

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

May 3, 2026

8:30 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*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 *Earth, Earth, Awake!* - hymn tune *Stuempfle*, arr. Sally Ann Morris

WELCOME

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who plants grace in our midst
and showers us with mercy.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another:

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new life,

**It is hard to clear out the debris from our lives
so that there is room in us for the planting of your Word.**

**Forgive us for not tending to our spiritual lives
nor to the world's needs.**

**Forgive us for expecting blossoms
without nurturing the seed.**

As you awaken the earth to a new season of growth,

**Forgive us for our slumbering ways,
and awaken us to the green blades of hope sprouting in our midst.**

Love comes again like wheat arising green.

We are forgiven ☩ and raised up in Christ's name.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ACS #979 *Making Their Way*



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor - ship, of - fer-ing thanks,
learn-ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

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

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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

FIRST READING Proverbs 4:10-18

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:2-10

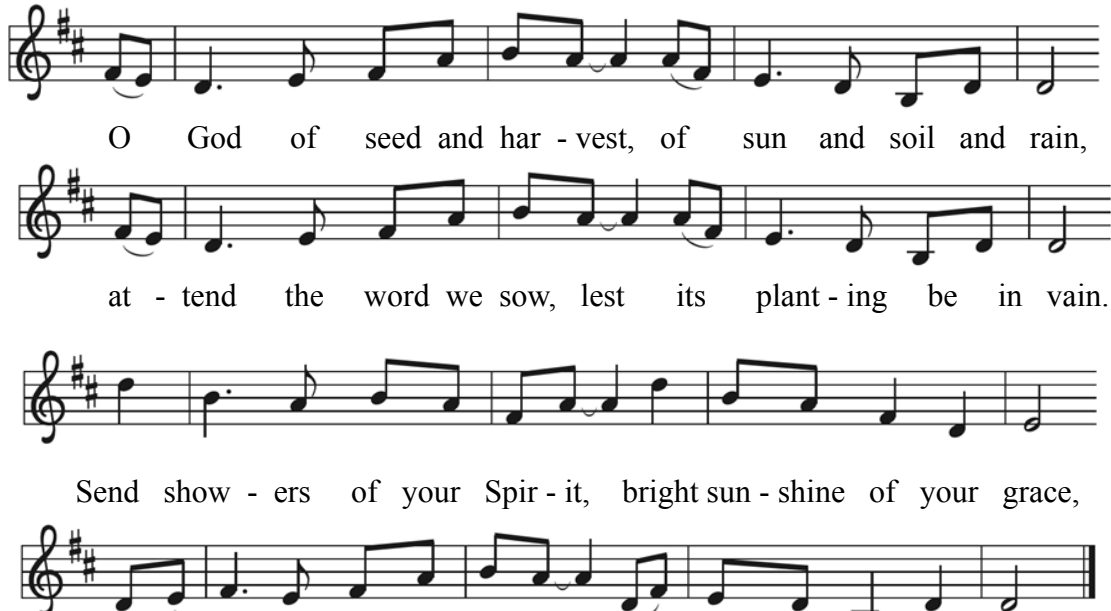
God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.

