Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We gather this morning to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Hymns can be found in the red book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Starry Night" (1889)
"Only a few remain awake to see the starry, starry night and witness what they can barely imagine how to tell. One was there, and saw, and tried to paint its divine message. How much of life he gave for this painting we cannot know. We know only that something precious as gold was poured-out at the foot of these hills, the halos, the swirling hues bought with solitary tears." JRC

Prelude: *Sung today during communion, we hear a new setting of this hymn written for handbells. The hymn text speaks of God's powerful Word and promise, paraphrasing Psalm 102 and Psalm 8.*

Invocation: *From the Latin term, invocatio "to call upon." And so it is that we begin our worship, calling upon God to be present with and for us.*

Confession and Forgiveness: *As we enter into God's presence, we become acutely aware of our sinful condition, and confess what God's Word teaches. We hear and trust God's power to forgive through Jesus Christ.*

P = Pastor **A** = Assisting Pastor **C** = Congregation **L** = Leader

Prelude "Many and Great, O God"
arr. Cathy Moklebust

Welcome and Announcements

Quilt Ministry Maurine Hult

Please stand.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Entrance Hymn: *Williard F. Jabusch heard this hymn tune when he was in Israel and wrote these words to match the melody. Paul Westermeyer writes that the "stanzas function as an imperative to hear God's Word and the refrain as a declarative hallelujah at God's speaking."*

Apostolic Greeting: *Hear Paul's words to the Church in Corinth extended to us today.*

Entrance Hymn 519 "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"

Stanza 1 - Sung once by choir, then repeated by congregation **Stanza 2** - All

YISRAEL V'ORAITA

Please be seated.

Apostolic Greeting

℗ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

℣ **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Canticle of Praise

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

C **As you promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, you have also promised us that we might live under those stars as your people, faithful and loved. Show us how to live as your people, and how to nurture all your children with whom we share the same canopy of sky night after night. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Scripture Reading: *God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

Scripture Readings Genesis 15:1-6 OT page 12 in the pew Bible

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message Pastor Peter Strommen

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: *"The epistle [i.e.* ***Romans****] is in truth the most important document in the New Testament, the gospel in its purest expression." (****Martin Luther: Selections From His Writings****, ed. John Dillenberger; New York: Anchor Books/Doubleday Co., 1961, p. 19).*

Gospel Announcement

P The Gospel, according to St. Paul's letter to the Romans, the fourth chapter.

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

Gospel Romans 4:3, 13-25 NT page 146 in the pew Bible

Gospel Response

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Sermon "Trusting the Promise: We Have God's Word on It"

Pastor John Christopherson

Silence for reflection.

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day 621 "Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense"

Stanza 1-3 and 6

Jesus, Meine Zuversicht

Apostles' Creed: *Together, we confess the central tenets of the Christian faith. The Apostles' is the shortest of the Christian creeds, dating back to the fourth century and the early church.*

Apostles' Creed

℗ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

℄ **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 Church

℗ With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Following each petition:

℗ Lord, in your mercy,

℄ **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

℗ Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy: through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

℄ **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

℗ The peace of Christ be with you always.

℄ **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

Offering: *Offering envelopes are available in the pews. Please sign the fellowship register and pass it to those sitting next to you. Children may bring their offering forward at this time.*

Offering

Offering Music

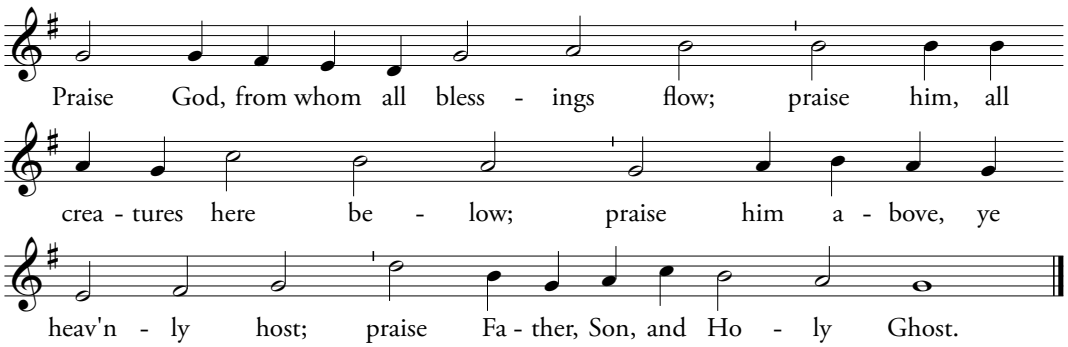
"What You, My God, Ordain Is Good"
Johann Sebastian Bach; arr. Michael Burkhardt

What you, my God, ordain is good; this truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, for with your arm you shall embrace and shield me.
And so to you I yield me.

Offering Music: *This setting of our Sending Hymn says that even in death, we will not be forsaken by our Lord. Today, we hear of God's promise to Abram. When Genesis 25 records Abraham's death it says, "He died, and he was gathered to his people." Who are Abraham's people? The faithful! Abraham made it to the promised land. Death was not the end of the story. It was the new beginning. This promise is also ours. We are Abraham's heirs - children of promise.*

Please stand.

Offering Presentation



Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. Gracious God,

C **you open your hand, filling our lives with all good things. We offer these gifts in thanksgiving for all we have received from your bounty. Accept them for the sake of him who offered his life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

9:30 am The 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.

Service of Holy Communion - 8 AM Worship

Words of Institution

The 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.

P Come, all has been prepared.

C **Let us eat and drink what the Lord has given.**

Please be seated.

