

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1100 E. SUPERIOR ST., DULUTH, MINNESOTA

October 11, 2020

10:00 a.m.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *Love Song*

traditional Ojibwe
from a recording by Jon Romer, Native American flute

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, our Creator, made all that is, and proclaimed that 'it is good.' You have placed us together here on this land. You have shown us how to build community.

**Creator, help us to discover in all Your creation,
the good wisdom about the interconnectedness of all things, about balance
and about living in harmony.**

We are not above nature, we are part of Creation;
we live by the same laws as all of nature
and need to learn from what God has made.

**Creator, help us discover the power that lies
in the wisdom and understanding of our role in the
mysterious web of life and in honoring every living thing as a teacher.
Creator God, may our spirits be in harmony with Yours as we gather
in Your worship!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

SMUDGING CEREMONY

led by Ricky DeFoe

A Native Person should lead this Prayer.

We turn our bodies to the Four Directions as we pray the following prayers.

Begin by turning toward the East and continue to turn, with each prayer, in a clockwise direction.

The smudging ceremony is like a prayer of confession, as we purify our minds and hearts. Sage is burned during the Four Directions prayer. You are invited to imagine drawing the smoke into your heart as we often pray that God would cleanse our hearts.

PRAYER TO THE FOUR DIRECTIONS

Creator God, the Great Mystery, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. We respect the truth of your unseen world and care for your Creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north. We honor you by deeds and not words. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life. Come Great Spirit as we gather together here in your name.

EAST

We face East: To your symbol color gold, the place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, where the Seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honor life around them, all who honor life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again.

And we pray . . .

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

SOUTH

We turn to the South: To your symbol color red, in the South, the place of growing there is wisdom in the earth, both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the earth gives up her lifeblood, so her children's hearts may beat. We give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet.

And we pray . . .

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

WEST

We turn to the West: To your symbol color black, the place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed the Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace.

And we pray . . .

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

NORTH

We turn to the North: To your symbol color white, we look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain. To Jesus who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people. And the Holy Spirit who comes to inspire us.

And we pray . . .

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

EARTH

We face the earth: To your symbol color green, the place from whom we receive those things which sustain our life. It is with your breath, Creator God, and the earth, our mother, that we were created to be part of your whole creation. Keep us mindful, so that we may not despoil, rape, or hurt our mother in any way. Help us to live in harmony with all our relatives.

And we pray . . .

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

SKY

We face the sky: To your symbol color blue, the place from where your breath moves and the warmth of the sun flows. We see our brother the eagle carrying our prayers to you. From the sky you bring us rain, which refreshes the whole earth regardless of race, class, or other divisions that we have placed in your way. Keep us ever mindful of your grace and mercy, which shines upon us every day. Let us be faithful witnesses to your love and your power in all lives.

And we pray . . .

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, come.

OURSELVES

We face ourselves in prayer to you, Creator God. We feel your presence in our lives. We remember that before we were born, you counted every hair on our head and you called us into relationship with you and into relationship with all our relatives: sun and moon and wind, the winged ones, the two-leggeds, the four-leggeds, those who swim, those who crawl, and those who are rooted into the earth. You have given each of us a calling. Help us not to forsake this calling by thinking only of ourselves. We asked for your help, Creator God. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator, to you we give thanks in all you bring and ask for your guidance as we prepare to open our hearts and minds. Within this sacred circle, Jesus Christ is our center in all that we do. Help us to speak with honor and respect to all of creation and be open to the teachings we are given. As we walk this sacred journey together with our relations, open our eyes to understanding, and the strength to truly see the way to live with compassion, love and grace. For with your Spirit, we can face the winds together. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #830 *How Marvelous God's Greatness*



1 How mar - vel - ous God's great - ness, how glo - ri - ous God's might!
2 Each ti - ny flow'r-et whis - pers the great life - giv - er's name;
3 The o - cean's vast a - byss - es in one grand psalm re - cord
4 The star - ry hosts are sing - ing through all the light - strewn sky



