

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

February 18, 2026

12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY

*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.
Hearing assist receivers are available at the ushers' station.*


GATHERING

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

The assembly stands.

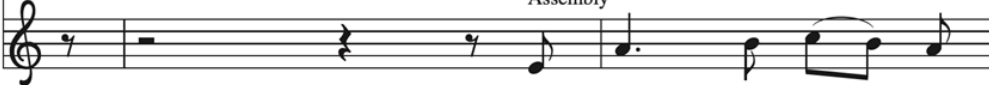
GATHERING HYMN ACS #921 *Return to God*

Leader




1 In all af - flic - tion
2 With great en - dur - ance
3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship
4 With hum - ble spir - it
5 By speech that's truth - ful
6 To cease op - pres - sion
7 By lov - ing jus - tice
8 With gen - tle kind - ness

Assembly



1 In all af - flic - tion
2 With great en - dur - ance
3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship
4 With hum - ble spir - it
5 By speech that's truth - ful
6 To cease op - pres - sion
7 By lov - ing jus - tice
8 With gen - tle kind - ness

All



re - turn, re - turn to 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

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Return to the LORD, your God

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Now is the day of salvation

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ACS #1025 *If We Live, We Live to the Lord* (sing twice)

If we live, we live to the Lord. If we
die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or
wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

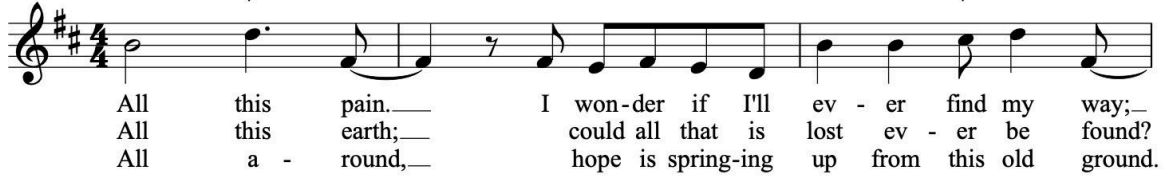
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

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

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #925 *Beautiful Things*



All this pain. I wonder if I'll ever find my way;—
 All this earth;— could all that is lost ev - er be found?
 All a - round,— hope is spring-ing up from this old ground.

4




— I won-der if my life could real - ly change___ at all.___
 — Could a gar-den come up from this ground___ at all?___
 — Out of cha-os, life is be - ing found___ in you.___

9



You make beau-ti-ful things,___ You make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust.___

13



You make beau - ti - ful things,___ You make___ beau - ti -

15



ful things out of us.___

INVITATION TO LENT

We are invited to trust that we belong to God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the One ☩ who creates out of earth, ashes, and dust—
 let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another
 trusting in the promise of forgiveness and in mercy that endures forever.

Silence is kept for reflection

Let us turn in confession to the One who knows us completely.

We pretend everything's okay when it's not

In our lives in our families in our country

We act as if what is happening to creation and to others

has nothing to do with us

We hide our shame

We harbor resentment and hold onto anger

We find it too easy to blame

We are afraid of letting people know who we really are

We are too overwhelmed by our own lives

to be able to care for others

We don't know how to ask for help

We avoid hard conversations finding it easier to walk away

We confuse strength with weakness

and weakness with strength

As those we name Adam and Eve tried to hide from You in the garden

We, too, seek to conceal:

our unkind thoughts

our fragile bodies

our small hearts

and our hoarding ways.

We are buried in busyness

And have no time for You

We find it hard to come clean

with our doubts, our suspicions, our prejudices, our fears

We find it hard to believe in You or in Your goodness

And yet here we are

Offering ourselves as you know we are

Not keeping it a secret that we are a mess

and in need of healing

Forgive us

Unmask us

Help us to trust that you can make beautiful things out of us

God who sees through our pretenses

beckons us to come out of hiding

so that we might be surprised with love.

In the name of Christ ✝ we are forgiven

and God does make beautiful things out of us.

Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

In life and in death, I belong to God.

Please come forward to receive ashes upon your forehead.

After receiving ashes, you are invited to place ashes on the forehead of the next person saying:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

During the imposition of ashes, you are invited to join in singing:

HYMN ACS #919 *Remember That You Are Dust*

music by Mark Mummert

1* 2
Re - mem - ber that you are dust, and to
dust you shall re - turn.

** May be sung in canon*

HYMN *God of Love, Hear our Prayer*

words and music by John Helgen

God of love, hear our prayer, we are trust - ing in your mer - cy,
God of love, hear our prayer, grant us your peace.

HYMN *Bless the Lord, My Soul*

words and music from the Taize Community

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name. —
Ten - go sed de ti, oh fuen - te del a - mor. —
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.
Ten - go sed de ti: tu a - mor es li - ber - tad.

HYMN ACS #1033 *Nothing Can Trouble* words by Teresa of Avila, music by Jacques Berthier

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te_es - pan - te.
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.

Quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta. Na - da te tur - be,
Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,

na - da te_es - pan - te. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
noth - ing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

After those who desire ashes have received them, the minister continues:

We are marked with palms and ashes,
with the remembrance of joy and sorrow,
with death and resurrection, with life and life everlasting.

We are unmasked and marked with the cross of Christ. Our sins ☩ are forgiven. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 (7:00 p.m.) *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* music: Carl Mueller, Soli Deo Gloria Choir

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.*

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

O God, maker of heaven and earth,

**You provide manna in the wilderness,
and streams of living water nourish all your creation.**

**With these gifts, awaken us to bear witness
to the good news of your love and mercy for all,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 call your people to return to you
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, remembering our baptismal promises
we may come to live as your people once again.

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

Seeking the good news of God:

**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

Here, at this table

There is good news for you.

Come and be surprised by the goodness of God.

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 station is available.*

LAMB OF GOD

words and music by Marty Haugen



- 1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
- 2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
- 3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
- 4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMN ELW #461 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

HYMN ELW #465 *As the Grains of Wheat*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: O God, divine mystery,
In this meal you reveal to us the bread of life.
Breathe life into parched places,
and fill us with the Spirit of your love.
May we become Christ's body in the world,
surprising people with the good news of your love. 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 ACS #924 *As the Winter Days Grow Longer*



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live out the good news.

Thanks be to God!

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
Musicians Aine Miller, cantor (12:00 p.m.)
Emily Bowman, cantor; Soli Deo Gloria Choir (7:00 p.m.)
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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