

**Welcome to First Lutheran Church
Sunday, March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent**



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Welcome to First Lutheran Church

We are so pleased that you have joined us today. If you need help with anything, please do not hesitate to ask your fellow online participants. You can visit [our website](#) for more information.

First Time

New to digital worship? *Us, too!* There may be some hiccups as we learn, but we will hold one another with grace and love. Each week we'll learn from last week's mistakes and try again.

Your offering

Your presence with us today is a gift. There will be a collection today during service. If you are a visitor do not feel that you have to give a monetary offering. If you choose to do so, details for giving can be found during the offering.

Affirmation of Welcome

First Lutheran Church is called to the ministry of reconciliation. We embrace as a gift the diversity of our neighborhood and the world. We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of First Lutheran as we journey toward reconciliation through Christ. We specifically welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

Restrooms

In our church building we have two single stall gender neutral restrooms in the downstairs. Should you visit in person, they're available for your use.

Communion

When we meet in person, we have communion every Sunday, and everyone is welcome. You do not need to be a member or a baptized Christian. We believe that the table belongs to Jesus Christ, so you are always welcome here. Gluten free options are available, as well as wine and grape juice.

Stay in touch!

Instagram: [@firstlutheranmalden](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/firstlutheranmalden](#)

Twitter: [@lutheranmalden](#)

Newsletter: [Sign up](#)

Bold type indicates congregation response.

GATHERING MUSIC

Yun Lee

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

C: Amen.

P: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.**

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

**Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

P: Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Lord, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray,
in - ly blind: oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light!
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide,

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

AM: God of all mercy,

C: by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

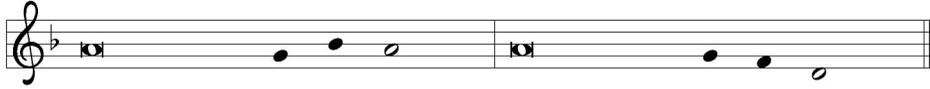
L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMSODY

Psalm 23

Sung responsively



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
- ²**He makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**
- ³He re- | vives my soul
and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.
- ⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**
- ⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- ⁶**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

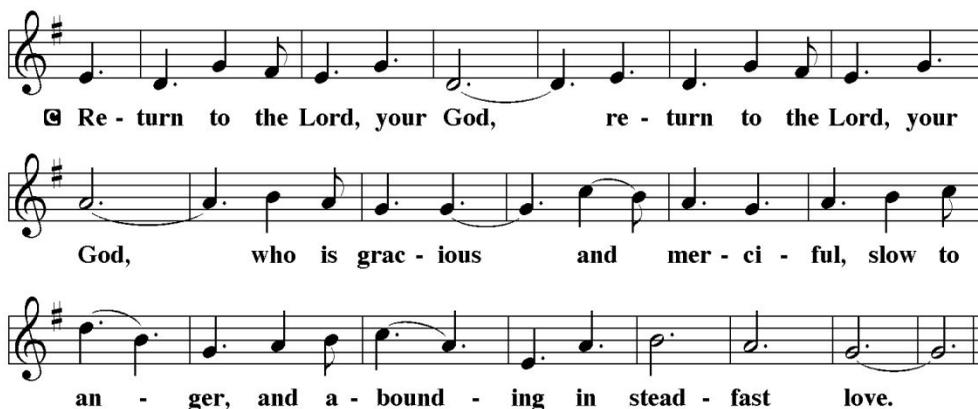
“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST John 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th Chapter.

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

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform

such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Judeans did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Judeans; for the Judeans had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Seminarian Steve Rizzo

REFLECTION

Seminarian Steve Rizzo

HYMN OF THE DAY

#768 Lead Me, Guide Me

**“Lead me, guide me along the way, for if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, o Lord, lead me.”**

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We open and close our time of prayer with #334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery, v. 1:

**“Tree of Life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn.
Though you die in all of history, still you rise with every morn;
still you rise with every morn.”**

A worship leader will read the prayers of the people, then invite you to share your own prayers, whether aloud, silently, or typed into the chat boxes on Facebook and Zoom.

Our prayer list: Ted, Rolf, Lauria, Peter, Anna, Judy, Sky, Sal, Ruth, Bill, Nancy, Richard, Elinor, Liesl, Randy, Carl, Jill, Craig, Samantha, Robert, Donna R, Ellen, Lee, Astrid, Jim, Mark and Julie, Eric, Curtis, Diane, Edda, Todd, Kieran, Jessica, Leslie

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

We worship apart today, but together we are the church and our offerings make our mission and ministry possible. You can give on [PayPal](#), by downloading the “GivePlus” app and searching for “First Lutheran Church” in the 02148 area code, or by mailing a check to: “First Lutheran Church, 62 Church St, Malden MA 20148.”



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, O
Lord, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Music: CREATE IN ME, anonymous

OFFERTORY PRAYER

AM: Let us pray together.

C: Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

P: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us:
renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love,
for the sake of a world in need.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Lead With Love

SENDING

AM: Go in peace, remember the sick and the poor.

C: Thanks be to God!

AM: Please share a sign of peace with one another.

POSTLUDE

Yun Lee

Those serving worship this morning:

Pastor – Rev. Emily Hamilton
Music Director – Yun Lee
Ministers – All God's People
Assisting Minister – Donna Kerry
Lector – Donna Kerry

Those serving worship next week:

Pastor – Rev. Emily Hamilton
Music Director – Yun Lee
Ministers – All God's People
Assisting Minister – Joan Rossi
Lector – Sandra Eriksson-Ellis

Announcements

Sunday School

Sunday School for children ages 4 and older is on hold for the time being. Watch for announcements for when it will return to meeting in the Parish House at 11:15am the first and second Sunday of every month. Speak with Karin Albright for more information.

Bread of Life

First Lutheran's Bread of Life feeding program crew serves a meal on the fourth Friday of each month between 3pm and 7pm. Our next meals will be served on March 27, and April 24. Please contact the church office to learn the current plan for serving our neighbors.

Salemwood School

Although we have cancelled church services until further notice, we are still collecting grocery store gift cards through the end of March, which will be donated to the Salemwood School. The Malden Public Schools have cancelled classes indefinitely due to the coronavirus. Many students receive free breakfast and lunch at their schools. In order to continue to meet that need, the Salemwood School and Malden High School cafeterias will be open during breakfast and lunch hours supplying grab and go breakfast and lunches. During this time, which is difficult for all of us, let us continue to help those less fortunate than us. Please mail the cards to the church office: 62 Church St, Malden, MA 02148. The school will give the cards to families in need. Cards to both Stop & Shop and Market Basket are useful. Please make sure the dollar amount on the card is clearly marked. Thank you for helping us continue to focus on our mission: spreading the love of Jesus with all people!

Camp Uke

Camp Uke classes are on hiatus. Watch for more information.

New Members

Interested in baptism or becoming a member of First Lutheran? Speak with Pastor Emily to learn more about making a commitment to receiving Christ's presence here and building the kingdom of God together.