  
One with Jesus,  
one with Jesus,  
by eternal union one.

#### GOD GIVES NEW LIFE

Readings from Ezekiel 37:1 – 6; Daniel 3:24 – 26;  
and Jonah 1:17 – 2:10.

HYMN: *Sovereign Grace and Love Abounding*

4. On such love, my soul, still ponder,  
love so great, so rich, so free;  
say, while lost in holy wonder,  
“Why, O God, such love to me?”  
Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!  
Grace shall reign eternally.

## THE SERVICE OF BAPTISM

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#### HOLY BAPTISM

*The baptismal liturgy may be found on Page 227 in the red hymnals.*

Merritt Jordan Steel  
is the daughter of Timothy Wenger and Caitlin Steel  
and is sponsored by Sandy Julian and Bruce Wenger.

Samuel Edward Gallagher  
and Jack Ramsey Gallagher  
are the sons and of Matt and Annie Gallagher.

Koda Grey Johnson  
is the son of Dillon and Meredith Johnson  
and is sponsored by Jessica Trout.

HYMN  Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

As we sing the hymn, we will be sprinkled with water from the baptismal font in remembrance of our baptism into Christ.



1. What gift of grace is Je - sus my Re - deem - er;  
2. The night is dark, but I am not for - sak - en,  
3. No fate I dread; I know I am for - giv - en!  
4. With ev - 'ry breath I long to fol - low Je - sus,



there is no more for heav - en now to give. He is my  
for by my side, the Sav - ior he will stay. I la - bor  
The fu - ture sure - the price, it has been paid. For Je - sus  
for he has said that he will bring me home, and day by



joy, my right - eous - ness, and free - dom, my stead - fast  
on in weak - ness and re - joic - ing, for in my  
bled and suf - fered for my par - don, and he was  
day I know he will re - new me un - til I



love, my deep and bound - less peace. To this I  
need, his pow - er is dis played. To this I  
raised to o - ver - throw the grave. To this I  
stand with joy be - fore the throne. To this I



hold: my on - ly hope is Je - sus, for my  
hold: my Shep - herd will de - fend me; thru the  
hold: my sin has been de - feat - ed; Je - sus  
hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus - all the



life is whol - ly bound to his. Oh, how  
 deep - est val - ley he will lead. Oh, the  
 now and ev - er is my plea. Oh, the  
 glo - ry ev - er - more to him! When the



strange and di - vine - I can sing, "All is mine!"  
 night has been won, and I shall o - ver - come!  
 chains are re - leased; I can sing, I am free!  
 race is com - plete, still my lips shall re - peat,



Yet not I, but thru Christ in me. **After Verse 4:** When the



race is com - plete, still my lips shall re - peat,



Yet not I, but thru Christ in me.

MEDITATION: *Symphonia on Hyfrydol* by Kevin McChesney

EASTER PROCLAMATION

*Please stand as you are able.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

# THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

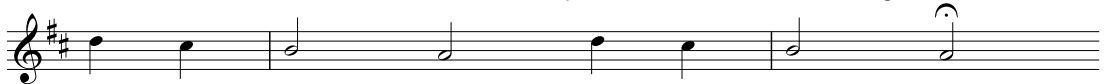
HYMN OF PRAISE  *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*



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 - do - ring prai - ses now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds:  
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings:  
set heart and will on things a - bove  
and with the heav'n - ly bles - sed sing:



“Christ has tri - umphed! He is li - ving!”  
“Christ has tri - umphed! He is li - ving!”  
that we con - quer thru your tri - umph;  
“Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!”



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear!  
Now still he comes to give us life  
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day  
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord,



Re - peat their song of glo - ry here:  
and by his pre - sence stills all strife.  
that by our lives we tru - ly say:  
to Spi - rit blest, most ho - ly God,

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”  
 “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”  
 “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”  
 all the glory, never ending!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 20:1 – 18  
 In the black pew Bible · Page 878

Before the reading:

The holy gospel according to John,  
 the twentieth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

After the reading:

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Christ Is Risen, Alleluia!*

Christ is risen! Al - le - lu - ia! Risen our vic - to - rious head!  
 Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is risen from the dead!

WELCOME AND PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

OFFERING MUSIC: *Greater Love Hath No Man*

Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can the floods drown it.

Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can the floods drown it.

Love is strong as death;  
love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love –  
greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life  
for his friends.

Who his own self bare our sins  
in his own body on the tree,  
that we, being dead to sins,  
should live unto righteousness,  
that we, being dead to sins,  
should live unto righteousness,  
should live unto righteousness.

That we, being dead to sins,  
should live unto righteousness,  
should live unto righteousness.

Ye are washed,  
ye are sanctified,  
ye are justified,  
in the name of the Lord Jesus!

