

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 7, 2025

8:30 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*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 staffed nursery down the hall.  
Hearing assist receivers are available at the ushers' station.*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come/O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Brenda Austin; Jubilation Ringers

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.

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**

*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 HYMN ELW #256 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People***

**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**



**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Looking Out a Prison Window*



Look - ing out a pri - son win - dow, who can  
All the things that keep us cap - tive shrink our  
To our sib - lings still im - pris - oned be - hind  
We are called to li - ber - a - tion, to be



see the flow - ers bloom? Hope dis - solves like dreams at  
op - ti - mis - tic faith We must prac - tice hope on  
bars of steel or fear Bring the mes - sage from our  
freed and to set free Break - ing chains of world - ly



day - break leav - ing us an emp - ty room Still be - yond what  
pur - pose e - ven when our spi - rits break 'Til at last our  
Sav - ior: hope is real and dawn - ing near Tell the gos - pel  
pow - ers who would claim our li - ber - ty Bo - dy, spi - rit,



we can see God is al - ways plant - ing seeds  
free - dom comes And we fin - ally see the sun  
all a - round New life springs up from the ground  
mind and heart Li - ber - ate each cap - tive part

**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 "**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 ANTHEM** *O Come, Emmanuel*

music: Elaine Hagenberg  
Soli Deo Gloria Choir; Teresa Aho, cello

*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Inbreaking God,

**you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**

**With this meal you make fertile our parched places,**

**that we may rejoice and be for the world**

**signs of your abundant life. 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef. It begins with a 6/8 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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. Bless - ed is the One who comes, who Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a repeat sign at the end. The word "All" is written above the first measure of the second line.

*All*  
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.  
Bless - ed is the One who comes, who  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Trusting that God comes near to us when 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.**

*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

Here at this table, there is enough room, enough food, enough love for everyone.  
Here at this table, Jesus has saved each of us a seat.  
Here at this table, there is no fear  
for all are invited and all are welcome.  
Come.

#### LAMB OF GOD

The musical score for 'Lamb of God' is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second staff begins with the word 'All' above it and contains the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The third staff contains the lyrics 'world; have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.' and is marked with a first ending bracket labeled '1., 2.'. The fourth staff contains the lyrics 'world; grant us peace, grant us peace.' and is marked with a second ending bracket labeled '3.'.

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

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ACS #901 *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

ELW #247 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

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

*The assembly stands.*

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, who journeys with—  
go in peace and  
be not afraid.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN ELW #266 *All Earth Is Hopeful***

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, J. S. Bach

<b>Ministers</b>	All People of First Lutheran Church
<b>Pastor</b>	The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	The Rev. Andrea Bonneville DeNaples
<b>Program Staff</b>	Karen Sande, Director of Music Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	
<b>Reader</b>	Paul Kilgore
<b>Musicians</b>	Jubilation Ringers, Soli Deo Gloria Choir; Teresa Aho, cello
<b>Audio/Video Team</b>	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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