

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

November 8, 2020

10:00 a.m.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Today wisdom calls from the city gates. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

PRELUDE Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*)
16th century German chorale, setting by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Karen Sande, organ

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
in whom we are rooted
and bound together in beloved community.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy Spirit, Root of Life,
**we confess that we too often draw our hope and strength
from human things.**

**Our roots dry up;
they refuse to hold;
and we fall having failed to be drawn together in love
and in you.**

**Reroot us in the soil of your forgiveness
and awaken us to how our lives are intertwined
with one another and the rest of your creation. Amen.**

Beloved of God—in the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
Trust that you are deeply rooted together in Christ.
Stand firm on this promise.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #436 *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



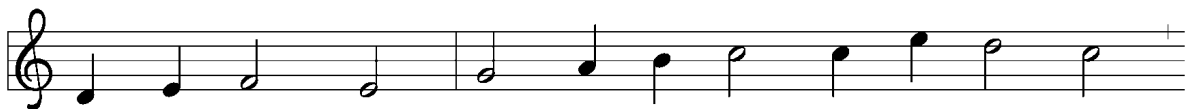
Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING *Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16*

read by Jim Zastrow

¹²Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
¹³She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
¹⁴One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
¹⁵To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
¹⁶because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

read by Mary Zastrow

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died,
so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that
Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who
have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the
sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them
to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore
encourage one another with these words.

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.
Repeat alleluia

Choir: Keep awake | and be ready,* for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming. ***Alleluia***

GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

HYMN OF THE DAY #648 *Beloved, God's Chosen*



1 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment
2 With - in, call forth Wis - dom, to dwell in you rich - ly;
3 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment



com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.
let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ.
com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.



A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment
And from the heart's cham - ber, be - lov - ed and ho - ly,
A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment



that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.
let sing - ing thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er rise.
that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.

THE APOSTLES' 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 CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

or

Bless we the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

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

GOD EXTENDS AN INVITATION

Ann Beck

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 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

tune: *Dix*, arr. Patricia Cota

prerecorded by handbell quartet: Roberta Maughan, Suzanne Rauvola, Karen Sande, Sarah Climis

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
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

Today we remember that we root ourselves in You, our boundless God from whom we draw strength and hope. Although our roots may feel shallow, we trust that You hold us firm, and bind us together in beloved community through the Body of Christ.

In this season of harvest, we take bread, giving thanks for the earth's bounty and the work of human hands. We ponder the holy mystery that You, O Giver of Life, produce the soil for our crops and the ground for our very being. As we eat this bread, we pray for all who hunger for food and justice, humbly asking that we and our gifts might become bread for the world. **Amen.**

MUSIC FROM TAIZE *I Am Sure I Shall See*

I am sure I shall see the good-ness of the Lord in the

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

land of the liv - ing. Yes, I shall see the

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It features a change in time signature from 4/4 to 2/4 at the beginning of the second measure. The lyrics are: "land of the liv - ing. Yes, I shall see the".

good-ness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord.

Last time ☺

The third system concludes the piece. It includes a fermata over the final note of the melody. The lyrics are: "good-ness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord." The phrase "*Last time* ☺" is written above the final measure of both staves.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Nourished by the living God and grounded in this community of faith, we pray:

**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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #593 *Drawn to the Light*



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -



lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

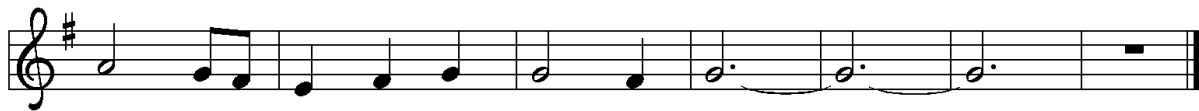
Refrain



Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a



sight to be drawn to the light of God.

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide (*O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf*)

17th century German chorale, setting by Ernst Pepping (1901-1981)

Karen Sande, organ

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 Suzanne Rauvola, Liz Raduege, Dennis Paulson, David Haavik and Michael Fuchs, singers; Roberta Maughan, Suzanne Rauvola, Karen Sande and Sarah Climis, handbells
VIDEOGRAPHER Sam Weston
VIDEO EDITOR Stacie Curnow

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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

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