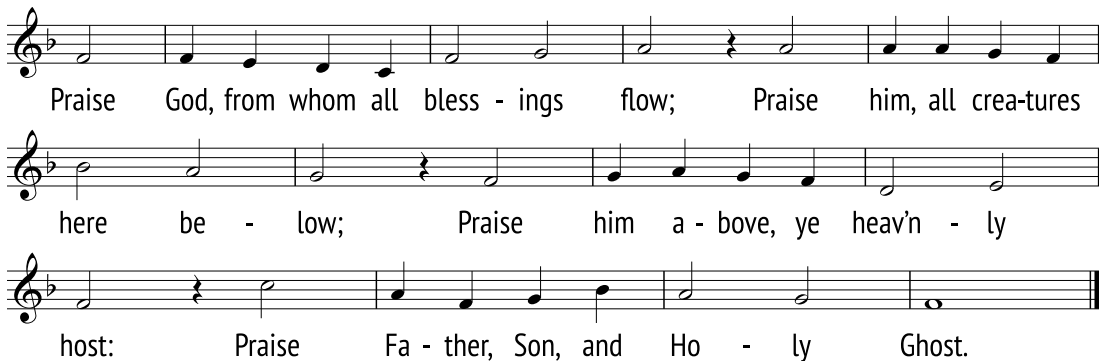
Ye are a chosen generation,  
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
that ye should shew forth the praises  
of him who hath called you out of darkness,  
out of darkness into his marvelous light!

I beseech you, brethren,  
by the mercies of God,

that ye present your bodies,  
a living sacrifice,  
holy, holy, acceptable unto God,  
which is your reasonable service.

*Plases stand for the singing of the Offertory.*

OFFERTORY  Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures  
here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, you feed us not with bread alone, but with words of truth and life. Bless us and these gifts, which we have received from your bounty and offer up to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

*Continued on the next page.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
 might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

##### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior taught us, so 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.**

## BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED

Come to the table for all is now ready. **Thanks be to God!**

### AT COMMUNION

- + All who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome at his table.
- + Please follow the lead of the ushers in going forward via the center aisle.
- + Extend your hands, and allow the bread to be placed in your hand.  
Take either the wine or white grape juice from the center of the tray.
- + As you return to your seat via the side aisle, place your empty glass in the white rack.
- + Gluten-free wafers are available.
- + If you are unable to come forward, please alert an usher so we may serve you at your seat.

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

HYMN 📖 *Here Is Bread*



1. Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
2. Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
3. Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.  
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.  
We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spi - rit, Christ is with us here.

HANDBELLS: *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

Please stand for the blessing.

#### COMMUNION BLESSING

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

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

#### BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah*

#### SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

#### POSTLUDE

## MUSICIANS

*Carillon Ringers:* Katie Ackerman, Grace Bello, Tricia Blomquist, Kaelyn Daughetee, Lance Doran, Julie Furstenau, Candi Mountain Gaddie, Elizabeth Heiny, Mark Horst, Kate McCall, Carol Olson, Maari Olson, and Addison Weis.

Ingrid Daniel and  
Nikki Evans, *bell trees*

Lori Duncan, *djembe*

Deacon Joan Kuehn,  
*Interim Handbell Director*

Breanna Whiting, *soloist*

Elisa Wicks, *violin*

**About today's music:** O *Gracious Light* – Traditional words. Setting by McNeil Robinson II. © 1984 Theodore Presser Co. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. • O *Matchless Beauty of Our God* – Words by Augustine of Hippo; translated by Colin Thompson. © Colin Thompson. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. Music (KINGSFOLD) from an English melody; adapted and harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. • *Sovereign Grace and Love Abounding* – Words by John Kent. This version © Praise Trust. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. Music (SONG OF PRAISE) by Carolyn Jennings. © 1996 Carolyn Jennings. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. • *Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me* – Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren. © 2018 CityAlight Music. All rights reserved. CCLI No. 11389142. • *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* – Words by Paul Z. Strodach. © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal; administered by Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. Music (LAAST UNS ERFREUEN) from *Außerlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapted and harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. • *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* – Words by Samuel Medley. Music by James Chepponis. © 2012 Birnamwood Publications. All rights reserved. CCLI No. 11389142. • *Greater Love Hath No Man* – Words from Song of Songs 8:6, 7; John 15:13; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:11; and 1 Peter 2:9, 24. Music by John Ireland (composed 1912). Public domain. • *Doxology* – Words by Thomas Ken. Music (OLD HUNDREDDTH) by Louis Bourgeois. Public domain. • *Sanctus and Benedictus* – Traditional words. Setting by Robert Powell. © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. • *Here Is Bread* – Words and music by Graham Kendrick. © 1991 Make Way Music. All rights reserved. CCLI No. 11389142.

## EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP APRIL 5

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP in Sanctuary  
at 7:45, 9, 10:15, and 11:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP  
in Worship Center at 10:15 a.m.

Easter Breakfast in the  
Peel House from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1515 North Cascade Avenue • Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

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