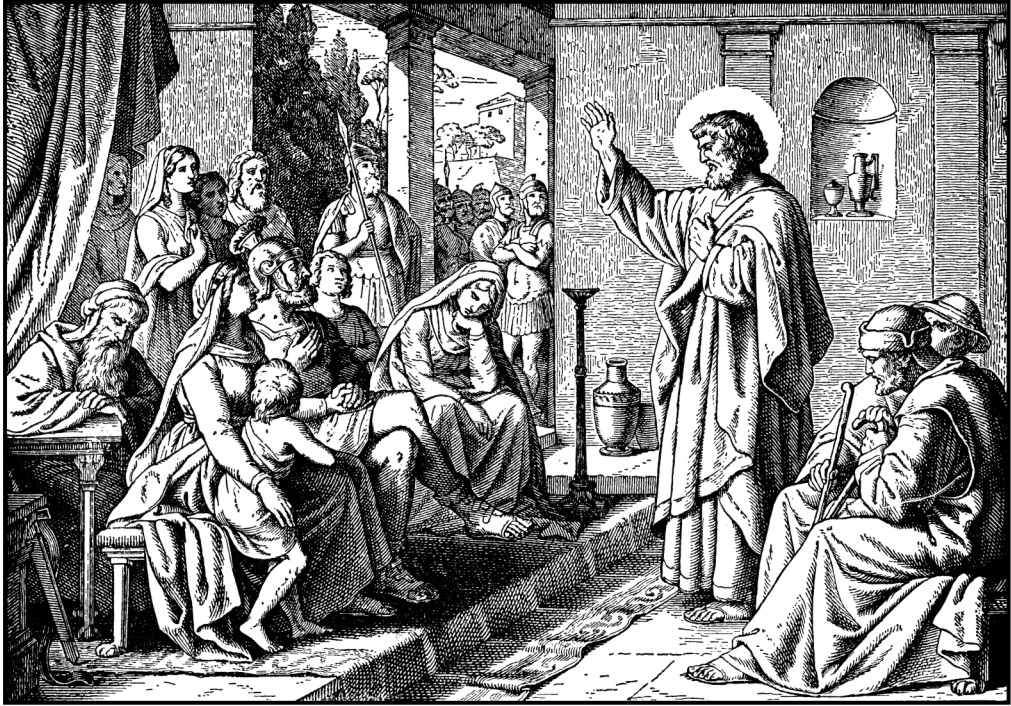


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOUNDED 15 JANUARY 1837



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 4, 2025

11:00 AM

615 Grant Street, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, 15219

Ph: 412.471.8125 ✕ Fax: 412.471.9521 ✕ flc@flcpittsburgh.org ✕ www.flcpittsburgh.org



PARDON OUR DUST

Reconstruction of our front sidewalks is nearly complete. The sidewalks are now open. Entry to the church is now limited to the entrances off the courtyard. Though the new ramp is now very gradual and ADA compliant, please be cautious, railings will be installed shortly.

We will keep you informed through the Parish News and bulletin as work progresses.

PARKING

Effective immediately, Metropolis has increased the church's parking rates at the U.S. Steel Tower garage. The new QR Code posted throughout the church will allow parishioners to park for up to 2.5 hours for \$6.00. \$3.00 will be charged to your credit card, which you must enter into your phone. The other half of the fee will be charged to the church.

To encourage worship attendance, the church will cover half the fee on Sundays, (though we are happy for donations toward the cost). On weekdays, we ask parishioners to reimburse the church the other \$3.00.

There is also an extended-stay option, which staff members can help you with. **Please note that if you stay past 2.5 hours, you will be charged full price for your parking.**

We realize on Sundays it may now make more sense to park elsewhere. Free on-street parking is now available in front of the church, especially for those with mobility issues. Our sidewalks have reopened! We also continue to provide subsidized parking at Mellon Square and Smithfield/Liberty garages for \$1.00 on Sundays. The ushers and staff will provide validation stickers for these garages. Thank you for your patience and commitment to our Gospel ministry as we navigate these changes.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

We extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting with us today and hope you will return to worship with our community of faith again. If you would like to know more about our ministry in downtown and metropolitan Pittsburgh, please speak to a pastor, any of our members, or visit www.flcpittsburgh.org.


