

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

October 26, 2025

8:30 a.m.

REFORMATION SUNDAY AND CONFIRMATION

Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us.

All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake.

Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.

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 *Sonata: Andante pomposo, Allegretto* A. Corelli (1653-1713), arr. for brass & organ by S. D. Wolff

WELCOME

The assembly stands.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Words of Martin Luther (1483-1546)

This life, therefore, is not righteousness,

Not health, but healing,

Not being, but becoming,

Not rest, but exercise.

We are not yet what we shall be,

But we are going towards it.

The process is not yet finished,

But it is going on.

This is not the end,

But it is the road.

All does not yet gleam in glory,

But all is being purified.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #504 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

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

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness.
Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you,
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 *Presentation of Bibles*

Spark Story Bible: Livy Papke-Larson, Madelyn Johnson, Rocky Remark, Evelyn Merth, Kason Ronayne

Spark Bible: Linden Westphal, Calvin Karlgaard, Sam Madison, Lila Marynik,
Minnie Peterson, Weston Anderson

FIRST READING Psalm 84:1-7 (*read responsively*)

How dear to me is your dwelling,

O Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

They will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height,

and the God of gods will be seen in Jerusalem.

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

The good fight of faith

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 Luke 18:9-14

A Pharisee and tax collector pray together

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. Loufmann

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

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #815 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of

Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

PRESENTATION

I present _____ who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism:

Elliott Aronson, Arthur Goodman, Eli Thorson, Caitlin Wedge

Confirmands share Bible verses.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called *them* to yourself,
enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished *them* in the community of faith.

Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

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?

Each person responds:

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

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support these people and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The confirmands kneel. Parents are invited forward.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

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 Lamp*

music by Gwyneth Walker; Soli Deo Gloria Choir

text: Matthew 25:35-40 and *Mother of Exiles* by Emma Lazarus, adapted by G. Walker

When I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was shivering, did you bring me clothes?

When I was thirsty, did you bring me water? When I was homeless, did you give a home?

When I was fearful did you give protection? When I was injured, did you offer care?

When I was threatened, did you stand for justice? And when imprisoned, keep a vigil there?

O my sisters! O my brothers! If you do this for the least of these, you do this for me, with God in your heart.

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these the homeless, the homeless tempest-tossed to me.

I lift my lamp beside the golden door! O my sisters, with God in your heart.

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.

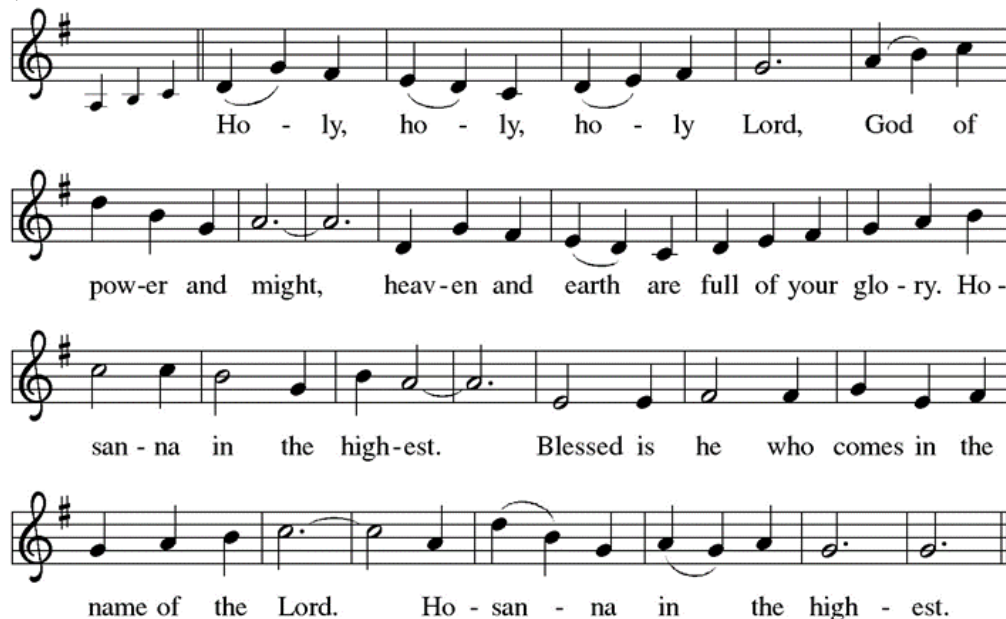
We lift them to the Lord.

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-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed 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

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.

