

WELCA stands for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Sometimes it is just called Women of the Church or WELCA. Every woman who is a member of First Lutheran is a member of WELCA. They determine how active or inactive they wish to be in events sponsored by "WELCA." ALL are invited to attend any events sponsored by the Women of the Church.

### **GATHERING**

PRELUDE    8:15    *For the Beauty of the Earth*    ASHDOWN  
10:45    *We Gather Together*    Handbell Choir    KINYON

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*Blessed be the triune + God, who pours out love, justice, and mercy in abundance. Amen.*

*Joined by water to Christ and to creation, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.*

*For all gifts of water, we give you thanks, O God.*

*For rivers and lakes, for streams and oceans; for healing rains and clean water to drink:  
we give you thanks, O God.*

*For Miriam's song of liberation on the far bank of the sea,*

*For Isaiah's invitation to "come and drink, without money and without price,"*

*For Jesus's baptism and commissioning in the waters of the Jordan,*

*For the Samaritan woman, revived by living water,*

*For your holy river that waters the tree of life: we give you thanks, O God.*

*For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,*

*For baptismal waters,*

*For the cleansing of our hearts,*

*For the refreshment of our spirits,*

*For waves of mercy,*

*For justice, rolling like rivers: we give you thanks, O God.*

*Blessing, honor, and glory be to you, O God, and eternal gratitude for all your good gifts.  
Amen.*

**GATHERING SONG**    ELW 458 *Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God*    CHRISTE SANCTORUM

## **GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*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.*

*Let us pray. God of abundance, We give thanks every time we remember your goodness. Teach us to respond to your love with faithfulness and generosity. Keep us mindful of your blessings, and especially the blessing of wholeness and salvation that you offer us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our savior. Amen.*

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16**

<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>9</sup>Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you. <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." <sup>12</sup>But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." <sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." <sup>15</sup>She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 107:1-9, 43**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

**<sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble**

**<sup>3</sup>and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.**

<sup>4</sup>Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; <sup>5</sup>hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

**<sup>6</sup>Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; <sup>7</sup>he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.**

<sup>8</sup>Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

**<sup>9</sup>For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.**

<sup>43</sup>Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

**Second Reading: Philippians 1: 3-11**

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 26:6-13**

*The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.*

<sup>6</sup>Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup>a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. <sup>8</sup>But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? <sup>9</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor." <sup>10</sup>But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>11</sup>For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup>By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. <sup>13</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

*"The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

**SERMON** Friar Tucker O'Leary, Sr. Pastor

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Holy Woman, Graceful Giver* (All Creation Sings)

Crystal Clark – soloist

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*With gratitude to God, we remember in prayer our church, our neighbors, and our world.  
Silence is kept.*

*O God, we remember your church across the world. Let your good news be known through many and diverse forms of worship and service. Encourage your faithful people to generosity in all things.*

*God of grace, **receive our prayer.***

*We remember the bounty of creation. In this harvest season, grant us and all creatures sufficient food and water. Heal the earth where it faces drought, flood, fire, and storms. Bless us with the gifts and inclination necessary to participate in the healing of the earth.*

*God of grace, **receive our prayer.***

*We remember the nations of the world and their leaders. Transform the hearts of governments and authorities that compassion and grace overflow from their leadership. Empower us toward acts of charity and advocacy for those who are poor, neglected, threatened by violence, or forced from their homelands.*

*God of grace, **receive our prayer.***

*We remember the struggles of our neighbors. Grant hope and healing to all who are sick, afraid, in pain, or facing transitions. (We pray especially for...). Bless and protect all who serve as caregivers, health care providers, and social workers.*

*God of grace, **receive our prayer.***

*We remember all ministries of this church, and especially Women of the ELCA. Through these organizations, inspire faith, equip leaders, and accomplish works of service and justice.*

*God of grace, **receive our prayer.***

*We remember those who have died: Mary Essman, Beth Hardesty, Nancy Meek, Waultraud Mullinger, and Voleta Willford. May the memory of the saints encourage us to follow their example of thankfulness and generosity. God of grace, **receive our prayer.***

*Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all that for which we pray, trusting in your mercy, given for us and for all, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **SHARING OF PEACE**