ACCESSIBILITY Accessible entrances to the building is available from either entrance on the courtyard. An elevator is available in the Parish House to access other levels of the building. The parking spaces directly in front of the building have been designated for those with handicapped plates or placards for their vehicles.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available at the ushers' table in the rear of the nave. Easy-to-use receivers with either an earpiece or a neck loop are available. Antiseptic wipes are available to clean assisted listening equipment before use.

PARKING is available on Sundays at Mellon Square and Smithfield/Liberty garage for \$1.00. See an usher or the attendant at the reception desk for validation. Street parking is free downtown until 1:00 PM on Sunday afternoon, except in areas with no parking signage.

YOUNG CHILDREN

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are wiggly and noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. Children's worship boxes, with items to help engage our youngsters in worship, are available in the back of the nave. Please return them to an usher after worship. A family restroom with a changing table is available downstairs.



HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered by invitation of the Lord himself. All baptized believers who trust that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, regardless of denomination, are invited to receive the Blessed Sacrament. To receive the Sacrament, come to the altar rail by way of the center aisle. The pastor will place a wafer into your hand. Please indicate to the pastor if you need a gluten-free wafer. The wine may be received by drinking directly from the common cup or with an individual glass filled from a pouring chalice. Please pick up a glass from the tables at the head of the center aisle, and return your empty glass to the tables at the head of the side aisles. If you need to have communion brought to you in your seat, please let an usher know.

If you choose to receive the Sacrament under the form of bread alone for any reason, you may be assured that in so doing, you receive the whole Christ. If you choose not to receive communion, you may request a blessing instead. After receiving communion (or a blessing), you may return to your seat by the side aisles.

✠ ALTAR FLOWERS & LAMPS ✠

THE CENTERPIECE

FLOWERS

is given to the glory of God.

SANCTUARY

VOTIVE

LAMPS

April 21 -
May 4

*is given in memory of Robert W.
Kenneweg Jr. by Bob Kenneweg.*

*is given in celebration of
Lorraine Beers's birthday by
Bill & Judy Reed.*

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 4, 2025 — 11:00 AM

*Thank you for silencing your electronic devices before worship.
The people prepare to worship by silently praying the following prayer:*

✠ Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we who celebrate the Easter festival, kindled with heavenly desires, may ever thirst for the fountain of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Read Psalm 98, p. 262

THE PRELUDE

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Donald Busarow

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

John Eggert

The people stand as the bells peal.

The people may turn in place to follow and bow as the cross passes.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

LBW 132

Printed on the following page.



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to-day: Christ has burst his pris-on,
 3 Now the queen of sea-sons, bright with the day of splen-dor,
 4 For to-day a-mong the twelve Christ ap-peared, be-stow-ing
 5 Al-le-lu-ia! Now we cry to our King im-mor-tal,



God has brought his Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris-en;
 with the roy-al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren-der;
 his deep peace, which ev-er-more pass-es hu-man know-ing.
 who, tri-um-phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por-tal.



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit-ter yoke Ja-cob's sons and daugh-ters,
 all the win-ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly-ing
 comes to glad-den faith-ful hearts which with true af-fec-tion
 Neith-er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por-tal,
 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!



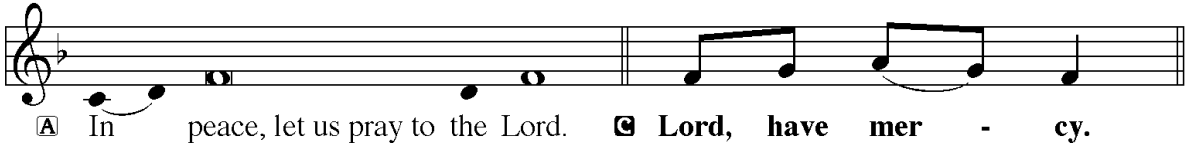
led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.
 from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un-dy-ing.
 wel-come in un-wea-ried strain Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion!
 nor the watch-ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor-tal.
 God has brought his Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

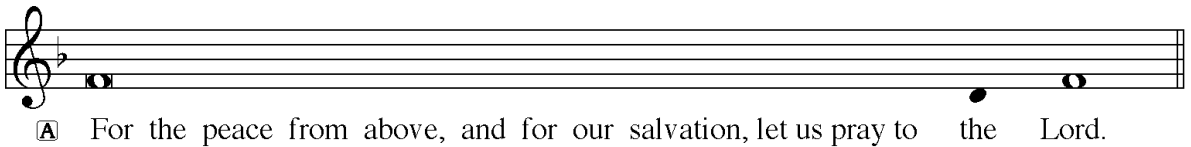
THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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.

