

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

March 15, 2026

11:00 a.m.

FOURTH 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 *Higher Love*

7 Think a- bout\_\_ it, there must be\_\_ high- er love,  
Worlds are turn - ing, and we're just\_\_ hang- ing on,

10 down in the heart or hid- den in the stars a- bove. With- out\_\_ it, life is  
fac- ing our fear and stand- ing out there a - lone. A yearn - ing, and it's

13 wast - ed time. Look in - side your heart, I'll look in - side mine.  
real to me. There must be some- one who's feel - ing for me.

17 Things look so bad ev-'ry- where . In this whole world, what is fair?

21 We walk blind and we try to see, — fall- ing be- hind in what could be.

25 Bring me a high- er\_\_ love, bring me a high- er\_\_ love, whoa.

Bring me a high- er\_\_ love. Where's that high- er love\_\_ I keep think- ing of?

### 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, your love reaches beyond our imagination and brings light giving hope to your people.  
Turn our hearts to follow you and bring your protection and care wherever we go, 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 Ephesians 5:8-14

Word of God.

Word of Life.

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Sing twice*)



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 9:1-41**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

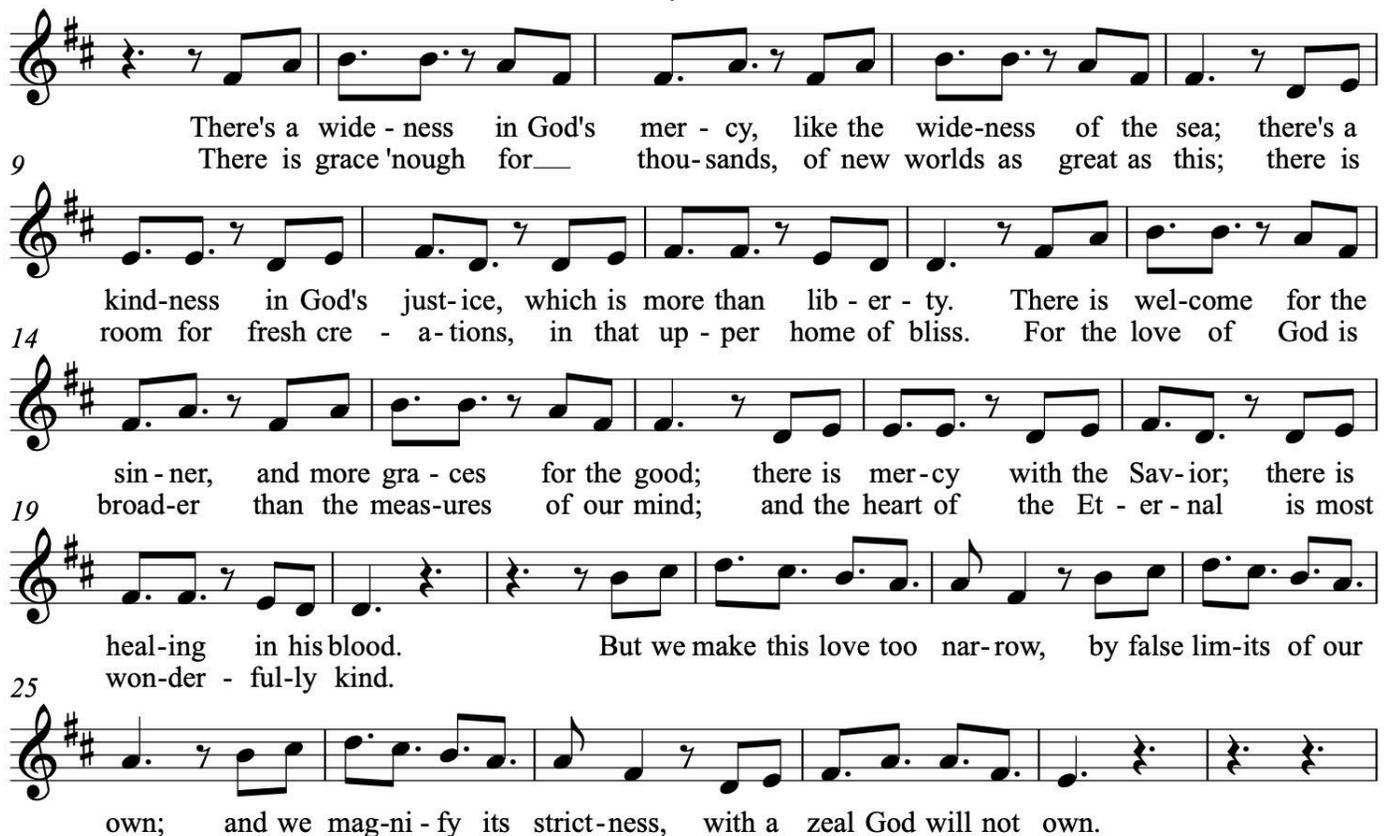
*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Andrea Bonneville

