

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00am - Service with Holy Communion

Pastor Ben Groth, Preaching and Presiding

Matthew Harrison, Director of Music

Welcome!

Welcome! We are so glad you have joined us for worship! If this is your first time here, please fill out the yellow welcome card in the pew and place it in the offering plate if you would like to be contacted by Pastor Ben, would like more information about the church, or would like to sign up for our weekly news email.

Restrooms: Our restrooms are located downstairs at the bottom of the stairways at the back of the sanctuary. There are signs about which side has the men's and women's restrooms. There are any-gender solo restrooms in the education wing, one of which has a changing table. Please knock and ensure no one else is inside!

Care and Prayer: If you would like to request prayer or speak with Pastor Ben about struggles, joys, or anything else, please feel free to email him at bgroth@1stlutherannb.org or call/text at 860-348-3966.

Children: We love having children in worship! At the front of the sanctuary there is a "pray ground" with lots of space to spread out and sit comfortably, some toys, and a great collection of books for different ages. All children and caretakers are welcome to use that space anytime during the service!

Volunteering: We have lots of opportunities at First Lutheran to volunteer and serve our community. Our Monday Morning Mingle free meal takes place from 8-9am each Monday, while our free Pasta Dinners take place from 5-6pm each Wednesday. Both of these programs can always use volunteers. If you'd like to help out, or are interested in helping with worship or other things at First Lutheran, please contact Pastor Ben.

Coffee Hour: After the service, please join us downstairs for donuts, coffee, and a chance to get to know one another better!

Gathering

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as able

Easter Litany

- P** Praise God all you people.
God has triumphed over death and we are transformed!
- C** **The One who taught us how to pray, to serve, to love,
even unto death, has taught us how to live a new life.**
- P** The light of a new day dawns;
let shouts of praise burst forth from our hearts.
- C** **We have witnessed Love crucified and resurrected;
let the earth resound with delight.**
- P** The body that was broken is restored;
let us make a joyful noise.
- C** **The cross is vacant;
let us dance in celebration.**
- P** The tomb is empty;
let us sing alleluias with glad spirits.
- C** **The risen Christ greets us with love;
let us shed tears of joy.**
- P** We have received the gift of new life;
let us clap our hands in triumph.
- C** **We have been given grace in abundance;
let us rejoice with thanksgiving.**
- P** Praise God all you people.
God has triumphed over death and we are transformed!
- C** **The One who taught us how to pray, to serve, to love,
even unto death, has taught us how to live a new life.
Alleluia. Alleluia!**



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly his
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

THE EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. O God of glory,
- C** **your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through 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

Word

THE FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

A A reading from Acts:

6When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” 12Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. 13When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

Read Responsively

A 1Let God arise, and let God’s enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

C 2**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
presence of God.**

A 3But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

C 4**Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; exalt the one who rides
the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

- A** ⁵In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;
- C** ⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.**
- A** ⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
- C** ⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**
- A** ⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.
- C** ¹⁰**Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**
- A** ³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.
- C** ³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**
- A** ³⁴Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.
- C** ³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

- A** A reading from the first book of Peter:

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. ^{5:6}Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. The word of the Lord.

- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

P ¹After Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I

had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

THE SERMON

Pastor Ben Groth

Please stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY # 403 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess the Christian faith, using the words of the Apostles' 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.**

THE PRAYERS

A Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others, a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Merciful God, your Son Jesus, carries with him the scars of suffering as our wounded healer. Guide with your wisdom the work of all medical specialists and bring your healing touch to all who are sick especially Linda, Tom, Eileen, Scott, Lin, Jim, Barbara, John, Izzy, Ruth, Louise, Alan, and Nancy. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

**The minister and congregation may greet one another
in the name of the Lord.**

P Peace be with you. **C** Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

OFFERING MUSIC

The offering is brought to the altar during the Offertory Response

Please stand as able

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

To All Those With Bread

To all those with bread give— hun - ger for jus - tice, and to

all those who hun - ger give bread. To

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Risen One,
 you call us to believe and bear fruit.
 May the gifts that we offer here
 be signs of your abiding love.
 Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
 through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

Meal

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE INITIAL DIALOG

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 PREFACE

☐ 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:

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! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is the
 one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- ☐ In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
 saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people
 for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- ☑ **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.**

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

☐ Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

Please be seated

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE COMMUNION HYMN # 470

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Sending

Please stand as able

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Shepherding God,
 you have prepared a table before us
 and nourished us with your love.
 Send us forth from this banquet
 to proclaim your goodness
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
 our redeemer and friend.

C Amen

THE BENEDICTION

P Go out into the world in peace;
 have courage;
 hold on to what is good;
 return no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted;
 support the weak, and help the suffering;
 honor all people;
 love and serve the Lord,
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 May the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 One God, mother of us all,
 Bless you this day and always,

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN # 826

Thine the Amen



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Thanks to

*Worship Assistant
Nancy Peterson*

*Communion Assistant
Kris Fletcher*

*Reader
Kris Fletcher*

*Ushers
Elaine Borselle, Jane Holmstrom*

*Coffee Hour Goodies
Bob & Clarisa Medina*

and

*Videographer
Eric Nilsson*

*for volunteering
to be a part of the service this morning*

People Power for 5/24/2026

Worship Assistant - Robert Buchholz

Communion Assistant - John Halverson

Reader - Craig Diangelo

Ushers - Cheryl Brideaux, Louise Patterson

Coffee Hour Goodies - Nancy Peterson

calendar

- May 18** - Monday - Morning Mingle
- May 19** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 19** - Tuesday, 7pm - Council Meeting
- May 20** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- May 20** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- May 20** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- May 20** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 24** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- May 24** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- May 25** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- May 25** - Monday, 5am - Pizza Night
- May 26** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 27** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- May 27** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- May 27** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- May 27** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 31** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- May 31** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- June 1** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- June 2** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- June 2** - Tuesday, 7pm - Executive Meeting
- June 3** - Wednesday, 1pm - Mission/Outreach Meeting
- June 3** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- June 3** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- June 3** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- June 3** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- June 7** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- June 7** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- June 8** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- June 9** - Tuesday, 4pm - Worship & Arts Meeting
- June 9** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

Monday Morning Mingle 8am-9am
 Wednesday Come-As- You-Are Worship Service 4:30pm
 Wednesday Pasta Dinner 5pm-5:45pm
 Clothing - Please call Marianne Farr
 for more information (860)-637-6460

PRAYER LIST

Please note: Prayer names will remain for two weeks unless renewed in the church office. Named in parentheses are those who submitted the names they follow.

Linda Carlson; Tom Abucewicz; Eileen Buys
 Scott Johnson (Carol McQueeney);
 Lin, Jim, Barbara (Eileen Buys)
 John Johnson, Izzy Garcia, Ruth Perrone (Jane Holmstrom)
 Alan Peterson, Nancy Berger, Louise Wolcott (Gail Bates)

Serving in the armed forces:

Nick - Deployed to the Middle East (Laurie Kosich)
 Dylan Cameron - (Robert Buchholz)

OUR VISION

First for what is first: Christ, our Lord

First in nurturing youth and families in faith

First with inspiring worship, fellowship and service

First by reaching out to all

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

A community of believers in Jesus Christ

77 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut

(860) 224-2475 + www.1stlutherannb.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.