

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

May 5, 2024

11:00 a.m.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - CELEBRATION OF SPRING

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

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

God of Wonders

Words and Music by Marc Byrd

Lord of all cre - a - tion, of wa - ter, earth and sky,
Ear - ly in the morn - ing, I'll cel - e - brate the light.

9
the heav - ens are Your tab - er - na - cle; glo - ry to the Lord on high.
When Istum - ble in the dark - ness, I will call Your name by night.

13
God of Won - ders be - yond our gal - ax - y, You are ho - ly, ho - ly, the

17
u - ni - verse de - clar - es Your maj - es - ty. You are ho - ly, ho - ly;

21
Lord of heav - en and earth, Lord of heav - en and earth.

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

O God, you give birth to all creation.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
cause your word to bring forth new life in us, awaken our hearts,
and enliven us with a patient and expectant hope;
that we may break forth in blossom and stalk,
full of the promise of fruit and grain;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

PSALM 98 *(read responsively)*

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

O LORD, you have made known your victory,

you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the LORD with the harp,

with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

the world and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

The LORD will judge the world with righteousness

and the peoples with equity.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

Christ the vine

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

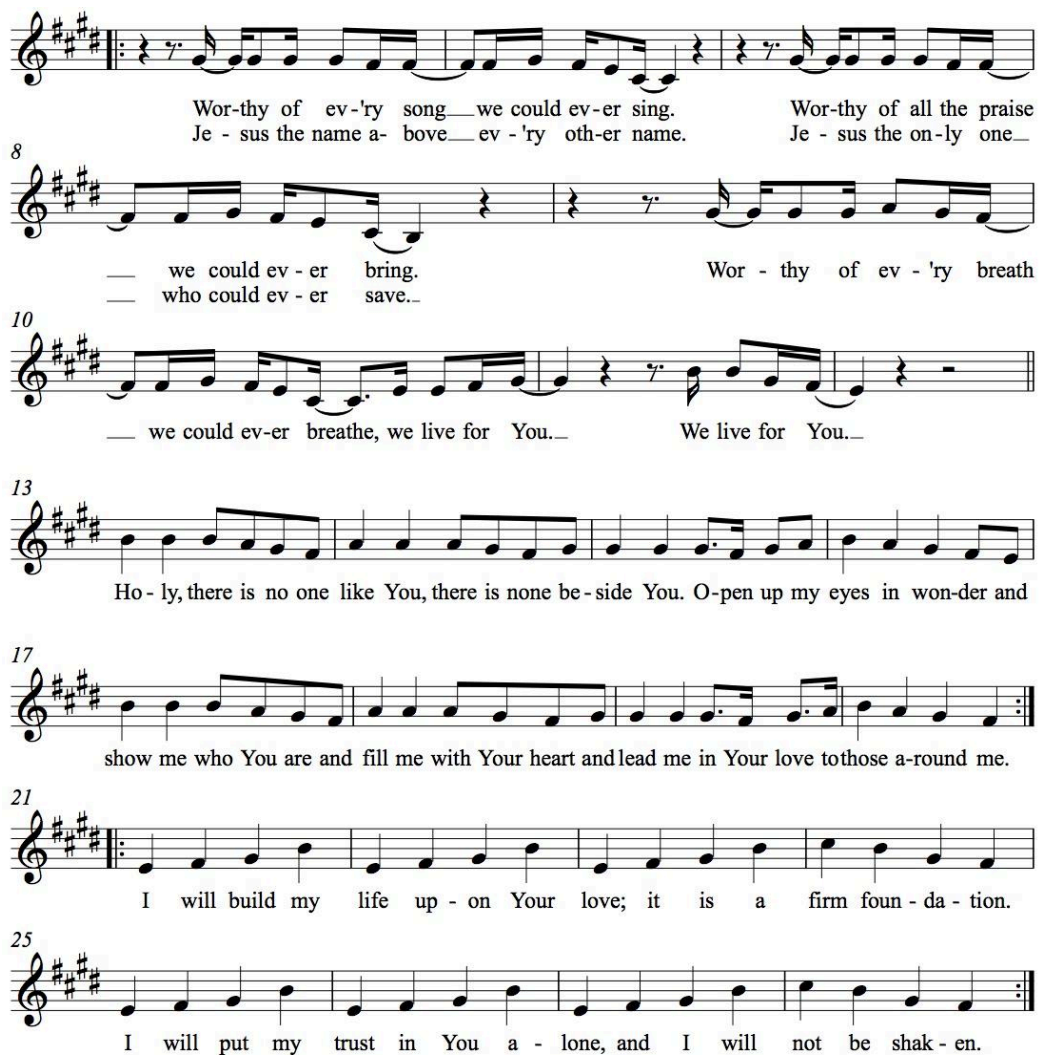
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

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



Wor-thy of ev-'ry song we could ev-er sing. Wor - thy of all the praise
Je - sus the name a- bove ev -'ry oth-er name. Je - sus the on - ly one—

8

— we could ev - er bring. Wor - thy of ev - 'ry breath
— who could ev - er save..

