

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

July 26, 2026

10:00 a.m.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The assembly stands

GATHERING *Garden*

This - tled ground__ tomb of my love__ heart torn a - part__
Love you said__ poured out like wine__ bro - ken like bread__

Com - ing God, soft-en the soil__ tend now the scars__
Wa - ken us, en - li - ven our minds__ un-earth the dead__

Rend this heart of stone, mend it in - to flesh, let your love bring me to life__

Yield this hard-ened earth, 'till a gar-den stirs, let your love bring us to life__

O - pen your love breaks us o - pen

O - pen your love breaks us o - pen, res - ur - rects a

gar - den__ A gar - den.

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.**

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

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

Word of God.

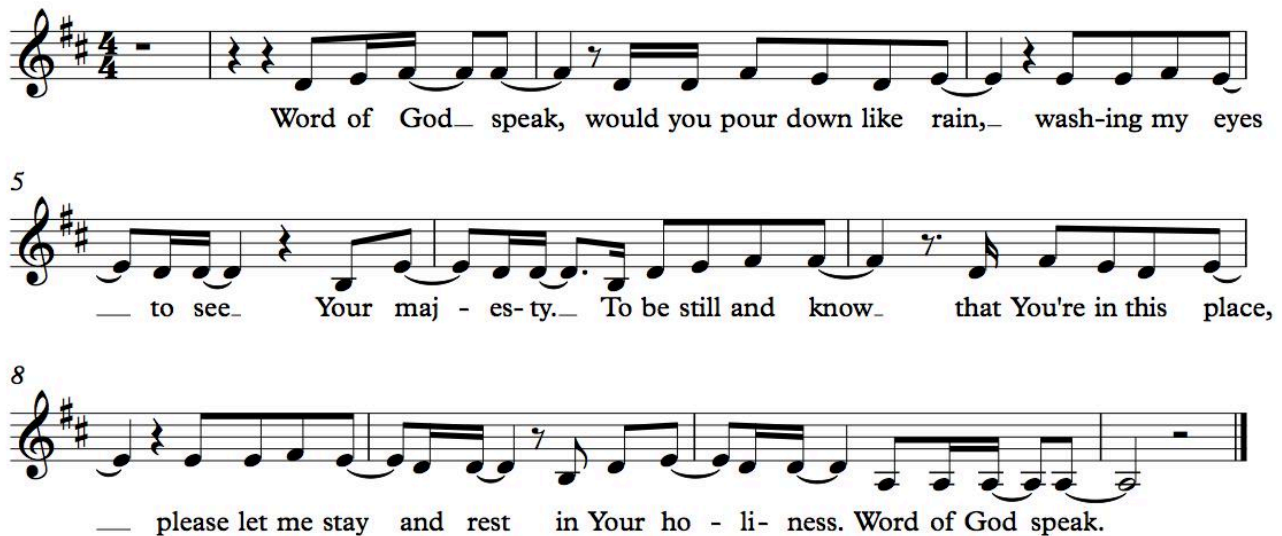
Word of Life.

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-39

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Word of God, Speak*



Word of God— speak, would you pour down like rain,— wash-ing my eyes

5 — to see— Your maj - es-ty.— To be still and know— that You're in this place,

8 — please let me stay and rest in Your ho - li- ness. Word of God speak.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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 *You Are My Vision*



You are my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 You are my wis - dom, and You're my true word.
 I don't want rich - es or vain emp - ty praise.
 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - tor - y's won,



Noth - ing else sat - is - fies, on - ly You, Lord.
 I ev - er with You, and You with me, Lord.
 You're my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways.
 may I reach heav - en's joy, O heav - en's Sun!



You are my best thought by day or by night.
 You're my soul's shel - ter and You're my high tow'r.
 You and You on - ly, the first in my heart.
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Your pres - ence my light.
 Come, raise me heav - en - ward, O Power of my pow'r.
 Great God of heav - en, my treas - ure You are.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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.*

OFFERTORY HYMN *Come to the Table*



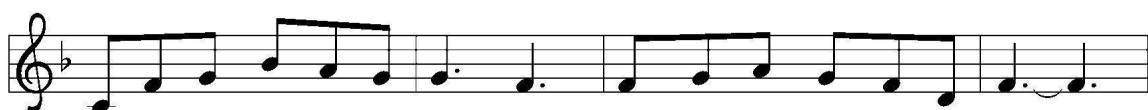
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Loving God,

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.

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.*

COMMUNION HYMN *New Wine*

In the crushing in the pressing

You are making new wine

In the soil I now surrender

You are breaking new ground

(You are breaking new ground)

So I yield to You and to Your careful hand

When I trust You I don't need to understand

(chorus) **Make me Your vessel**

Make me an offering

Make me whatever You want me to be

I came here with nothing

But all You have given me

Jesus bring new wine out of me

Jesus bring new wine out of me

Jesus bring new wine out of me

'Cause where there is new wine

There is new power

There is new freedom

And the kingdom is here

I lay down my old flames

To carry Your new fire today

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

Compassionate God,

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 *Your Love Awakens Me*

8 There were walls be-tween us. By the cross You came and broke them down,
Feel the dark-ness shak-ing. All the dead are com-ing back to life,

11 broke them down. There were chains a-round us. By Your grace we are no
back to life. Hear the song a - wak - en, all cre - a - tion sing-ing,

14 long-er bound, no long-er bound. You called me out of the grave,
"we're a - live cause You're a - live!"

17 You called me in-to the light. You called my name and then my heart came a-live.

20 Your love is great - er, Your love is strong-er. Your love a-wak- ens, a -
wak- ens, a-wak- ens me. Your love is great - er, Your love is strong-er.

23 Your love a-wak- ens, a - wak- ens, a-wak- ens me.---

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
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	Steve Cvek
Reader	
Musicians	The Rising Sound
Audio	Vernon Williams

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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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