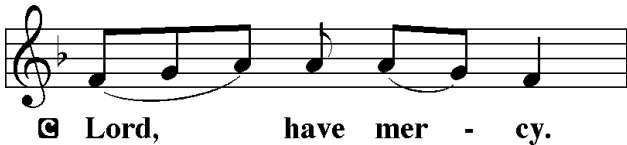
KYRIE



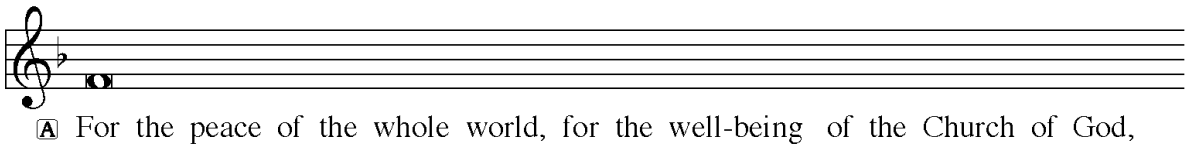
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



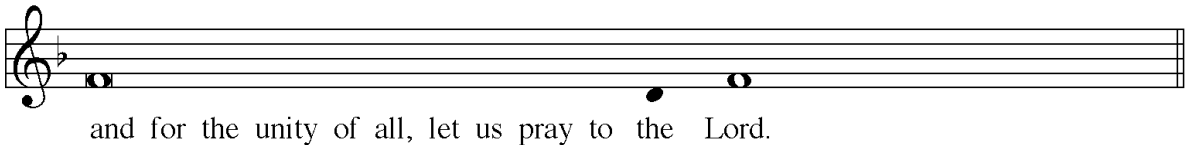
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



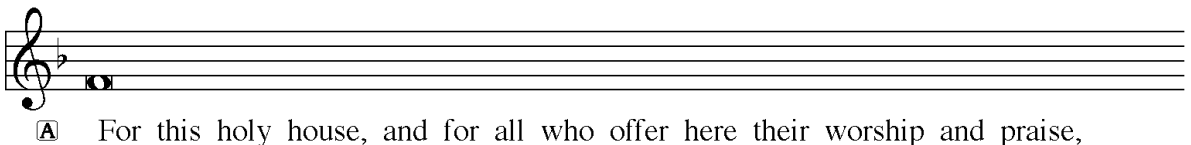
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

THE CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Worthy is Christ

C—All • I—Women • II—Men

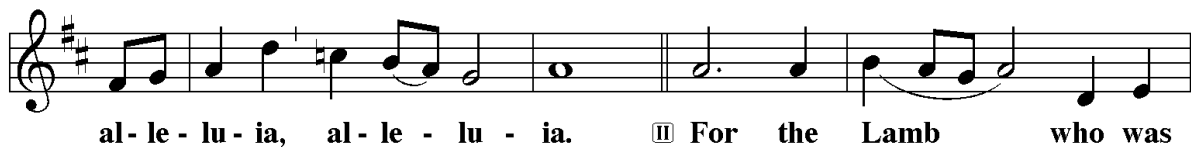
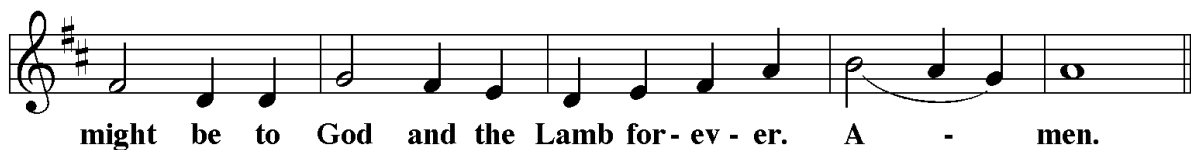

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,


al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was


slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.


☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,


al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al-so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen** *(sung on one tone)*

The people are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON—Acts 9:1-20

L A reading from Acts.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

12

THE SECOND LESSON—Revelation 5:11-14

L A reading from Revelation.

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!”
And the elders fell down and worshiped.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand.

THE VERSE

setting by C. Pock

*The Alleluia is intoned once by the Soloist / Choir, and then repeated by **All**.*



*Christ being raised from the dead will never die again. Death no longer has dominion over him.
Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the scriptures.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL—Saint John 21:1-19

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-first chapter.



¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

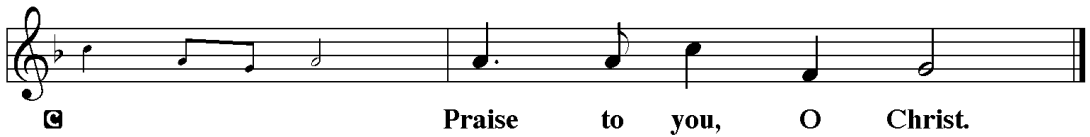
⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the

third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



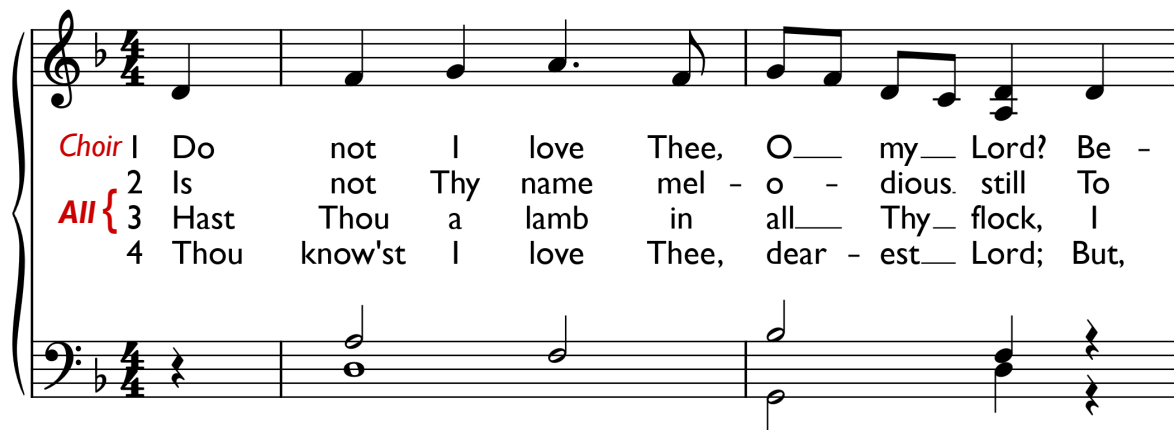
The people are seated.

THE SERMON

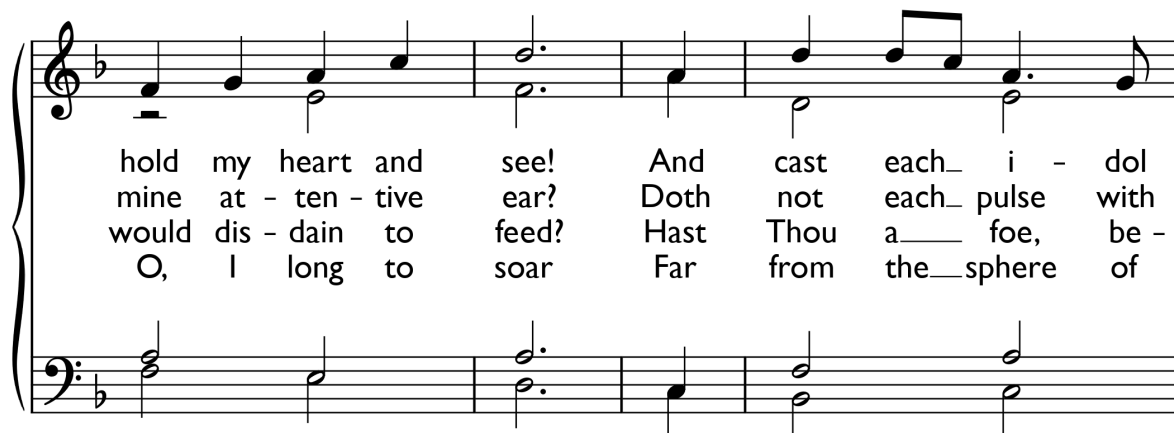
The Rev. Brian A. Evans

Following the sermon, the people stand for the Hymn of the Day.