To this the world bears wit - ness in won - ders day and night:
the might - y moun - tain mass - es his maj - es - ty pro - claim;
the deep mys - ter - ious coun - sels and mer - cies of the Lord;
of God's ma - jes - tic tem - ple and pal - ace courts on high;



in form of flow'r and snow - flake, in morn's re - splen - dent birth,
the val - leys deep are hymn - ing God's shel - ter for his own;
the ic - y waves of win - ter are thun - d'ring on the strand;
when in these out - er cham - bers such glo - ry gilds the night,



in af - ter - glow at eve - ning, in sky and sea and earth.
the snow - capped peaks are point - ing to God's al - might - y throne.
and grief's chill stream is guid - ed by God's all - gra - cious hand.
oh, what tran - scen - dent bright - ness is God's e - ter - nal light!

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING **Genesis 2:5-9, 18-22**

read by Beth Storaasli

⁵ When no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden,

and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Nehemiah 1:1-4, 2:1-5

read by Mark Knutson

¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital, ² one of my brothers, Hanani, came with certain men from Judah; and I asked them about the Jews that survived, those who had escaped the captivity, and about Jerusalem. ³ They replied, “The survivors there in the province who escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire.” ⁴ When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

¹ In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. ² So the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid. ³ I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors’ graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴ Then the king said to me, “What do you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors’ graves, so that I may rebuild it.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #171 *Heleluyan*

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan;
he - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.

Text: Traditional Muscogee Indian
Tune: Traditional Muscogee Indian; transcribed by Charles H. Webb, © 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House

GOSPEL John 9:2-7

The Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

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

SERMON

Ricky DeFoe

HYMN OF THE DAY #837 *Many and Great, O God* (sung first in the Dakota language)



Wa - kan-tan - ka ta - ku ni - ta - wa tan - ka - ya
1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of
2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -



qa o - ta. Ma - hpi - ya kin e - ya - hna - ke ca,
earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;



ma - ka kin he du - o - wan - ca. Mni - o - wan
your fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your
with you are found the gifts of . . . life. Bless us with



ca - sbe - ya - wan - ke cin, he - na o - ya - ki - hi.
word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
life that has no . . . end, e - ter - nal life with you.

Text: Joseph R. Renville, 1779–1846; para. Philip Frazier, 1892–1964, alt.
Music: LAC QUI PARLE, Dakota tune

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We begin our prayer together:

Triune God,

We come before you

As many parts of a single body;

People drawn from every tribe,

Every nation, every language;

Some Indigenous –peoples of this land;

Some refugees, immigrants, pilgrims –people on the move;

Some hosts, some guests;

All of us searching for an eternal place

Where we can belong.

After each prayer petition, please respond: God, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We end our prayer together:
Triune God, we love you.
Your creation is beautiful.
Your salvation is merciful.
And your wisdom is beyond compare.
We pray this all in Jesus' name. Amen

THE PEACE

As a community let us embrace the ongoing work of understanding and peace making.
The Great Mystery who is God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.
The Great Mystery who is God makes peace between us. Let us share it.
The peace of the Great Mystery be with you in all things.

You are invited to take a moment to offer a prayer of peace into the world.

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Turtle Island Echoes* original composition by Jon Romer
from a recording by Jon Romer, Native American flute; Jacque Tinsley, Celtic harp

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider,
You extend an invitation to offer ourselves in response to your goodness.
Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table,
and which we share in your world in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deuteronomy 2:7

While we are a scattered community today, we remain one body in Christ, rooted and held together by the ever-present love of God. As with the Israelites in the wilderness, God watches over us even as we are apart, providing what is needed to sustain us on the journey.