*The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.*

## **MEAL**

## **THANKOFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**    *Thanks Be to Thee*    HANDEL

**Offering Song**    ELW 695    *As Saints of Old*

As saints of old their first-fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field  
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield;  
so we today our first fruits bring: the wealth of this good land,  
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Gracious God, we give thanks each time we remember you and your blessings. Receive what we have offered now: our gifts, our time, and our whole selves. Bless our thankofferings and the work of Women of the ELCA that these offerings make possible. Make us good and faithful stewards of your gifts, that all people know the bounty of your love. We pray in the name of Christ, Amen.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*The Lord be with you.*

**And Also with you**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them to the Lord**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*All praise to you, glorious God of grace. Throughout the ages you have blessed us with foremothers of the faith. With Sarah, we bless you for your gift of life. With Ruth, we praise you for family and food. With Miriam, we celebrate our escape from the foe.*

*Remembering Deborah, we honor the words of your prophets.*

*Remembering the woman at the well, we laud you for living water.*

*Remembering Junia, we thank you for those who minister among your people.*

*One with the daughter of Jairus, we wake to life in you.*

*With Mary, we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

*Remembering Martha and Mary, we join Jesus at this meal.*

*Living, he healed the bleeding woman; dying, he cared for his mother; risen, he sent Mary Magdalene in mission.*

*On the night before he died, he 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.*

*With Mary, again we magnify your name:*

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**  
Mighty God of mercy, as you heard the prayers of Hannah, so now hear us.  
Send your Spirit on this bread and wine, that sharing the body and blood of Christ we become  
his body in the world. Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Phoebe, we serve one another  
with zeal.*

*Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna, we tell others of your mercy.  
Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Dorcas, we care for the poor and needy.  
With Mary, once more we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**  
All praise to you, powerful God of peace. We adore you, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
you who mother and feed and comfort us, today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.***

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

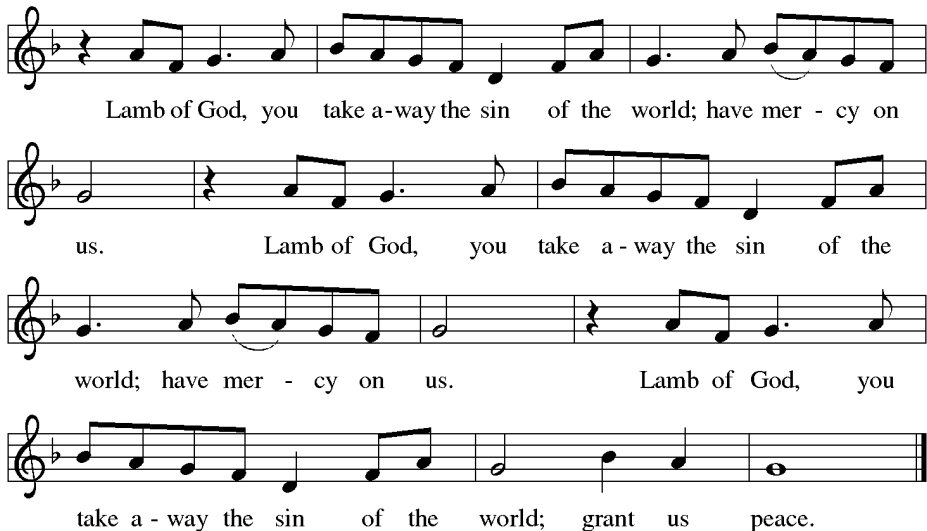
*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The table overflows with Christ's gifts of bread and wine, Come and join in the feast of mercy.*

## **LAMB OF GOD**



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 body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.***

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Holy God, You have provided for us a feast of life. We are nourished and we are grateful. Strengthen us through this meal and send us out to provide for others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. Amen.*

## SENDING

### BLESSING

*God has filled the hungry and thirsty with good things:*

**Let us give thanks to God, for God's mercy endures forever!**

*God has done wonderful works for all people:*

**Let us rejoice in God's steadfast love!**

*God has looked upon us with grace and favor:*

**Let us remember God's mercy!**

*God has put into our hearts a song of thanksgiving and freedom:*

**Let us join our voices in singing our praise!**

*The God of abundance, Creator, + Redeemer, and Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever. Amen.*

**SENDING SONG** ELW 840 *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Please bring your Thankoffering envelopes forward during the closing hymn.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live with gratitude. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* BARR

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