St. 1—Choir • 2 - 4—All



Choir 1 Do not I love Thee, O my Lord? Be -
 2 Is not Thy name mel - o - dious. still To
 All { 3 Hast Thou a lamb in all Thy flock, I
 4 Thou know'st I love Thee, dear - est Lord; But,



hold my heart and see! And cast each i - dol
 mine at - ten - tive ear? Doth not each pulse with
 would dis - dain to feed? Hast Thou a foe, be -
 O, I long to soar Far from the sphere of



from its throne, That dares to ri - val Thee.
 plea - sure bound, My Sav - ior's voice to hear?
 fore whose face I fear Thy cause to plead?
 mor - tal joys, That I may love Thee more.

THE NICENE CREED

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen**

The people remain standing.

THE PRAYERS

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs.

A ... Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The people offer each other the sign of peace, saying "Peace be with you."

The people are seated as the gifts are prepared.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
(from Cantata No. 147)

J. S. Bach

Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright. Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light. Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned. Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying 'round thy throne.

The people stand.

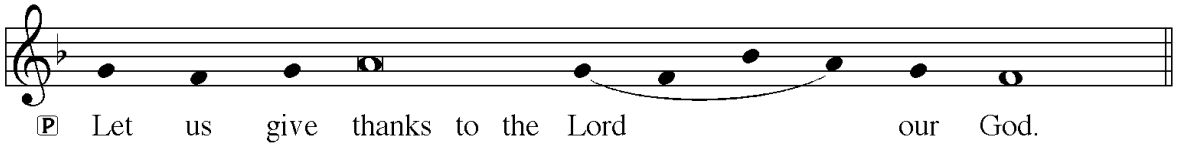
THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

C **O Lord, our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

SURSUM CORDA



THE PREFACE

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by this 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, with angels and archangels, with cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

- P We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

- C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
 might- y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

THE FRACTION

P Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

C Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The people are seated.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

To receive the Sacrament, come to the altar rail by way of the center aisle. The pastor will place a wafer into your hand. Please indicate to the pastor if you need a gluten-free wafer. The wine may be received by drinking directly from the common cup or with an individual glass filled from a pouring chalice. Please pick up a glass from the tables at the head of the center aisle, and return your empty glass to the tables at the head of the side aisles. If you need to have communion brought to you in your seat, please let an usher know.

If you choose to receive the Sacrament under the form of bread alone for any reason, you may be assured that in so doing, you receive the whole Christ. If you choose not to receive communion, you may request a blessing instead. After receiving communion (or a blessing), you may return to your seat by the side aisles.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

LBW 129



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;
 2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed when Christ lay in the tomb;
 3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!
 4 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.
 but, lo, he now is rout - ed, his boast is turned to gloom.
 Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.
 now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made
 For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry
 No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,
 Grim death with all its might can - not my soul af - fright;



when to the realms of light our spir - it wings its flight.
 he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
 the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.
 it is a pow'r - less form, how - e'er it rave and storm.

5 Now I will cling forever
 to Christ, my Savior true;
 my Lord will leave me never,
 whate'er he passes through.
 He rends death's iron chain;
 he breaks through sin and pain;
 he shatters hell's grim thrall;
 I follow him through all.

6 He brings me to the portal
 that leads to bliss untold,
 whereon this rhyme immortal
 is found in script of gold:
 "Who there my cross has shared
 finds here a crown prepared;
 who there with me has died
 shall here be glorified."

When all have communed, the people stand.

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 CANTICLE



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those
whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

THE BLESSING



☐ Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever.

☐ A - men

THE HYMN TO CLOSE

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

ELW 382



1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
4 Christ is ris - en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more;
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
 death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
 See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;
 All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;

bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
 an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C-Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

TODAY AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (MARATHON SUNDAY), May 4

11:00 AM Holy Communion

NAVE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR, The Rev. Joseph Murdy, who is also a United States Army reserve chaplain with the 328th Combat and Operational Stress Control (COSC) unit out of Coraopolis, has been deployed to the Middle East until early 2026. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

NEW PARKING ARRANGEMENT AT U.S. STEEL TOWER GARAGE: Effective immediately, Metropolis has increased the church's parking rates at the U.S. Steel Tower garage. The new QR Code posted throughout the church will allow parishioners to park for up to 2.5 hours for \$6.00. \$3.00 will be charged to your credit card, which you must enter into your phone. The other half of the fee will be charged to the church. To encourage worship attendance, the church will cover half the fee on Sundays, (though we are happy for donations toward the cost). **Please note that if you stay past 2.5 hours, you will be charged full price for your parking.** On weekdays, we ask parishioners to reimburse the church the other \$3.00. There is also an extended-stay option, which staff members can help you with. We realize on Sundays it may now make more sense to park elsewhere. Free on-street parking is now available in front of the church, especially for those with mobility issues. Our sidewalks have reopened! We also continue to provide subsidized parking at Mellon Square and Smithfield/Liberty garages for \$1.00 on Sundays. The ushers and staff will provide validation stickers for these garages. Thank you for your patience and commitment to our Gospel ministry as we navigate these changes.