10

— we could ev-er breathe, we live for You.— We live for You.—

13

Ho - ly, there is no one like You, there is none be - side You. O - pen up my eyes in won - der and

17

show me who You are and fill me with Your heart and lead me in Your love to those a - round me.

21

I will build my life up - on Your love; it is a firm foun - da - tion.

25

I will put my trust in You a - lone, and I will not be shak - en.

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these new members, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Charleyne Lemons; Kalie Jeremiason and Carson Schroeder, Vicki, Jeff and Sam Madison; Debra Wichmann and Russel Prihoda; Carie and Bruce Remme; Kerry Vandusen and Tracey Gibbens; Pastor Carolyn and Will Mowchan; Karen and Brian Delegan; Steve Czek; Laurie Berg; Mary Durward; and Karen Segar.

The minister addresses the assembly.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

The assembly is invited to stand and profess.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

The assembly is seated.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

SIGNING OF THE SENSES

Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead.

It is Christ who now strengthens you with this mark of identity and sign of love.

Learn to know and follow the way of the cross.

Receive the sign of the cross on your ears and your eyes.

May you hear the voice of the Lord and see the glory of God.

Receive the sign of the cross on your lips and over your heart.

May you respond to the word of God and may Christ dwell in your heart by faith.

Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders.

May you bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

Receive the sign of the cross on your hands.

May Christ be known in your work, in your studies, and in all that you do.

Receive the sign of the cross on your feet.

May you walk always in the way of Christ.

Let us pray:

God of growth and new life, we gather as companions on the journey of faith. We claim and commit to follow the way of your Son Jesus Christ. As we welcome this new member, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide her and her nurturer. Hold our entire community in your loving care. Make us all faithful disciples of your Way so that we may share the gospel with all whom we encounter. . .

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 "**flcduluth**" 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

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.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Maker of the Moon

Words and Music by Sara Bird

**Hello maker of the moon
Your creation has inspired my every move
You're the science in the stars
There is beauty there is fire in your eyes
Here we are face to face
Lost in wonder at the God of time and space
The universe declares your praise
Singing holy, holy is your name
Hello tamer of the tides
Every day you're moving deeper in my life
You're the wildness in the wind
And I feel you so much closer than my skin
I can feel your heartbeat beating; I can hear my God is speaking
King of creation breathe upon me
You can feel my heartbeat beating; You can hear my spirit screaming
King of creation you amaze me**

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.



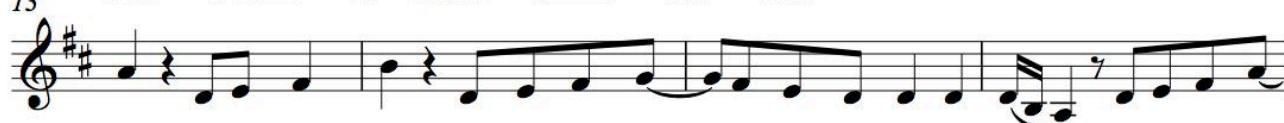
This is my prayer in the des-ert, when all that's with-in me feels dry.
 This is my prayer in the fi-re, in weak-ness or tri-al or pain.
 9 This is my prayer in the har-vest, when fav-or and prov-i-dence flow.



This is my prayer in my hung-er and need. My
 There is a faith proved of more worth than gold. So
 11 I know I'm filled to be emp-tied a-gain. The



God is the God who pro-vides. I will bring
 re-fine me Lord, through the flame.
 13 seed I've re-ceived I will sow.



praise. I will bring praise. No weap-on formed a-against me shall re-main. I will re-joice.



17 I will de-clare, God is my vic-to-ry and God is here.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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	Cindy Monroe
Assisting Minister	Karen Zimmerman
Musicians	Soli Deo Gloria Choir
Audio/Video Team	Shania Krause, Sam Weston, Eric Gatten

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.

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