

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

May 5, 2024

8:30 a.m.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - CELEBRATION OF SPRING

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

*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 *Hózhó*

Connor Chee (b. 1987), Karen Sande, organ

*inspired by the traditional Navajo concept of Hózhó - balance and beauty;
the harmony that binds all things together in the universe*

WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who plants grace in our midst
and showers us with mercy.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another:

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new life,

**It is hard to clear out the debris from our lives
so that there is room in us for the planting of your Word.**

**Forgive us for not tending to our spiritual lives
nor to the world's needs.**

**Forgive us for expecting blossoms
without nurturing the seed.**

As you awaken the earth to a new season of growth,

**Forgive us for our slumbering ways,
and awaken us to the green blades of hope sprouting in our midst.**

Love comes again like wheat arising green.

We are forgiven ☩ and raised up in Christ's name.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #377 *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

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



O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,



at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.



Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,



that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #447 *O Blessed Spring*

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 these new members, we pray that the Holy

Spirit will guide and nurture them. 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 *Exultate Justi*

text Ps. 33:1-5, music R. Viadana; Chamber Choir

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.
Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Gracious God, we give thanks for new life springing forth
from field and vine and from our renewed lives.**

**May these gifts that begin as shoots and buds,
blossom into life for us and the world;
through the Risen One we pray. 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.

In the Son you sent us the living bread from heaven.

By the Spirit you plant your word among us,
filling the world with the promise of new life in your holy name.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes
3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and
scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the
flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts
tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.
Refrain: Assembly
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's
glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow - er and might.

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

Rooted as trees planted by streams of water, 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.**

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



1 O Lamb of God, to earth you came to
2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to



save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from



on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #379 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

COMMUNION HYMN *We Praise You for the Life*



1 We praise you for the life that stirs when
2 We praise you for the sum - mer sun, for
3 We sing your praise for au - tumn's glow, for
4 We sing your praise through win - ter's night, when
5 We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, and



spring - time warms the sleep - ing earth; but
rip'n - ing grain and length - ened days; but
har - vest yield from spring - time seed; up -
earth in fro - zen si - lence lies, for
praise the Spir - it, with the throng of



most, we praise the grace that lures our
most, we praise you for the Son whose
on our hearts your grace be - stow till
prom - ise of re - turn - ing light, for
saints and an - gels, joined as one in



slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth.
light brings heal - ing in his rays.
faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
life in Christ that nev - er dies.
grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

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

ANGLER'S BLESSING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #506 *The Word of God is Source and Seed*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation*

arr. Paul Manz; 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	Mary Streufert
Assisting Minister	
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 | fcduluth.org | fcduluth@fcduluth.org