



“Who Can Withhold: Break Forth”

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

Worship with First Lutheran Church

Welcome! Our Easter celebration continues. We are thankful for the many ways the Holy Spirit connects us together. Yes, the risen Jesus appears where we are, awakening us to a beat that will not stop stirring our hearts to move, with all creation to a song of resurrection, that not even death can stop. Come and join the dance that has no end.

**Prelude -
Welcome and Announcements**

Protocols for the congregation's safe gathering can be found on page 12.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Leader: Let all creation break forth into praises of this, our awesome God!
Let all creation break forth into praises of this, our loving Christ!
Let all creation break forth into praises of this, our enlivening Spirit!

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

[music continues softly...]

Leader: (from Psalm 98): O sing to the LORD a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the LORD. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy!

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Greeting

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Prayer -

Let us pray,

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

Let us be open to learn from the dances of others.

Open us to new steps for a new day.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.

Be with us now, we pray. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (ELW 631)

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - ELW 172**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

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

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION -

To Be Alive by Dakota Road

Refrain:

To be alive is to live the love
That is alive in God’s saving son
Who brought us back from a life of death
To be alive!

***CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 INTERCESSION**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives (*especially*). Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may turn in their places and greet one another with a sign / wave of Christ's peace,
and may say, "Peace be with you,"*

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

Leader: How has the testimony of the people in our lives and through the generations guided our steps into dances of praise at the good news that we are loved and blessed?

Let us pool our resources and order our steps to bring life and wholeness to the larger community through our offerings this day.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING: *(Instrumental of Dare to Dance as people reflect upon what they are grateful for)*

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us to step out in mission for the world.

Praising God, Nurturing Faith, and Serving All

Benediction

*Leader: May we follow the lead of the Spirit
as we find expansive ways to dance the dance of love.*

And may the Loving God, Risen Christ,
and Dancing Spirit fill you with all you need for the days ahead.

And all God's people said, "**Amen!**"

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!

SENDING SONG

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

OFFERINGS

Offerings may be placed in the plates as you go out from this worship to live in service to God throughout the week.

Or you can give online <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.

Postlude:

Worship Notes:

Eastern Orthodox icon of Jesus Christ as the True Vine, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55553> [retrieved May 5, 2021]. Original source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christ_the_True_Vine_icon_\(Athens,_16th_century\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christ_the_True_Vine_icon_(Athens,_16th_century).jpg).

Liturgy adapted from “Dare to Dance” www.worshipdesignstudio.com/easterdance
And From sundaysandseasons.com.
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Worship Team:

Piano - Colleen Culwell
Pastors - Lori Morton and Steve Neuder
AV/Tech - Scott Youngren and Don Farnham

Office Contact Information:

208-263-2048

office@firstlutheransandpoint.org

Website: www.firstlutheransandpoint.org

Announcements:

Prayer List: Christi Paulsen, Arlin Ojala, Royce Howell, Libby DeLong, Michelle Thurston, George Marker, Lynn Franck, Chris Ingham; Randy Petersen; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Gerda Burke; Kara Schripsema; Trey Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Eugene Kurwicki; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier, Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

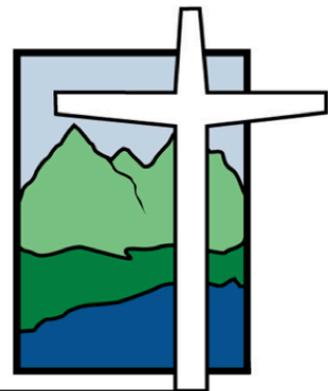
We include prayers for Luther Park - its staff, residents, their families, and all senior living communities as we continue to learn how to live with Covid-19 as communities, in our worship, and mission as the church.

Church Office: Lisa Tyrrell, our Secretary on Council will be working with Pastor Lori to update our infrastructure and prepare for another staff search. In April and May, please be patient with your requests. Messages by phone and email will be checked regularly on the days when staff are not in the office.

Survey: Please fill out the survey on page 12 of the bulletin and return in the offering plates or mail to the church office, so the FLC Council will have this information for their meeting on May 12.

Highway Clean up is May 15 - See newsletter for details.

***First
Lutheran
Church***



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Covid - 19 Protocols for Gathering

Please note the following things to support you in your worship:

- First, thank you for adjusting to and heeding the precautions we have put in place to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus, while we gather.
- In addition to wearing face masks, remaining 6' apart from other family groups or friend cohorts, staying home if you do not feel well, and refraining from shaking hands or hugging:
- The Children's Playroom and Nursery is not available for use.
- We ask that you meditate on or hum the songs as the music plays, rather than singing.
- During the passing of the peace, we invite you to wave, show a peace sign, extend your arms in a gesture of blessing, etc. as you remain in your pew.
- At the end of the worship, please remain seated until the ushers dismiss you by rows. The upright piano side of the sanctuary will leave through the door up front. The lectern side will exit the way you came in.
- Fellowship is encouraged with social distancing, once you are outside of the building.
- We requested your name and phone number in case we need to notify you of a potential exposure to Covid-19. We will heed HIPAA laws if or when the need arises.
- On Sundays, the fellowship hall door that leads out to the Ontario St. parking lot will be exit only for anyone who might be seated in the overflow seating. The Main Ontario St. door and the doors nearest the church office will be the only doors unlocked for entry.
- Even with all of this, we cannot eliminate the risk of contracting the Covid-19 virus while gathering indoors. Therefore, we will record each worship and post for those who choose to stay home. Yes, the Holy Spirit connects us all together wherever we are, with the saints today, and all those who have gone before us in the faith.

Gathering Survey: The Council's goal has been to follow the guidelines of the CDC and the Panhandle Health department's recommendations for people gathering in groups. We are in a transition time where those who are vaccinated can begin resuming many of their prior activities and interactions with people (who are also vaccinated).

Help us make an informed decision about updating our procedures by filling out and returning this in the offering plate for everyone in your household or to the church office by Weds..

1. Number of people vaccinated in your household _____. How many of your household are actively participating in any ministry of FLC? _____ (worship in person, online, Confirmation, Bible Studies, Quilting, etc.)
2. If anyone of your household is not vaccinated, do they plan to? _____
3. Which of the following allow you to gather in-person, inside for worship (at this phase of the pandemic)? (If more than one person is in your family unit, write the number of people who feel this way in each blank. Mark all that apply)?
 - _____ All wearing masks
 - _____ Spaced 6' from another family unit or friend bubble
 - _____ Ushers helping with 6' spacing and finding open pews
 - _____ Staggering people as we leave the church
 - _____ Use of hand sanitizer as people enter
 - _____ Signage informing the church's expectations while in the building
 - _____ Conversations held outside (not in the sanctuary or narthex)
 - _____ No singing inside
 - _____ Humming of songs while all wearing masks
 - _____ Holy Communion served outside by Pastors masked and wearing gloves
 - _____ Holy Communion served inside at one station where people come forward to receive the elements. Those who serve are masked and gloved. Participants masked until they reach the station.
 - _____ Have 80% of the community vaccinated
 - _____ Have your family unit or friend bubble vaccinated.
 - _____ Will not attend until there are no restrictions.
 - _____ Other.

Name of Household (optional) _____. We are trusting you to turn in only one survey.