Agnus Dei: *Since the fourth century, Christians have sung hymns and songs during the distribution of communion. We begin with words of John the Baptist: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Agnus Dei

Communion: *All who are baptized and trust in Christ's word are welcome to the table of this holy supper, where our Lord is truly present, offering his gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. Please come forward at the ushers' direction. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available.*

Communion Hymn: *Originally, this hymn included seven stanzas and paraphrased Jeremiah 10:12-13: 'It is the Lord who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.'"*

Voluntary: *Based on today's Sending Hymn, we hear the melody harmonized in four-part harmony, followed by four different settings of the hymn tune. Each time, the melody is in the soprano voice.*

Benediction:
*Quoting Numbers 6:24, the benediction is based on two Latin words - **bene** (good) and **diction** (word). God is here saying a blessing upon us, as his beloved daughters and sons as we begin a new week.*

Sending Hymn: *Stanza 1 is introduced today in a setting by Johann Sebastian Bach. This hymn is based on Deuteronomy 32:4. Translator Martin Seltz shares that his version of the hymn text "seeks to give voice to a God who accompanies and suffers with us along life's road."*

Postlude: *Found in a collection of 82 chorale preludes at Yale University in 1980, this setting of the Sending Hymn presents melodic fragments in the soprano voice, while the complete tune is heard in the pedal.*

Communion

Communion Music

Hymn 837 — **"Many and Great, O God"**
LAC QUI PARLE

Voluntary — **"Chorale Partita on WAS GOTT TUT DAS IST WOHLGETAN"**
Johann Pachelbel

Hymn 462 — **"Now We Join in Celebration"**
SCHMÜCKE DICH

Please stand.

Blessing

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

℣ **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

℗ God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

℣ **Amen.**

Benediction

℗ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

℣ **Amen.**

Sending Hymn 776

"What God Ordains Is Good Indeed"
Stanza 1 - Choir **2-4** - All
WAS GOTT TUT

Dismissal

℗ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

℣ **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

"WAS GOTT TUT, DAS IST WOHLGETAN, BWV 1116"
Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome to worship

First Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Community Ministers & Missionaries
Each member of First Lutheran Church

Pastoral Staff
John R. Christopherson, M. Div. Ph.D.
Katherine Olson, M. Div.
L. Lars Olson, M. Div.
Peter Strommen, M. Div.
David Johnson, M. Div. *(Emeritus)*

Visitation Pastors
James E. Christopherson, M. Div.
David C. Houck, B. Div.
Roger N. Noer, M. Div.
Dennis W. Tranberg, M. Div.

Parish Nurse
Jana Elkins, R.N.

Youth and Family Ministries
Marnie Dahle Backer,
Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Heather Smith, Children's Minister

Music Ministries
Zachary Rygiel, M.M.
Director of Music
Larry Olson, Contemporary Worship Coordinator

Contact an Usher
- Assistance with wheelchair seating
- Personal listening device
- For a large print bulletin
- If you are a physician or nurse who is willing to help in an emergency.

Children are welcome in worship
- Children's bulletins for ages 3-6 and 7-12 and activity bags may be picked up in the Welcome Center.
- If your child becomes restless you may view the service on the screen in the Welcome Center.
- Nursery is available on Sundays from 7:45 AM – 12:15 PM.

Church calendar
First Lutheran calender is available on the web at flcsf.org/calendar.

Worship assistants
Violin – Leah Bogue, Denise Alpers
Flute – Shannon Abels
Choirs – Jubilant Singers & FLYGHT
Bell Choir – Belle Campane

Readers
8 AM – Heidi VanVeldhuizen
9:30 AM – Brian Aamlid

Cantor
8 AM & 9:30 AM – Michelle Ahrens

Acolytes
8 AM – Andrea Lawrence
Garret Leiseth
9:30 AM – Zoie Bertsch
Annalisa Graves

Ushers
8 AM – Lyle Eidsness,
Michael Kedik, Dick Kropp

9:30 AM – Barb Halstenson,
Chad Halstenson, Kari Halstenson,
Paul Halstenson, Soren & Brenda
Leiseth family, Harvey Nelson,
Larry Olawsky, Ken VanRoekel,

8th Grade Ushers
8 AM – Rangsimun Bargmann
Alyssa Wiseman
9:30 AM – Armen DerHagopian
Jack Glenn

Flowers
The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Bob and Mary Ann Ellinghausen who would have celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on September 17, by their children: Sharon Moon, Candy Kukuk, Robin Haugland, and Jay Ellinghausen.

Broadcast sponsors
This morning's telecast is fully sponsored in memory of Lloyd Osthus by his wife Jean and Family.

This morning's broadcast on KELO-FM and closed captioning on KSFY are made possible by supporters in the four-state viewing area through gifts and memorials to First Lutheran Church Media Ministries.

Today's broadcast team
Technical Director
Kathy Hein
Audio Board Operator & Announcer
Larry Satterlee
Camera Operators
Max Martin
Garrett Masters
Timekeeper
Deb Crawford

Listen/Watch
8 AM KELO-FM Radio (101.9)
11 AM KSFY-Sioux Falls, KPRY-Pierre and KABY-Aberdeen
Worship telecasts are available online at flcsf.org/telecasts/.

News Notes, Daily Readings & Announcements
News Notes can be found at all entrances to the sanctuary and online at flcsf.org

Worship Services
Saturday (Chapel)
5 PM Vespers with Communion

Sunday (Sanctuary)
8 AM Traditional with Communion
9:30 AM Traditional Worship
11 AM Contemporary Worship

Communion is celebrated the first Sunday each month at the 8, 9:30 & 11 AM services.