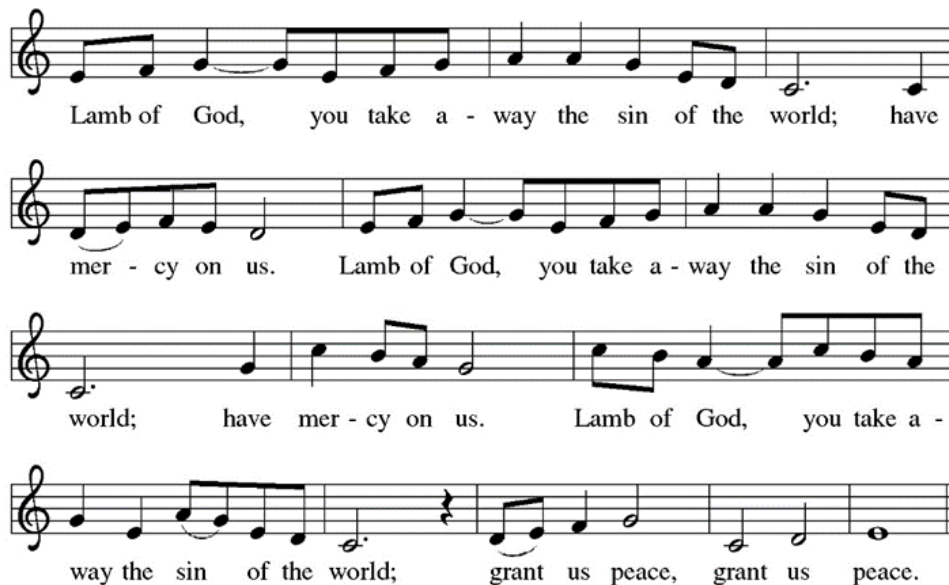
The assembly is seated.

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



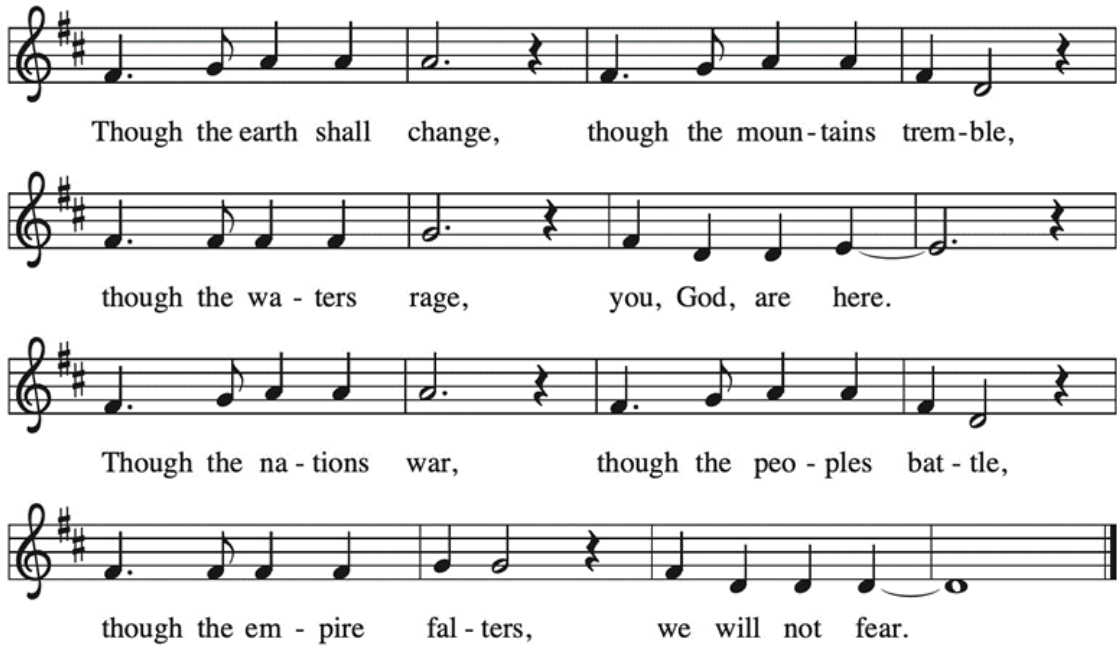
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #801 *Change My Heart, O God*

ELW #525 *You Are Holy*

ACS #1035 *Though the Earth Shall Change* R. Vegdahl & Tom Witt, based on Ps. 46



Though the earth shall change, though the mountains tremble,
 though the waters rage, you, God, are here.
 Though the nations war, though the peoples battle,
 though the empire falters, we will not fear.

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.

For all that God can do within us,
 for all that God can do without us,

Thanks be to God!

For all in whom Christ lived before us,
 for all in whom Christ lives beside us,

Thanks be to God!

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,
 for where the Spirit wants to send us,

Thanks be to God!

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 be with you and on your way together, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #878 *Soli Deo Gloria*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Ein' feste Burg ist Unser Gott; arr. Wilbur Held

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

Assisting Minister

Reader Terry Karlson

Musicians Brass Ensemble: Bob Boman, Mel Karlson, trumpet;
Trevor Engstrom, Greg Ojakangas, trombone; Soli Deo Gloria Choir

Audio/Video Team Eric Gatten, Shania Krause, Sam Weston

Acknowledgements *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and *All Creation Sings* texts and hymns ©2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917, One License #A-729428, CCLI License #1816436, CCS WorshipCast Streaming License #13132.

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

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