

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

July 5, 2026

10:00 a.m.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness.

We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary."

Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

*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 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* - tune by Samuel Ward, arr. Robert Powell

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,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,

**we confess to you all our sins.**

**Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.**

**In your mercy, call us back to you.**

**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

**Restore us to dwell in your peace.**

**In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

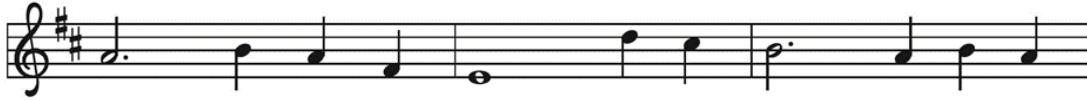
Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

GATHERING HYMN ACS #1017 *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler*



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to  
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not  
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my  
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -  
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -  
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -  
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."  
fore you; do not run from me in fright."  
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."  
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING Zechariah 9:9-12**

*Jerusalem, a nursing mother giving life to her children*

Word of God.

**Word of Life.**

**PSALM 145:8-14** *read responsively*

*The LORD is gracious and full of compassion*

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> **LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall praise you, O LORD,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup> **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup> that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.  
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

**SECOND READING Romans 7:15-25a**

*The struggle within the self*

Word of God.

**Word of Life.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*The yoke of discipleship*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**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 #888 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies***

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

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 "**fleduluth**" 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** *Beautiful Savior* - setting by F. Melius Christiansen, arr. G. Winston Cassler

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: Loving God,  
**we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.**  
**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,**  
**so that all creation can taste your abundance.**  
**We ask this in the name of Jesus,**  
**through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

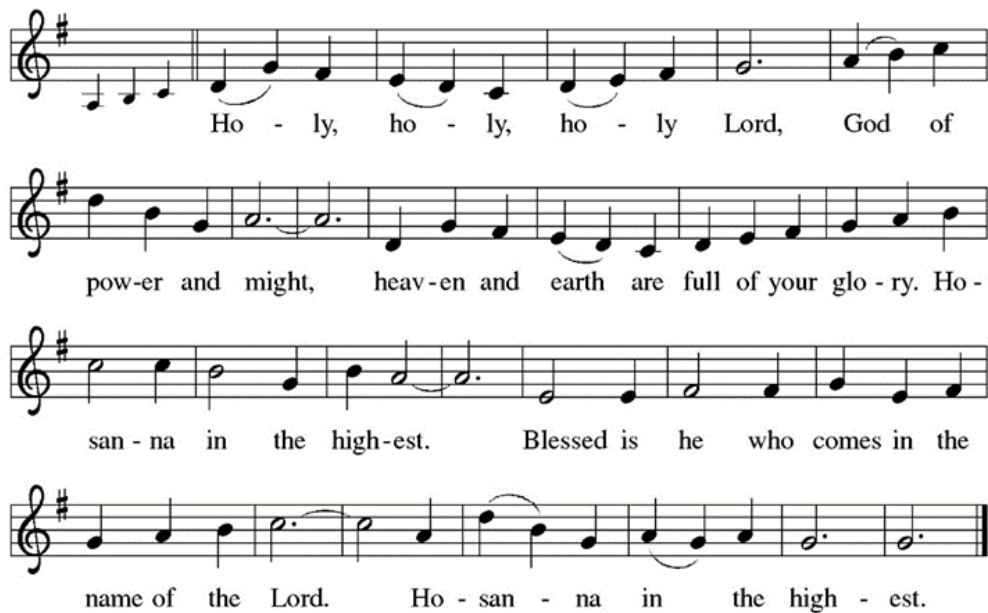
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Nurtured by Jesus' words, 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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*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

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 #838 *Beautiful Savior*

COMMUNION HYMN ACS #1031 *In God Alone*

COMMUNION HYMN ACS #1031 *In God Alone* (sing English text)

Mon â - me se re - po - se, en paix sur Dieu seul: de  
In God a - lone my soul can find rest and peace, in

lui vient mon sa - lut. Oui, sur Dieu seul mon  
God my peace and joy. On - ly in God my

â - me se re - po - se, se re - po - se, en paix.  
soul can find its rest, . . . find its rest and peace.

The image shows a three-system musical score for the hymn 'In God Alone'. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final two lines, including a repeat sign at the end of the piano part.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together: Compassionate God,  
**through the gifts of bread and wine**  
**our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.**  
**Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,**  
**may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.**  
**We ask this in the name of Jesus,**  
**through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. 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 #887 *This Is My Song***

**DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Now Thank We All our God* - arr. Paul Manz

**Ministers** All People of First Lutheran Church  
**Pastor** The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman  
**Associate Pastor** Andrea Bonneville DeNaples  
**Program Staff** Karen Sande, Director of Music  
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities  
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship  
**Assisting Minister** Susanna Ojakangas  
**Reader** Cindy Monroe  
**Musicians**  
**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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