

Jesus wept.

JOHN 11:35



First Lutheran

CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025 | 9:30 A.M.

FIRST TIME?

Welcome to First Lutheran Church and Preschool! Everything you need for the service is in this bulletin. Feel free to follow along and participate as you feel comfortable.

Restrooms are in located in our education room. Follow the signs as you exit the sanctuary or ask one of our ushers or greeters (they will be wearing name tags).

ABOUT EPIPHANY

Epiphany is a season of gathering light. The Gospel readings focus on the early days of Jesus' ministry. Week by week through the Epiphany season, we will learn more and more about who Jesus is.

Epiphany reaches its summit at the Transfiguration, where we hear that Jesus is God's Beloved Son.

KIDS

The church is for all ages. Your kids are most welcome to stay in the worship service, even when they are making noise. If you feel they need a break, there is an unstaffed nursery available in our education room.

Sunday school (age 3 through high school) meets after worship until about 11:20. Parents are welcome to join Bible study during this time.

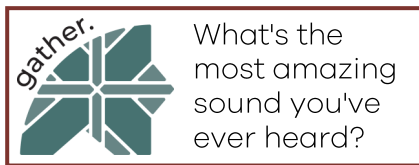
Bringing people together, in the midst of a hectic world, for fellowship and rest.

AS WE GATHER

As we gather for worship today, we see Jesus' final miraculous sign as He raises Lazarus from the dead. What does this sign of resurrection point us to? God's blessings as you worship with us today.

PRELUDE

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

OPENING HYMN

LSB #752 Be Still, My Soul



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa-tient-
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un-der-take To guide the
3 Be still, my soul; though dear-est friends de-part And all is
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has-t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or-der
fu-ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con-fi-dence let
dark-ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet-ter know His
be for-ev-er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and



and pro-vide; In ev-'ry change He faith-ful will re-
noth-ing shake; All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at
love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor-rows and your
fear are gone, Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n-ly Friend
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
fears. Be still, my soul; your Je-sus can re-pay
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.
From His own full-ness all He takes a-way.
All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(silence for reflection)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. We are forgiven and given new life.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 16:5-11

P: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

C: **The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

P: I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

C: **I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

P: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

C: **For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.**

P: You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

KYRIE

C: **Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: Lord Jesus, in Your miraculous signs and wonders You revealed Yourself to be a God of joy and restoration. Strengthen us to bask in Your joy and work toward the restoration and healing of all creation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

CHILDREN'S CHAT

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 13:14-21

Now when Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash king of Israel went down to him and wept before him, crying, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel, "Draw the bow," and he drew it. And Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands. And he said, "Open the window eastward," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot," and he shot. And he said, "The LORD's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Syria! For you shall fight the Syrians in Aphek until you have made an end of them." And he said, "Take the arrows," and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground with them." And he struck three times and stopped. Then the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Syria until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Syria only three times."

So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

C: **Alleluia. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 11:1-44

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

"Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

Lazarus had been dead for four days. In this culture, it was believed the soul went to rest with God after the third day. At that point, without the soul, the body would begin to decay.

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON HYMN: As Lazarus Lay within the Tomb



1. As Laz' - rus lay with - in his tomb,
 2. As Je - sus weeps out - side the tomb,
 3. As we a - wait our Eas - ter Day,



His heart had ceased to beat. No neur - ons fired, no
 He knows what He will do. He knows death's end for
 Our mourn - ing has not ceased, For death be - low draws



breath ex - pired, no move - ment, hands or feet.
 His dear friend is here, with life a - new.
 tears to flow. The dead still face the East.



Yet still, he hears his Mas - ter's call,
 Still, Je - sus weeps and mourns and grieves,
 Yet Christ is raised and com - ing soon,



"O Laz - a - rus! Come out!" His ver - y name a
 Be - fore He meets His foe, He marks the ground with
 So hope makes grief de - cay. When Christ ap - pears our



coun - ter - claim to death's own si - lent shout.
 tears pro - found, Then calls, and death lets go.
 flow - ing tears Will all be wiped a - way.

Text: © 2025 Andrew R. Jones

NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.



