

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

March 17, 2021

6:00 p.m.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE: CREATED FOR BELOVED COMMUNITY



IN COMMUNITY WITH THOSE ON THE MARGINS

WELCOME

SERVICE OF LIGHT

PROCESSIONAL

Leader or Assistant

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

All

the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

Leader or Assistant

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All *Leader or Assistant*

and the day is al - most over. Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All

and shine within your peo - ple here.

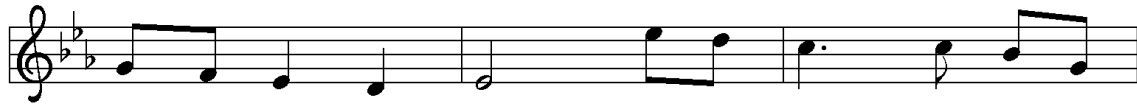
HYMN #561 *Joyous Light of Heav'nly Glory*



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

PRAYER

Blessed are you—holy, hidden God; Spirit of the deep winging wildly over the world's creation; majesty in darkness, guide upon our pathways. Joyful is the dark and brilliant the light—both belonging and leading us to you. **Amen.**

WORD

DIALOG

We are created for community

Drawn together across false divides

Friends and strangers

Neighbors and creatures

The voices from the margins

Intertwined with Christ's

Whose voice also calls from outside the city gates

And from beyond the grave

One with saints who have gone before

And with ones yet to arrive

Making of us one body

One community

Being drawn with others

Into the beloved community of God

READING *Ruth 1:1-17*

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge,
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷Where you die, I will die —
there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

We are created for community.
Jesus shows us the way.

REFLECTION

Cindy Monroe

PRAYER

Mender of division, you sent Christ to heal the world and to gather those on the margins. Bring your healing power to us. May we extend your power and grace to those separated from their communities and those longing for a tangible sign of your love. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR WORLD HUNGER

video by Eli, Nina and JP Thorson

During this season of Lent, we remember the millions across the world who go hungry by gathering an offering for world hunger. Set aside a bowl to use on Wednesdays in Lent as we ask God to make of us a beloved community.

You are also invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to **218-325-9525** with contribution amount followed by the word **hunger**. 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.

VESPER PSALM 141 *Let My Prayer Rise Up Like Incense*

Group One: high voices, Group Two: low voices

All:

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
fore you, the lift - ing up of my
hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Leader or Group One:

— O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two:

O God, I

now; O hear my voice when I

call to you, come to me now; O

cry to you. ————— Let my prayer rise

hear my voice when I cry to you.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to

fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. ————— Keep watch with - in me, God;

of - fer - ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be

watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the

burn - ing bright. ——— Let my prayer rise

light of your love be burn - ing bright.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to

fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. ——— All praise to the God of all - Cre -

of - fer - ing to you.

All

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the
praise to the God of all- Cre - a - tor of life; all
Spir - it of love. _____ Let my prayer rise
praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to
fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. _____
of - fer - ing to you.

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

INVITATION TO THE CROSS

Jesus, in his suffering and death, reveals the very heart of God, a heart of pure unspeakable love, a heart that risks everything for the sake of love, a heart open to the suffering of others and broken by the cruelty of others, a heart alive with love that death could not hold.

Come, to the cross, to the heart of God. Bring your own heart as it is—hardened or opened, empty or full, broken or mended, fearful or overflowing with love, unfaithful or filled with gratitude, God welcomes us as we are and brings to us the healing we need.

MUSIC FROM HOLDEN VILLAGE *Help Us See Your Tears*



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The second staff continues with eighth notes: F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, ending with a whole rest. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Help us see your tears in the eyes of the
least of these, hear your voice in the cries of the op-pressed.

HYMN #725 *When the Poor Ones*



1 *Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne y aún re-par-te,*
 1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;
 2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;
 3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;
 4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed ya-gua nos da,
 when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;
 when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;
 when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;
 when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:
 when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;
 when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us;
 when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:
 when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

Refrain / Estribillo



Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;
 We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.
 we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we journey with Jesus to the cross, 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.**

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, joined together in Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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
MUSICIANS	Aine Miller, Suzanne Rauvola, Brad Anderson, David Haavik, and Michael Fuchs, singers
VIDEO TEAM	Shania Krause, David Sproat, Dale Stahl, Sam Weston
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER	Stacie Curnow

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Evangelical Lutheran Worship texts and hymns ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. Portions of Holden Evening Prayer ©1990 by G.I.A. Pub. *Help Us See Your Tears*, text and music Scott Aaseng ©2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917 and One License #A-729428. CCS WorshipCast streaming License #13132.



Please join us for upcoming Wednesday services, livestreamed at 6:00 p.m., followed by zoom conversation “Acting Against Racism” at 6:30 p.m.:

- Wed, Feb. 24 ~ In Community with Creation (Reflection from the Rova family)
- Wed, March 3 ~ In Community with all the Saints (Colleen Birt)
- Wed, March 10 ~ In Community with our Neighbor (Denise Scheer)
- Wed, March 17 ~ In Community with those on the Margins (Cindy Monroe)
- Wed, March 24 ~ In Community with Christ (Brian Peterson & Paul Anderson)

FLC Community Conversations on Racism and Justice - Wednesdays from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Immediately following each service at 6:30 pm will be an FLC community discussion via zoom, using the articles & conversation guide *Acting Against Racism* published by Christian Century. Please join in this important conversation as we learn and grow together!

The Zoom discussion group begins following the services at 6:30 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88382398856?pwd=SkE4RkFJa1FPQ1IrVUtIRXJPdlkxZz09>

Link to the *Acting Against Racism* document: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrYOqNXABKJFrvnNJ-rZIjr5mKEwwBl/view?usp=sharing>

Article Reading & Discussion schedule

Feb 17 - "Becoming less defensive about White privilege"

Feb. 24 - "James Baldwin reminds us not to be surprised by this"

March 3 - "I believe racism is wrong. So what?"

March 10 - "How do we know Black lives matter to God?"

March 17 - "Why are so many White Americans standing up for racial justice?"

March 24 - "Wearing down structural evil with the ministry of erosion"

*The Sanctuary is open for quiet prayer and reflection each Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Use the Superior St. entrance door leading directly into the Sanctuary.*

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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