

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 23, 2020

5:00 p.m.

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE



BREATH OF HEAVEN
WEEK 4—BE FOREVER NEAR ME

BREATH PRAYER

breathe in Breath of heaven,

breathe out be forever near me.

breathe in Breath of heaven,

breathe out be forever near me.

breathe in Breath of heaven,

breathe out be forever near me.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Light the fourth blue candle for love.

Jesus, you are our greatest gift. Fill our homes with love and make us ready to receive you. Amen.

SONG *O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Hayes
prerecorded by Jane Howard, piano

⁴For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows, "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." ⁵And again in this place it says, "They shall not enter my rest." ⁶Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷again he sets a certain day — "today" — saying through David much later, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about another day. ⁹So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; ¹⁰for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did from his. ¹¹Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs.

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

REFLECTION

Lezlie Oachs

MAKING THE WORLD A GENTLER PLACE TO RECEIVE THE CHRIST CHILD

Adding straw to the manger

ADVENT BLESSING

Even as we wait, watch, and wonder,
God is with us.

Amen.

BREATH OF HEAVEN

words and music by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant
prerecorded by Dana Varland, soloist; Bryan Gatten, guitar

Refrain:



Breath of Heav-en, hold me to - geth-er, be for-ev - er near me, Breath of
Heav-en. Breath of Heav-en, light - en my dark-ness, pour o - ver me your
ho - li-ness, for you are ho - ly, ————— Breath of Heav-en.

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
VIDEOGRAPHERS Shania Krause, Sam Weston
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER 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 identity, 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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Order Poinsettias for Advent & Christmas

Help beautify the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please fill out this form and attach a check (made out to FLC) for \$13 per plant.

Return to church office by Monday Dec. 14th.

Name _____ ***Phone #*** _____

Plants _____ *at \$13 each = \$* _____

Given in memory of / in honor of (circle one):