We know that in times of need, God feeds hungry people and nourishes hungry souls. Tear off a piece of bread and give thanks that in Jesus' name we are refreshed in the desert. As you eat the bread, give thanks for the companions God has provided along the way. May our eyes be opened to see Christ in all things, in every part of creation and in every person we meet. May we remember that we are on this journey together. Give us grateful hearts that we might say miigwech - thank you, for bringing us together and for leading us on the journey ahead. **Amen.**

HYMN #715 *Christ, Be Our Light*



2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



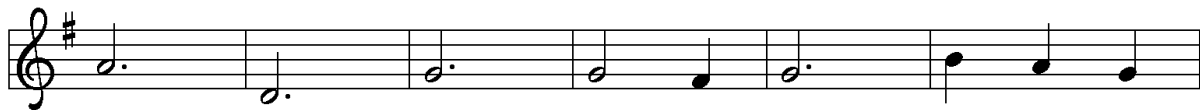
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now we say the Nez Perce version of the Lord's Prayer:

(the Nez Perce are an indigenous people who live on tribal lands in what is now Idaho)

Oh Great Spirit, You are our Shepherd Chief,

in the most high place whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon.

Whatever You want done, let it be done everywhere.

Give us your gift of bread day by day.

Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.

Take us away from wrong doings.

**Free us from all evil, for everything belongs to You.
Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen**

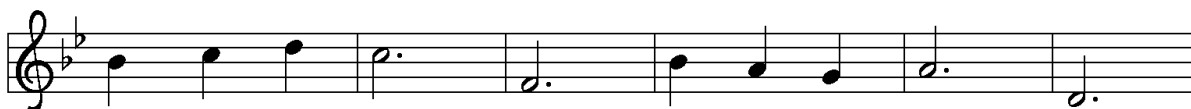
OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Great Spirit, our Creator God,
look upon these faces gathered in holy community together,
and send them anywhere you would have them go,
so that they may embody the word of reconciliation through their actions.
Walk with them so that they may face the winds of change and walk the good road.
Enlighten them. Sustain them. May God our Creator be with you this day and always.
Amen

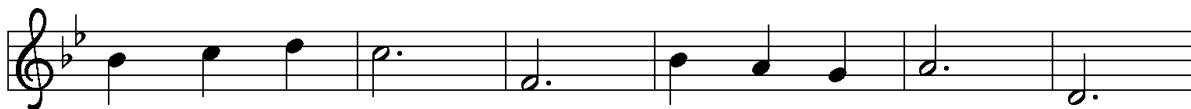
SENDING HYMN #739 *Touch the Earth Lightly*



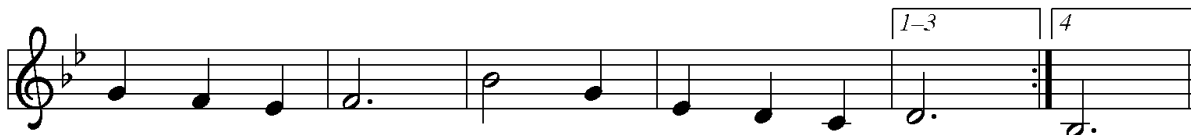
1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour - ish the life of the world in our care:
a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - rend - er,
we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

DISMISSAL

We have honored Christ, our brother; all my relatives, go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Farewell Song*

traditional Ojibwe

from a recording by Jon Romer, Native American flute

In Ojibwe there is no word for a final goodbye.

This beautiful traditional song bridges the present with the future.

MINISTERS	All People of First Lutheran Church
PASTOR	The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
PASTORAL INTERN	Logan McLean Strike
PROGRAM STAFF	Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate Karen Sande, Director of Music Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship Rachael Kresha, Apostle Choir Director, Associate Organist
MUSICIANS	Liz Raduege, LoAnn Stone, Glen Backman, David Haavik, and Michael Fuchs, singers
VIDEOGRAPHER	Sam Weston
VIDEO EDITOR	Stacie Curnow

Thank you to our guest musicians, Jon Romer and Jacque Tinsley, for permission to share music from their CDs, which were funded by a Minnesota State Arts Board grant. Jon was a professor of voice and choral music at Gustavus Adolphus College, started music programs at Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig K-12 school and Leech Lake Tribal College, and recently retired from Bemidji State University. He learned to play the native flute, the bibigwan, from Leech Lake elders. Jacque plays mandolin and harp, and enjoys the qualities of ancient instruments such as flute and harp together. Jon and Jacque, often with other musicians, perform in a group called Timeless Traditions.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Evangelical Lutheran Worship texts and hymns ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917 and One License #A-729428.

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.

We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church