Which of the seven
miraculous signs
did you find the
most interesting?

THE PRAYERS

After each petition:

P: ...Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Pray with us this week. For today's prayers and more, please see the First Notes newsletter.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

LITURGY OF GENEROSITY

P: We have a generous God! We give thanks to the Lord for all He has given us.

C: We give back to the Lord with joy and thanksgiving.

P: We wisely steward all of His good gifts.

C: The gifts of our time and energy.

P: The gifts of our talents and skills.

C: The gifts of our relationships and finances.

P: Lord, may each of these gifts you have entrusted to us be used for the good of Your people and to Your glory.

C: We have a generous God. Amen.

Scan the QR code on the right with your phone's camera to access First Lutheran's Giving page:



PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

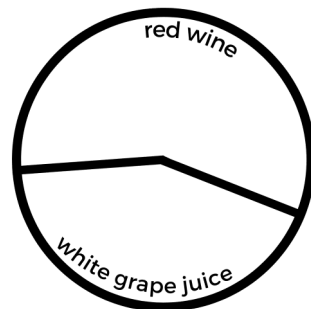
P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death and resurrection until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Sit

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Out of respect for those who cannot consume alcohol, we offer both white grape juice and red wine. The graphic shows how the wine and grape juice are divided in our communion trays. The ushers will invite you forward for the Lord's Supper. The pastor and communion assistant will offer you the bread, then the wine/grape juice. Once you have received both, place your used individual cup in one of the containers on the communion rail and return to your seat. If you have not taken communion with us before, please read our communion statement in the back of the bulletin before joining us in this sacrament. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please ask the pastor.

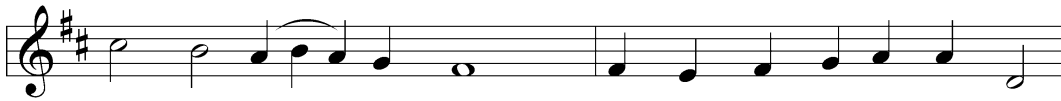


What is something you have learned about Jesus this Epiphany season?

COMMUNION HYMN: LSB#633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Stanza 3 references "Death's dread angel" which is a callback to the Passover story of Exodus 12.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

LSB #825 Rise, Shine, You People



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.



Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing.
Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
To all the world go out and tell the
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

POSTLUDE

COMING SOON:

3/5 — Ash Wednesday Service (12:00 noon & 7:00pm)

SERVING TODAY

Greeters: Owens, Judy Bennett

Ushers: Eric Carr and Stan Forsstrom

Acolyte: Jonah Sinaga

Children's Chat: Lynnette Campbell

Reader: Bob Dottery

Communion Assistant: Jeff McKenzie

Sound: Rey Medina

Livestream: Alex McDonald

Counters: Griebs

Altar Guild: Linda Mahloch, Deb McKenzie, Sharon Schneider

Accompanist: Natasha Kung

Sunday School: Deb McKenzie and Heather Theiss

OUR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS AND CHURCH STAFF

Natasha Beltran, Alex Drukov, Tammy Dube, Nicole Ford, Silvia Guillen,
Kayla Hackett, Moonyeen Jester, Pastor Andy Jones, Natasha Kung,
Cindy Magos, Nicole Marchion, Mark Meyer, Valarie Ortega,
Ruth Salguera, Jeni Smith, Heather Theiss, Anna Villalpando, Monica Zarate

ABOUT COMMUNION

First Lutheran Church and Preschool celebrates the Lord's Supper every Sunday in the joyful confidence that Christ our Lord gives us not only bread and wine but His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The Lord's Supper is intended for Christians who have been baptized, instructed in the faith, and who believe in these words of Christ: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Anyone who is not baptized or does not believe these words should refrain from participating in the Lord's Supper as our participation is a confession of our common faith.

Anyone who has not been instructed in the faith or holds a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desires to receive the Lord's Supper, is asked first to speak with the pastor. For further study, see 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 (pages 958-959 in the English pew Bibles). Those not receiving the Lord's Supper (both adults and children) are invited to come forward for a blessing.