BRIDGE TO THE MOUNTAINS COLLECTION: The Health Ministry Team will be collecting items for Bridge for the Mountains during the month of May. This organization was supported by our Lenten offering and we met Pastor DeBruce when he came to talk to the Adult Sunday school class about this group. This organization engages with people experiencing homelessness in unique ways. They would like to receive: Men's and Woman's underwear (any sizes), alcohol wipes, hand sanitizer, pads and tampons, bottled water, flashlights and batteries or lanterns, pepper spray, reuseable tote bags or drawstring bags and MRE's (ready to eat meals) There will be a bin in the back of the Nave for donations.

ATTENTION ALL 2025 GRADUATES: If you are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc. please notify Nicholas Sharer (flc@flcpittsburgh.org; 412.471.8125) of the date of your graduation and the name of the school by Monday, May 16 for inclusion in the June issue of The Alert. Thank you.

ADULT SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL: May 4: there will be no Sunday Church School due to the Pittsburgh Marathon. **May 11:** the last day of Sunday Church School, Dr. Jeffrey McCurry will continue his discussion of Christian Poetry.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Join us for our annual program meeting. The congregation will receive reports from all standing and special committees of the parish.

Members will be elected to our Congregation Council.

All voting members of the congregation are encouraged to be present.
(There will be Godly Play class during the meeting.)

***Sunday, May 18, at 10:00 AM
in Holy Cross Hall***

TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Please send in your Annual Reports for the Bulletin of Reports presented at the May Organizational Congregation Meeting by **Friday, May 9**. Please submit your report to Christine Hoffman at cgh@flcpittsburgh.org. Thank you!

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS: The Special Offering for Easter is designated for *Abiding Missions*, a mission outreach of the ELCA, is engaged in serving, advocating for, and accompanying our neighbors who are experiencing chronic trauma and poverty. Your donation helps to expand food security, strengthen neighborhoods, and support free after-school programs that offer a formal collaboration with 4-H. Please use the "Easter" envelope in your offering envelope box, or, make your check payable to "First Lutheran Church" and mark it "Easter."

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: We are reviving our Social Justice Book Discussion group. The group will study *How We Learn To Be Brave: Decisive Moments In Life and Faith* by Mariann Edgar Budde. Participants should purchase the book. Those interested in joining this group please email Vickie Briercheck (brierchv@gmail.com). The group will meet mostly via Zoom on the following Tuesday evenings at **7:00 PM for an hour: May 6 and 13, June 10 and 24, July 8**. The goal will be to cover one chapter at each meeting.

IN SEARCH OF A KIDNEY DONOR: A member of our parish, Daniel Walker, is now on the kidney transplant list at UPMC because of polycystic kidney disease. A living donor is his best chance at continuing an active and productive life. Anyone can support him by sharing this message. If someone wishes to be a donor they can register at livingdonorreg.upmc.com/ and specify Daniel Walker as the recipient. Blood type does not matter.

CONFIRMATION: On **Sunday, June 8 at the 11:00 AM liturgy**, Roxie Fink, McKenna Schilling, and Colby Stiger will be confirmed. Please join us in celebrating with them at the coffee hour following the service.

THE ARK IS COMING!! Captain Noah and his floating zoo will sail into Holy Cross Hall on **Sunday, June 8, at 12:30 PM**. Join our Youth Choristers as they present a musical version of Noah and the Ark.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR CAMP DOWNTOWN JUNE 16-20: Join us as we sow Seeds of Faith at this year's Camp Downtown hosted by First Lutheran Church and sponsored by the Downtown Ministerium, this summer, **June 16 – 20 from 9AM - 4PM**. We will visit Biblical stories of sowing seeds and how this relates to our life of faith which needs only be as big as a mustard seed to bear much fruit. We will also learn about Johnny Appleseed and his Pittsburgh roots. The cost is \$75 per camper. Sibling discounts are \$65 for second sibling, \$55 for third sibling and so on. Camper registration is for students entering Kindergarten through 6th grade. Students 7th Grade and older may register to serve as youth counselors at no cost. We also need additional adult chaperones! Registration closes May 18 and will only be open to the first 40 campers. Visit fcpittsburgh.org/campdowntown to register campers, youth counselors, and adult chaperones!