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*



9 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea; there's a  
There is grace 'nough for\_\_ thou-sands, of new worlds as great as this; there is  
14 kind-ness in God's just-ice, which is more than lib-er-ty. There is wel-come for the  
room for fresh cre - a-tions, in that up - per home of bliss. For the love of God is  
19 sin-ner, and more gra-cies for the good; there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is  
broad-er than the meas-ures of our mind; and the heart of the Et - er - nal is most  
25 heal-ing in his blood. But we make this love too nar-row, by false lim-its of our  
won-der - ful-ly kind.  
own; and we mag-ni-fy its strict-ness, with a zeal God will not own.

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

### PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dorian Henning; Becky & Wade Jones; Christa Kilen; Kelly Horazdovsky, Dane Ingebrigston, Bjorn Ingebrigston, Aurora Ingebrigston, Adler Ingebrigston; Haakon Nelson, Marit Knutson, Endre, Silje and Knut

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

### 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?

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

### SIGNING OF THE SENSES

Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead.

**It is Christ who now strengthens you with this mark of identity and sign of love.**

**Learn to know and follow the way of the cross.**

Receive the sign of the cross on your ears and your eyes.

**May you hear the voice of the Lord and see the glory of God.**

Receive the sign of the cross on your lips and over your heart.

**May you respond to the word of God and may Christ dwell in your heart by faith.**

Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders.

**May you bear the gentle yoke of Christ.**

Receive the sign of the cross on your hands.

**May Christ be known in your work, in your studies, and in all that you do.**

Receive the sign of the cross on your feet.

**May you walk always in the way of Christ.**

Let us pray:

God of growth and new life, we gather as companions on the journey of faith. We claim and commit to follow the way of your Son Jesus Christ. As we welcome these new members, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and nurture them. Hold our entire community in your loving care. Make us all faithful disciples of your Way so that we may share the gospel with all whom we encounter. . .

**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 "**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 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 *You Say*

**I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough  
Ev'ry single lie that tells me I will never measure up**

**Am I more than just the sum of ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Remind me once again just who I am because I need to know**

**You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing  
You say I am strong when I think I am weak  
You say I am held when I am falling short  
And when I don't belong oh You say I am Yours  
And I believe oh I believe what You say of me, I believe**

**The only thing that matters now is ev'rything You think of me  
In You I find my worth in You I find my identity**

**Taking all I have and now I'm laying it at Your feet  
You'll have ev'ry failure God, You'll have ev'ry victory**

#### 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 *Blessing of Saint Clare*



Go forth in peace— fol-low the good— road  
Praise be to God— for ha - ving made— us

9



Go with - out fear— for you are loved—  
with all ex - pres - sions of our love—

13



Go forth in peace— fol-low the good— road  
Praise be to God— for ha - ving made— us

17



Go with - out fear— for you are loved— there  
with all ex - pres - sions of our love—

21



is no fear in love— there is no fear in love— oh—

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live out the good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

<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>	Steve Cvek
<b>Reader</b>	Rachel Johnson
<b>Musicians</b>	The Rising Sound
<b>Audio/Video Team</b>	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

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