

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

July 19, 2026

8:30 a.m.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:
LAKE SUPERIOR SUNDAY & CELEBRATION OF SUMMER

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering.

Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God,
and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy. .

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.

Hearing assist receivers are available at the ushers' station.

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,
in whom we grow, blossom and bear fruit.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of light and life,

We are like oak leaves that wither

and like gardens without water. [Isaiah 1:30]

**We have neglected to nurture the new growth
you cause to sprout within us and our neighbors.**

**We have failed to protect those tender and vulnerable
from the choking weeds of greed and the heat of hatred and indifference.**

Forgive us. Water us with your grace-

Be our shade from the heat and a shelter from the storm. Amen.

Hear God's response to our sin:

You shall again live beneath my shadow; you shall flourish as a garden;
you shall blossom like the vine; your fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon. [Hosea 14:7]

In the name of Jesus Christ ☩ our sins are forgiven
and we are free to bloom again. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW #532 *Gather Us In*

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

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of 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 Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

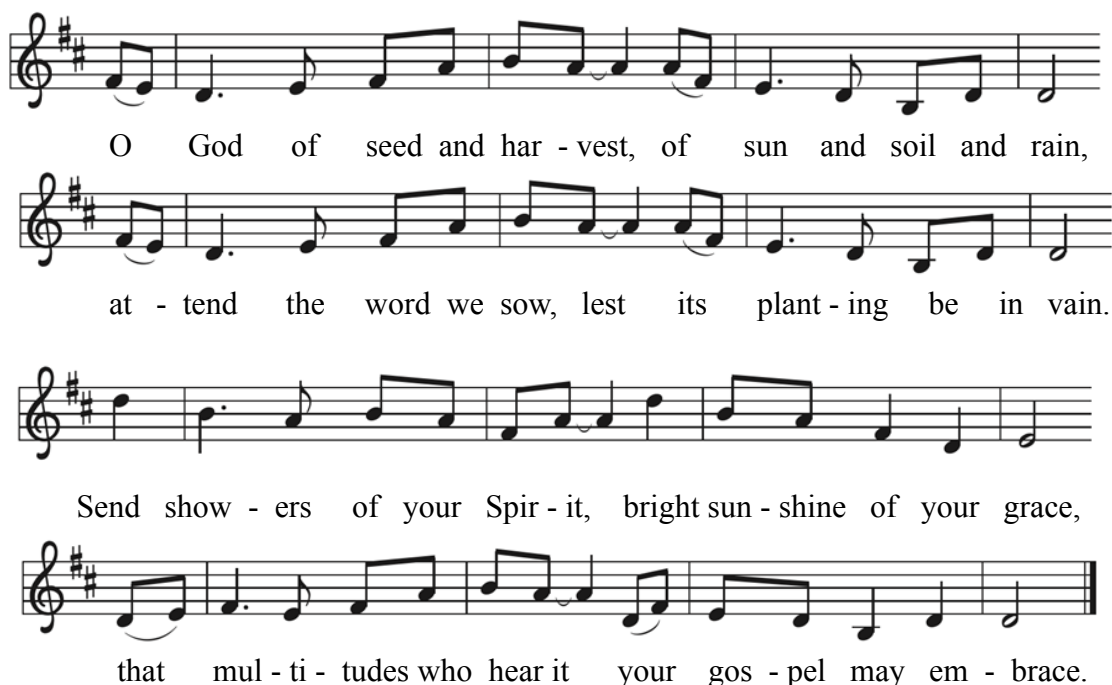
God's sovereignty: both righteous and forbearing

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 Matthew 13:24-30

The parable of the weeds

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

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

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #952 *The Reign of God, Like Farmer's Field*

1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the

weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,

in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

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 "***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.

‘SPRINGS OF WATER’

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

The earth bursts forth with abundance for your creatures.

May the fruit of our labors

which we offer back to you

bring food and healing to others. 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

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. call.
shook a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them.
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.

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

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 #465 *As the Grains of Wheat*

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #689 *Praise and Thanksgiving*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

**By this meal, let the fruit of your Spirit
ripen in our midst and in our lives,
uniting us with all who share this feast and
nurturing us to become your body in the world. 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 #679 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace planting seeds of peace and grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Ministers	All People of First Lutheran Church
Pastor	The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman The Rev. Andrea Bonneville DeNaples
Program Staff	Karen Sande, Director of Music and Organist Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
Assisting Minister	Paula Tsufis
Reader	Stephanie Lundorff
Musicians	
Audio/Video Team	Eric Gatten, Shania Krause, Sam Weston

Acknowledgements *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Of the Land and Seasons* and *All Creation Sings* texts and hymns ©2026 Augsburg Fortress. Portions of the liturgical texts for today were written by Pastor Dianne O. Loufman. 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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