

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

April 28, 2024

8:30 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*You are invited to light a candle in prayer on the Tree of Life during the service.
The candle-lighter is hanging on the wall; you may need to take a candle out to light it.
Please pass the Friendship Notebook along your row and greet those around you that you may not know.
We welcome children in worship. There is a family room across from the right front sanctuary doors
and a few steps to the left a staffed nursery for any who wish to use them.
Hearing assist receivers are available at the ushers' station.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE *Mfurahini, Haleluya* (Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia)

Tanzanian song arr. C. Moglebust; Jubilation Ringers

WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The assembly stands.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice moved over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Eden's verdant rivers flowed.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

GATHERING HYMN ELW #869 *We Have Seen the Lord*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, help us to love others as Christ has loved us. Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend, and teach us to abide in your love, that we may show that love to the world.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-39

Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

God's love perfected in love for one another

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL John 15:9-17

Christ the friend and lover

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #453 *Baptized and Set Free*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God. or Bless we the Lord,
Your mercy is great. Thanks be to God.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. All are then seated for the offering.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply text **"fleduluth"** to **73256**. You'll be sent a text with a link to give. Click on the link and enter your giving information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

text Joshua Smith, music Stanford Scriven; Soli Deo Gloria Choir

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the Appletree.

This beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the Appletree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see 'tis found in Christ the Appletree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the Appletree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile,
Under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the Appletree.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

**Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

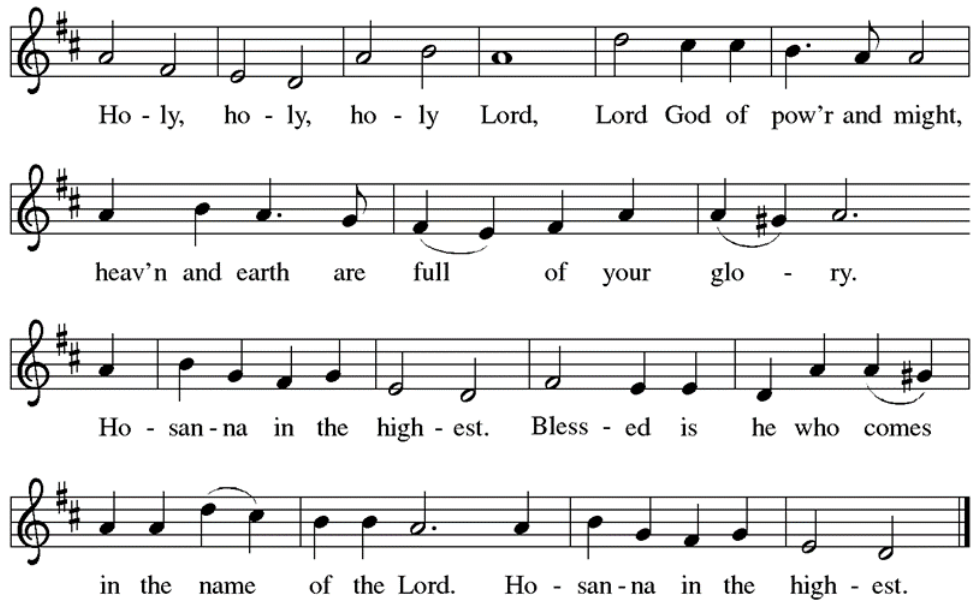
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all of creation,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

The thanksgiving continues with the Words of Institution, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

With grateful hearts, we are honored to pray with Jesus' disciples everywhere:

**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 risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

The assembly is seated.

We practice Eucharistic hospitality; all are welcome. Receive the bread and dip it into the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ACS #955 *Come to the Water of Life*

1 All who are thirst-y for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y for
2 All who are thirst-y for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y for
3 All who are thirst-y for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y for
4 All who are thirst-y for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y for
love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #482 *I Come with Joy*

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #388 *Be Not Afraid*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

Shepherding God,

you have prepared a table before us

and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet

to proclaim your goodness

and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,

our redeemer and friend. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #537 *On Our Way Rejoicing*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

Duke Street, arr. Wilbur Held; Karen Sande, organ

Ministers	All People of First Lutheran Church
Pastor	The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
Program Staff	Karen Sande, Director of Music Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
Reader	Greg Climis
Assisting Minister	Jane Miller
Musicians	Soli Deo Gloria Choir
Audio/Video Team	Shania Krause, Sam Weston

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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

(218) 728-3668 | flcdulth.org | flcduluth@flcduluth.org