REGISTRATION FOR LUTHERLYN SUMMER CAMP 2025 HAS BEGUN! For more than seventy years Lutherlyn has been combining the love of God, fun, friends, swimming, playing in the woods, adventure challenges, Bible study, worship, cookouts, campfires, discoveries in nature, games, and a few surprises into an unforgettable experience! Lutherlyn offers a variety of week-long, half-week, and day programs for children entering 1st grade through those who have finished their senior year of high school. In addition to summer camp programs for school age children and teens, Lutherlyn offers Family Camp for campers of ANY age to enjoy. Please visit www.lutherlyn.com for dates, prices, details, and registration. First time campers get \$100 off with the coupon code FIRST! Visit lutherlyn.com/first for full details or contact the camp office at 724-865-2161

TIME TO RESTOCK THE PANTRY! We could especially use: large and individual sized shelf-stable milks, canned chicken, canned tuna, canned fruits and fruit cups, peanut butter, jam and jelly, pasta sauces, Hormel Compleat meals, Canned Pasta (Chef Boyardee), rice and potato sides, canned soups, Ramen noodles, snack crackers, granola and multi-grain bars. Also individual laundry packets are often requested. Please donate easy-open pull-tab canned goods whenever possible. Thank you!

By visiting our Amazon wish list, First Lutheran Church - Walk in Ministry Food Pantry you will get an idea of the items that are needed, you have a few options: 1. You can make a monetary donation to the church (noting that the contribution should be directed to the food pantry) 2. You can order directly from the FLC Amazon wishlist, or 3. You can place an order for similar items on the list from your own Amazon account (changing brand or quantity to suit your giving choices.)

<http://tinyurl.com/flcWISHLIST>

ON DUTY THIS WEEK / PARTNER MINISTRY SERVICES:

This week, Smithfield United Church of Christ will be on duty Monday-Thursday, May 5-8.

The Red Door at St. Mary of Mercy Roman Catholic Church offers breakfast Monday - Saturday 9:00-10:30 AM; bag lunches Monday - Saturday, 10:30 - 11:30 AM, and dinners Monday - Friday, 5:00 - 5:30 PM. A midday meal is served on Sundays from 1:00-2:00 PM. Those seeking crisis counseling or services may be directed accordingly.

Our next week of service begins May 12.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: The daytime book group meets on the second Thursday of the month at noon, usually in one another's homes from September to June. Members take turns hosting which usually means providing lunch for the group, pairing up with another member to provide lunch, or asking everyone to bring their own bag lunch while the host provides beverages and dessert. On **Thursday, May 8**, the group will discuss *By Any Other Name* by Jody Picoult. New members are welcome at any time. If you are interested in joining this book group, please contact Amy Bills (cym@flcpittsburgh.org) or Anne Harmon (anne.harmon@comcast.net).

CAMPERSHIPS are available through First Lutheran Church. First Lutheran Church provides \$200 towards one week of camp at Lutherlyn. When you register with Lutherlyn, please pay your registration minus the \$200.00 and then email the confirmation letter with the outstanding amount to Suanne O'Dell (sso@flcpittsburgh.org) Further financial support is available if needed by contacting Pastor Evans. Please note that there is a special offering envelope for Lutherlyn in your offering envelope box. Please give to help fund our Lutherlyn scholarships. Thank you!

PITTSBURGH DRAGON BOAT TEAM

Join First Lutheran Church at this year's Pittsburgh Dragon Boat Festival on **Saturday, September 27, 2025**. The Dragon Boat Festival is organized by Pittsburgh Hearts of Steel, an organization dedicated to supporting breast cancer survivors.

Sign up to be a racer, a cheerleader, to bring food, staff the vendor table, or to pledge support in the Parish House, by scanning the QR code, or by visiting tinyurl.com/FLC-dragonboat! **Commitment deadline is May 1.**

We will be fundraising to meet the registration fee of \$1400 once at least 20 people have committed to row.

Contact Sarah (SAM406@pitt.edu) or Deb (dlange312@gmail.com) if you would like more information.



Do you have a fun idea for a team name or t-shirt design? Let us know!

