



# First Lutheran Church

*Welcome. We are happy you are here!*

Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo | Associate Pastor: Matthew Engum | Music Director: Karen Bimberg

## Sunday, March 30, 2025 · Fourth Sunday of Lent



The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

### PRELUDE

*My Jesus*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVOCATION

### GATHERING SONG

*Restore in Us, O God*

*ELW #328*

1. Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.
2. O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r;  
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow'r.
3. Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.
4. Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SONG OF PRAISE

*All My Hope*

I've been held by the Savior. Now, I've felt fire from above.  
I've been down to the river. And I ain't the same; a prodigal returns.

**Chorus: All my hope is in Jesus. Thank God my yesterdays gone.  
All my sins are forgiven and I've been washed by the blood.**

I'm no stranger to prison. I've worn shackles and chains.  
I've been freed and forgiven. I ain't going back, no I'll never be the same. **Chorus**

See, there's a kind of thing that just breaks a man. Brings him down to his knees. Oh.  
And see I've been broken more than a time or two, yes I have.  
But He picked me up and showed me what it means to be a man. **Chorus 2 times**

And I've been washed by the blood. And I've been washed by the blood.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of compassion, **C; you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## MUSICAL MESSAGE

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul - arr. Karen L. Buckwalter  
Accompanied by Peggy Hammerling, Flute & Karen Bimberg, Piano*

*Alleluia Ringers*

## RESPONSIVE PSALM

*Psalm 32:1-8*

R: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

R: While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

R: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**C: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

R: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**C: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

## SECOND READING:

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>5</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. <sup>6</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. <sup>7</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. <sup>8</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>9</sup> He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. <sup>10</sup> But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>11</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>12</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' <sup>13</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>14</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>15</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>16</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, <sup>17</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. <sup>18</sup> Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>19</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>20</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>21</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>22</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>23</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>24</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>25</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SONG OF THE DAY

*Goodness of God*

I love You, Lord. Oh, Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands. From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

**Chorus: And all my life You have been faithful. And all my life You have been so, so good. With ev'ry breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

I love Your voice. You have led me through the fire And in darkest nights, You are close like no other. I've known You as a father. I've known You as a friend. And I have lived in the goodness of God. **Chorus**

**Bridge 2 times: 'Cause Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me. Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me. With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You ev'rything. Your goodness is runnin' after, it's runnin' after me.**

And all my life You have been faithful. And all my life You have been so, so good. With ev'ry breath that I am able. Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.

'Cause all my life You have been faithful. And all my life You have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able, Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God. Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

*Apostle's Creed*

**C: 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

## NOISY OFFERING

*March: Becker County Food Pantry*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*ELW #473*

1 Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God. **(Sing 2x)**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

## SENDING HYMN

*My Life Flows on in Endless Song*

*ELW #763*

1. My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

**Refrain : No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3. What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

## SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EASTER FLOWERS

We are once again offering the opportunity for you to sponsor Easter flowers in honor/memory of your loved ones. The flowers will enhance our worship celebration on Easter Sunday. Order forms can be found on the volunteer table or scan the QR code. Deadline to order is, *next week*, **April 6**.



### LENTEN WEDNESDAY SERVICES

You are invited to join us this Lenten season on **Wednesdays at 12:05pm**. A lunch to follow each service at 12:30pm. *Only two more services left, April 2 & 9!*

### NOW HIRING

Do you have a passion for people? Are you looking for a part-time job with *flexible hours*? FLC is currently looking to hire a part-time Parish Nurse. A full job description and application can be found on our church website: [firstlutheranchurch.com](http://firstlutheranchurch.com)

### FLC WOMEN

Save the date for a presentation for Country Fields Greenhouse on Patio & Container Gardening sponsored by First Lutheran Women. This event will take place on **May 3 at 9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for food fellowship & prizes!

### SENIOR SUNDAY BLANKETS

YFM is looking to carry on the tradition of gifting our graduating seniors with a homemade tie blanket. If you are interested in making a blanket for a senior, please sign up at the volunteer table. Senior Recognition **Sunday is April 27th**. Questions, reach out to Olivia, YFM Dir.

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

As we continue our focus on Love Your Neighbor, you are invited to a presentation by the Becker Co. DAC **TODAY at 10:30 am** in the library. We will hear how the Becker County DAC empowers adults with disabilities to thrive in the community.

### PIE AUCTION

Our annual Pie and Baked Goods Auction is *next Sunday*, **April 6th**, after worship. Enjoy some healthy competition and delicious home-made pies and baked goods. Want to support this event? Sign up at the volunteer table.

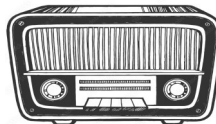
### WELCA SPRING GATHERING

The Conference Spring Gathering will be on **Tuesday, April 29 at 9am** at Calvary Lutheran Church in Perham. Cost is \$15 and preregistration is requested. To register, please sign up at the volunteer table by April 21.

### FLC CHURCH DIRECTORY

We will be working on creating an updated church directory. If you would like to have an updated photo for the directory, we will have someone taking photos after our worship service on **Today and also on , April 6 & 13 and April 2 & 9**.

Today's **radio broadcast** has been given in memory of: Ted Heisserer given by Mackenzie Hamm



## JOIN US FOR EASTER

**Maundy Thursday** | April 17  
Services at 12:05 & 6:00pm

**Good Friday** | April 18  
Services at 12:05 & 6:00pm

**Easter Sunday** | April 20  
Service at 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30am

### CREATION CARE NOTE

Coconut coir is becoming a popular soil amendment due its water holding capacity and benefits to soil structure. However, when using this inert material, remember you have to add nutrients (particularly calcium and magnesium) and monitor soil pH.

### Prayers for God's People

*Brent Blake, Bill Wegscheid, Cole Woltjer, Joyce Gilbertson, Doreen Tollefson, Judie Wood, Tim Goff, Marge Prechel, Tom Tovson, baby Thatcher Warfield, Vern, Gretta Frisch*

*Prayers of comfort for the families whose loved ones have recently died...*

### GIVE ONLINE

#### Prefer electronic giving?

Set up an automated method and frequency that works best for you by using the **QR code**.

Then, if you like, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate as it passes.



### VISITORS

Thanks for joining us!  
Want to know more about FLC ?



### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP RADIO

Sundays at 10AM on KDLM 1340-AM and 93.1-FM

### ON-LINE

Live streamed on Facebook and on the FLC YouTube channel.

### TELEVISION

Saturday at 9AM on Arvig Cable ch14.

