

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 7, 2025

11:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG ACS #905 *We Are Waiting for Jesus*

words and music by John Helgen

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

In a world full of fear, when do you experience peace?

We experience peace in the quiet of early morning before our schedules begin.

We experience peace when we can have a difficult conversation with someone we love without breaking the relationship.

We experience peace when we act to resist injustice and inequality.

This is true:

Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.

Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this Good News.

sing verse 2:

**We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace.
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us.
We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. 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,
whose home is heaven and earth,
Whose presence and freedom are sure.

Amen.

Let us open our hearts to God
confessing our sin in the presence of our Creator
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Long-expected One,
You promise to strengthen and help us
and yet sometimes with John the Baptist
We wonder if we should turn elsewhere
You call us and name us your servants
And yet with Jeremiah we have our excuses
You repeatedly tell us to not be afraid
But our anxieties take over
and too often win the day
Replace the fear that binds our hearts and tongues
with words of hope, songs of joy and acts of courage

People of God,
In our honesty, **we are heard.**
In our worries, **we are held.**
In our failings, **we are forgiven.**
In our fear, **we are not alone.**

This is the good news –
“I have chosen you,” says God
“Do not be afraid for I am your God
I will strengthen you and I will help you.”
We are set free ☩ saved by grace
Prepared to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING *Glory (Let There Be Peace)*

1. One star burns in the dark-ness, shines with the prom-ise, Em-man-u -
2. One voice speaks for the voice-less, hope for the hope-less, Em-man-u -
-el. One child born in the still-ness, liv-ing with-in us, Em-man-u -
-el. One love brings us to-geth-er, now and-for-ev-er, Em-man-u -
-el. We're sing-ing: Glo-ry, Glo-ry. Let there
-el. be peace. Let there be peace. Sing-ing: Glo-ry, Glo-
ry. Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

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

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to trust that you are bringing forth a new thing. Through your peace, open our hearts to see your active work in our world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Andrea Bonneville

READING Isaiah 43:19-21

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL Matthew 11:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Bonneville

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *God With Us*

1. Oh, You've come to bring peace,
 (2. Oh, You've come) to be Hope

to be Love, to be near - er to us. You've come to bring life,
 to this world, for Your hon - or and name. And You've come to take sin,

to be Light, to shine bright - er in us. Oh, Em - man - u -
 to bear shame, and to con - quer the grave. Oh, Em - man - u -

el, God with us. Our De - liv - er - er, You are Sav - ior.
 el, God with us.

In Your pres - ence, we find our strength o - ver ev - 'ry - thing, our Re - demp - tion, God with

us. You are God with us. 2. Oh, You've come us.

COMMUNION HYMN *Great, Are You Lord*

**You give life
You are love
You bring light to darkness
You give hope
You restore every heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord.**

**(chorus) It's Your breath in our lungs,
so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs,
so we pour out our praise to You only.**

**And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
Great are You, Lord**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

**O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger,
bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table
with our siblings who are sick or homebound.
May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community,
and by the Bread of Life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

May you look for God's spirit.
May you reach for each other's hands.
May you choose courage when it is needed
And in all things, may you remember
that good news is louder than fear.
In the name of the one ✠ who calls,
who sends, and who journeys with—
go in peace and
be not afraid.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Send Down Your Spirit*



1. Though I wage war _ with - in, _ my bro - ken heart.
 2. Though I fail to _ be - lieve, _ my wan-d'ring heart.

8



_ can - not _ be - gin to un - der - stand who _ You are, _ and how You love.
 _ ~ longs _ to see and com - pre - hend who _ You are, _ and know Your mer -

§ CHORUS

12



_ me. _ Lord, _ send down Your Spir - it, let me re - ceive.
 - cy. _

16



_ Your peace. _ Lord, _ send down Your wis - dom, let _ my trust.



_ in You _ in - crease.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Ministers All People of First Lutheran Church
Pastor The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
Associate Pastor The Rev. Andrea Bonneville DeNaples
Program Staff Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship

Assisting Minister
Reader Rachel Johnson
Musicians The Rising Sound
Audio/Video Team Shania Krause, Sam Weston, Eric Gatten

Acknowledgements *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, With One Voice* and *All Creation Sings* texts and hymns ©2024 Augsburg Fortress. Some of the words of the liturgy are taken from *Sundays & Seasons* and *A Sanctified Art*, and some were written by Pastor Dianne O. Loufman. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917, ©2024 a sanctified art | sanctifiedart.org, One License #A-729428, CCLI License #1816436, CCS WorshipCast Streaming License #13132. *O Come O Come Emmanuel* arranged by Bryan 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, 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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