

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

March 8, 2026

11:00 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

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,
who forgives our brokenness,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us take off our masks before God and one another (Ash Wednesday)

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

have mercy on us

For trusting that the world's temptations deliver more joy than you (Matthew 4)

have mercy on us

For believing that your blessing is for us but not for our neighbors (Genesis 12)

have mercy on us

For our small-minded ways and for doubting that change could ever come (John 4)

have mercy on us

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world (John 9)

have mercy on us

For dwelling in tombs of others' and of our own making
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life (John 11, Ezekiel 37)

have mercy on us and surprise us with your good news

God does surprise us

With grace that is wild and unruly
with mercy that is abundant and unexpected
with love that is expansive and unending

So if we are wondering if we are forgiven

The answer is and always will be: "Yes!"

In the name of Jesus Christ ☩ we are forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING *Meet With Me*



I'm here _ to meet _ with You, _ come _ and meet .

4



_ with me. _ I'm here _ to find _ You, _ re - veal _ Your - self .

CHORUS

8



_ to me. As I wait _ You make _ me strong, _ as I long .

11



_ You draw me to _ Your _ arms; _ As I stand _ and sing .

14



_ Your praise _ You come, _ You come _ and You fill _

16



_ this _ place. Won't You come, _ won't You come and fill _ this _ place? _

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

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 Dianne O. Loufman

READING Exodus 17:1-7

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and
mer-cy; Come, seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

GOSPEL John 4:5-42

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *Stand in Your Love*

When dark - ness tries to roll o - ver my bones, when sor
 Shame no long - er has a place to hide; I

3
 - row comes to steal the joy I own, when bro - ken-ness and pain is all I know,
 - am not a cap - tive to the lies. I'm not a - fraid to leave my past be - hind.

6
 I won't be shak - en, I won't be shak - en. My

9
 fear does - n't stand a chance when I stand in Your love. My

11
 fear does - n't stand a chance when I stand in Your love. My

13
 fear does - n't stand a chance when I stand in Your love.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Sing response before, then after each petition.*

ACS #1077 *Mercy, We Abide in You*

words and music by Bret Hesla

Refrain - All *Fine*

Mer - cy, we a - bide in you. Stir in us, we pray.

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 “**fjcduluth**” 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 MUSIC

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.

The thanksgiving continues with the Words of Institution, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

Seeking the good news of God, 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.

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 wafers are available upon request.*

COMMUNION *Come As You Are*

**Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come, brokenhearted, let rescue begin.
Come find your mercy. O sinner, come kneel;
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal,
earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.**

**(chorus) Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.
All who are broken lift up your face.
O wanderer, come home; You're not too far.
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.**

**There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed;
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace.
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure.**

**Come as you are. Come as you are.
Fall in His arms. Come as you are.**

**There's joy for the morning. O sinner, be still.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.**

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 *Your Grace is Enough*



Great is Your faith - ful - ness, oh God.____
Great is Your love____ and jus - tice, God.____

5



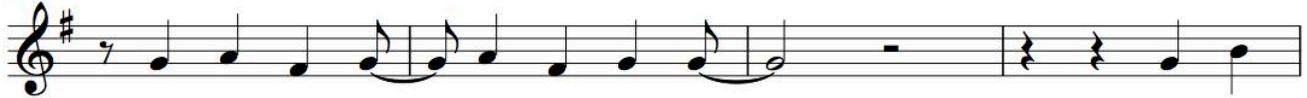
You wres - tle with____ the sin - ner's heart.____
You use the weak____ to lead the strong.____

9



You lead us by still wat - ers, in - to mer - cy.
You lead us in the song of Your sal - va - tion.

13



And noth - ing can keep us a - part.____ So re -
And all Your peo - ple sing a - long.____

17



mem - ber Your peo - ple, re - mem - ber Your child - ren. Re -

21



mem - ber Your prom - ise oh God.____ Your

25



grace is e - nough, Your grace is e - nough, Your

29



grace is e - nough,____ for____ me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live out the good news.

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
Musicians The Rising Sound
Audio/Video Team Eric Gatten, Shania Krause, Sam Weston

Acknowledgements *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, With One Voice* and *All Creation Sings* texts and hymns ©2026 Augsburg Fortress. Liturgical music is from Setting 12 in *All Creation Sings*. The spoken liturgy was written by Pastor Dianne O. Loufman, inspired by the theme *Tell me something good: grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent.*, words for worship written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed/*A Sanctified Art* LLC/used by permission ©2025 sanctifiedart.org. 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