

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

March 15, 2026

8:30 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



*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 few steps to the left a staffed nursery for any who wish to use them.
Hearing assist receivers are available at the ushers' station.*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE *An American Folk Hymn Sampler* - arr. Fred Gramann
based on Amazing Grace and My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Jubilation Ringers

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 HYMN ELW #843 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

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

Awake from sleep, live as children of light

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

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

The musical notation is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "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." The first staff contains the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the second line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes over "wheth-er we live or". The third staff contains the third line of lyrics, with a triplet of eighth notes over "wheth-er we die,".

GOSPEL John 9:1-41

Baptismal image: the man born blind

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 ELW #710 *Let Streams of Living Justice*

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



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 *Shepherd Me, O God - Ps. 23, M. Haugen, arr. M. Hayes; Soli Deo Gloria Choir*

Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain*

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain*

Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain*

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. *Refrain*

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

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.

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, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to live as your people once again.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all of creation,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of 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 in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 station is available..*

LAMB OF GOD



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

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #332 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus*

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

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 ELW #722 *O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live out the good news.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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| 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 | Mark Osthus |
| Reader | Dennis Paulson |
| Musicians | Jubilation Ringers, Soli Deo Gloria Choir |
| 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 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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