GOSPEL John 14:1-14

Christ the way, truth, and life

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

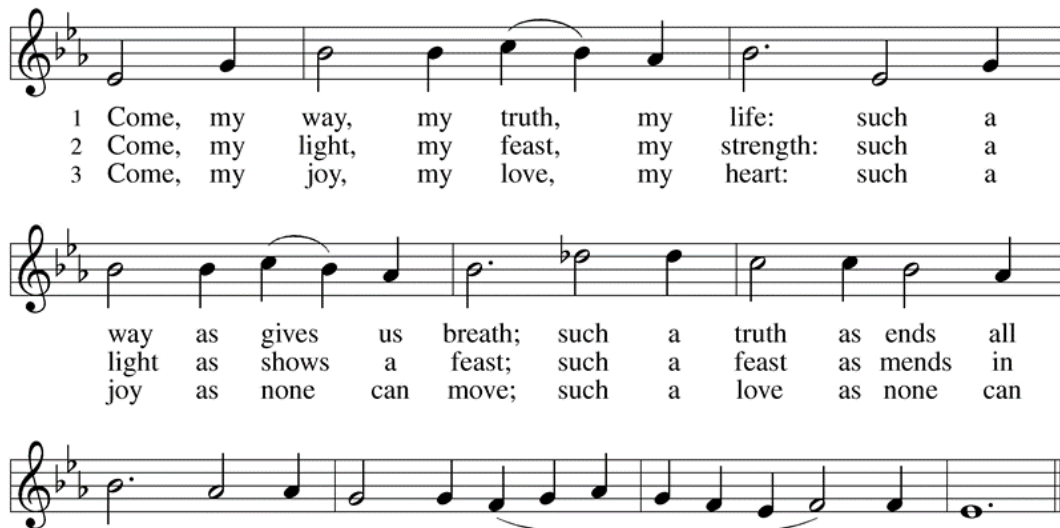
The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

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

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #816 *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a
way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can
strife; such a life as con - quers death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

PRAYERS

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 *The King of Love* - text: H. W. Baker; Irish melody arr. Paul Christiansen; Soli Deo Gloria Choir

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Gracious God, we give thanks for new life springing forth
from field and vine and from our renewed lives.
May these gifts that begin as shoots and buds,
blossom into life for us and the world;
through the Risen One we pray. 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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.
In the Son you sent us the living bread from heaven.
By the Spirit you plant your word among us,
filling the world with the promise of new life in your holy name.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY

1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes
3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and
scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the
flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts
tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.
Refrain: Assembly
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's
glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow - er and might.

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

Rooted as trees planted by streams of water, 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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

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.

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Lamb of God, to earth you came to
 2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to

save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
 us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from

on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #518 *We Eat the Bread of Teaching*

Refrain

We eat the bread of teach - ing, drink wine of wis - dom, are
 giv - en here a taste of the king - dom. To - geth - er
 joined, the great - est and the least, we all are
 one at Wis - dom's ho - ly feast.

1 Wis - dom calls through - out the cit - y, knows our
 2 Sim - ple ones whose hearts are yearn - ing, come and
 3 En - ter with de - light and sing - ing, for her

hun - ger, and in pit - y gives her lov - ing in - vi -
 gain from Wis - dom's learn - ing; bread and wine she is pre -
 rich - ness now is bring - ing us this joy - ous cel - e -

Refrain

ta - tion to the ban - quet of sal - va - tion.
 par - ing, know her lov - ing in the shar - ing.
 bra - tion; eat and drink in ju - bi - la - tion.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #447 *O Blessed Spring*



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

**Nurturing God, for using the harvest of field and vineyard
to renew and sustain us.**

Lead us from this life-giving meal

**into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation;
through the One who is the Vine. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

ANGLER BLESSING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ACS #937 *Earth, Earth, Awake*



1 Earth, earth, a - wake! Your prais - es sing! Al - le - lu - ia!
2 All na - ture sings of hope re - born! Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Win - ter is past; the night is gone! Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Praise we the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son! Al - le - lu - ia!



Greet with the dawn your ris - en King! Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ lives to com - fort those who mourn! Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ's light, tri - um - phant, brings the dawn! Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise we the vic - t'ry God has won! Al - le - lu - ia!



Bright suns and stars, your hom - age pay! Al - le - lu - ia!
First fruit of all the dead who sleep! Al - le - lu - ia!
Cre - a - tion spreads its spring-time bloom! Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise we the Lamb who reigns a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!



Life reigns a - gain this Eas - ter day! Al - le - lu - ia!
Prom - ise of joy for all who weep! Al - le - lu - ia!
Life bursts like flame from death's cold tomb! Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise we the King whose rule is love! Al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Toccata on 'Old Hundredth' - Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Arr. Robert Lau; Karen Sande, organ

Ministers All People of First Lutheran Church
Pastor The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
Associate Pastor The Rev. Andrea Bonneville DeNaples
Assisting Minister
Reader Jacob Brooks
Program Staff Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
Musicians Soli Deo Gloria Choir
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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