SERVING TODAY

11:00 AM

Presiding Minister

Pr. Evans

Preacher

Pr. Evans

Assisting Minister

Kathy Pfister

Communion Assistants

Barry Balas
Richard King

Lectors

Chuck Torie

Acolyte(s)

C

Ben Pasternak

A

Vivian Evans

BB

Cantor

Sr. Cynthia A. Pock, OLF,
AAGO

Vocalists

The Parish Choir

Head Usher

Kurt Herbst

Usher(s)

Wes Nelson

Altar Guild

Amy Bills
Mary Preuss

CALENDAR

MONDAY, MAY 5

12:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting HOLY CROSS HALL

TUESDAY, MAY 6

1:00 PM Staff Meeting MEZZANINE

7:00 PM Social Justice Book Discussion Group ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

8:00 AM Meal Ministry Prep KITCHEN

12:10 PM Noonday Holy Communion for Healing NAVE

THURSDAY, MAY 8 *Julian of Norwich, Renewer of the Church*

6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting ZOOM

6:00 PM Christian Education Committee Meeting ZOOM

6:30 PM Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal CHOIR LOFT

FRIDAY, MAY 9 *Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, Renewer of the Church*

12:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting HOLY CROSS HALL

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Council Reports Deadline

9:30 AM Parish Choir Rehearsal CHOIR LOFT

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 11

8:30 AM Holy Communion NAVE

9:30 AM Bel Canto Youth Choir Rehearsal CHOIR ROOM

9:45 AM Sunday Church School Classes for All Ages VARIOUS

10:00 AM Parish Choir Rehearsal CHOIR LOFT

11:00 AM Holy Communion NAVE

12:15 PM Cantate Children's Choir Rehearsal CHOIR ROOM

12:15 PM Camp Downtown Planning Meeting HOLY CROSS HALL

THE FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

has served downtown Pittsburgh since its founding in 1837 as the first English-speaking Lutheran Church west of the Alleghenies. Its members come from far and near to participate in its Christian witness in the heart of the city: a witness that is faithful to Holy Scripture and to the historic Lutheran Confessions. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is at the center of its life, providing direction, comfort, and hope. If you are seeking a church home in Pittsburgh, we invite you to become a part of our downtown ministry.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY FOR PRAYER

STAFF

The Rev. Brian A. Evans, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Joseph G. Murdy, OLF, *Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Daniel E. Hall, MD, *Assisting Episcopal Priest*
Sr. Cynthia A. Pock, OLF, AAGO, *Cantor*
Ms. Amy Bills, *Christian Ed., Youth Ministry, & Fellowship*
Mrs. Suanne O'Dell, *Financial Secretary*
Ms. Christine G. Hoffman, *Admin. Assistant to Pastoral Staff*
Mr. Jeremy Caywood, *Building Manager*
Mr. Nicholas Sharer, *Communications Coordinator*
Mr. Benjamin Sommer, *Organ & Sacred Music Scholar*

PASTORS-IN-RESIDENCE

The Rev. Brian O. Bennett, *Lutheran University Center*
The Rev. Erin E. Evans, *St. Paul, Zeli. / Zion, Harmony*
The Rev. Canon Natalie G. Hall, *Church of the Redeemer*
The Rev. S. Cyril Hurnyak
The Rev. Leonard J. Larsen
The Rev. Jennifer Peters McCurry, *Carnegie Mellon Univ.*
The Rev. Caroline Mendis
The Rev. Martin M. Roth

MISSIONARIES

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson
& Dr. Andrew L. Wilson, *Japan*

ORGAN ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Dr. Ann Labounsky Steele

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Joyce Moon Strobel

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship

8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:45 AM Sunday Church School
(Classes for all ages during school year)
11:00 AM Holy Communion

Midweek Noonday Worship

12:10 PM Holy Communion, Wednesdays
(Holy Communion for Healing on the first Wednesday of each month)

SUNDAY PARKING

Accessible parking is available on Grant Street in front of the church. Reduced rate parking is available at the Mellon Square and Smithfield/Liberty garages for \$1.00. See an usher or the attendant at the reception desk for validation. Street parking is free on Sundays until 1:00 PM

If you have a pastoral concern outside of normal office hours, please call our emergency line: **412-471-6507** and the pastoral staff member on duty will return your call as soon as possible.

Visit us online at
flcpittsburgh.org



Assisted listening devices are available. Inquire with an usher.