

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

October 19, 2025

8:30 a.m.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

*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** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

tune: *Hyfrydol*, arr. Aaron David Miller; Bob Boman, trumpet; Karen Sande, organ

**WELCOME**

*The assembly stands.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*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,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God,

**we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost  
and have been found.**

**Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN ELW #632** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus 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 Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely

day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

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

### TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

#### FIRST READING Genesis 32:22-31

*Jacob's struggle with the angel: I'll not let go until you bless me*

Word of God.

**Word of Life.**

#### SECOND READING 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

*In the presence of Christ the judge, proclaim the message*

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.

### GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

*The widow begs for justice; God grants justice to those who cry to him*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

Beth Holst

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

### HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #1086 *O God, Who Gives Us Life*

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
 2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,  
 3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

**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. 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 ANTHEM *I Lift My Eyes*

text: Psalm 121; music by Dan Forrest; Chamber Choir

I lift my eyes unto the hills, from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will preserve your soul.  
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

*The assembly stands.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord of the harvest,  
**we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.**  
**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,**  
**but on you, who richly provides for us.**  
**Multiply what we have gathered**  
**to bless all who are suffering and in need,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all 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, God of pow'r and  
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

We pray as Jesus taught:

**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.**

*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.*

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

## 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 HYMNS:

**ELW #465 *As the Grains of Wheat***

**ACS #1078 *There Is a Longing in Our Hearts***

*Refrain – All*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -  
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our  
hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

- Leader:
1. For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.  
In sorrow, in grief: be near; hear our prayer, O God. **Refrain**
  2. For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.  
In weakness, in fear: be near; hear our prayer, O God. **Refrain**
  3. For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.  
In sickness, in death: be near; hear our prayer, O God. **Refrain**
  4. Lord, save us, take pity, light in our deepest night.  
We call you; we wait: be near; hear our prayer, O God. **Refrain**

**ACS #967 *This Is Christ's Body***

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with

mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,  
with mer - cy and love.

bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together: O God,  
**through this meal you have strengthened us  
 and appointed us to be your servants.**  
**Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
 with all in need.**  
**We ask this in Jesus' name. 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 #583 *Take My Life, That I May Be***

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude *When in Our Music God Is Glorified***

arr. Kevin Hildebrand

**Ministers** All People of First Lutheran Church  
**Pastor** The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman  
**Presiding Minister** The Rev. Will Mowchan

**Guest Preacher** Beth Holst  
**Program Staff** Karen Sande, Director of Music  
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities  
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship  
**Assisting Minister**  
**Reader** Shirley Wuchter  
**Musicians** Bob Boman, trumpet; Chamber Choir  
**Audio/Video Team** Eric Gatten, 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, or where they might be on their faith journey. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land. We are committed to the work of racial justice. We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

**faithlovecommunity**  
First Lutheran Church

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