

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

July 26, 2026

8:30 a.m.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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

Jane Howard, piano

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 #519 *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*

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

FIRST READING I Kings 3:5-12

Solomon's prayer for wisdom

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-39-11

Nothing can separate us from God's love

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Parables of the reign of heaven

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 #622 *Neither Death nor Life* (congregation sings refrain; cantor leads verses)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF JOSEPHINE ELIZABETH

BAPTISMAL PROMISES

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

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.**

BLESSING OF THE WATERS

Brothers and sisters, let us ask the Lord our God to breathe his restless Spirit upon this water, gift of God's hand and sign of our baptism, and upon us, that we may be faithful to the new life we have received.

O come to the waters, you who thirst come to me. Listen, listen and you shall live.

We praise you, our creating God, for fresh water, sparkling mirror of your glory;

For humble water, out of which life first sprang, and upon which the first path to new life was charted;

For the parting waters of Exodus, clearing freedom's highway out of the house of slavery;

For the waters of repentance, flowing straight into the hearts of your people at the word of John the Baptist;

For the Living Water, your Son, pouring himself out like a flood, quenching our thirst with his love.

O come to the waters, you who thirst come to me. Listen, listen and you shall live.

God of Promise, take this, our water, once more as your own, make it really alive, as in the beginning;

You who are Creator, brood over it in love, as tender Mother;

and fashion us anew in the image of Jesus who is alive forever.

O come to the waters, you who thirst come to me.

Listen, listen and you shall live.

BAPTISM OF JOSEPHINE

BAPTISMAL GARMENT

Receive this as a sign that you have been clothed with Christ.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING

CANDLE

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven.

WELCOME

Let us welcome the newly baptized:

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: growing in faith, spreading God's love, and gathering in community.

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 **"fjcduluth"** 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

Jane Howard, piano

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.

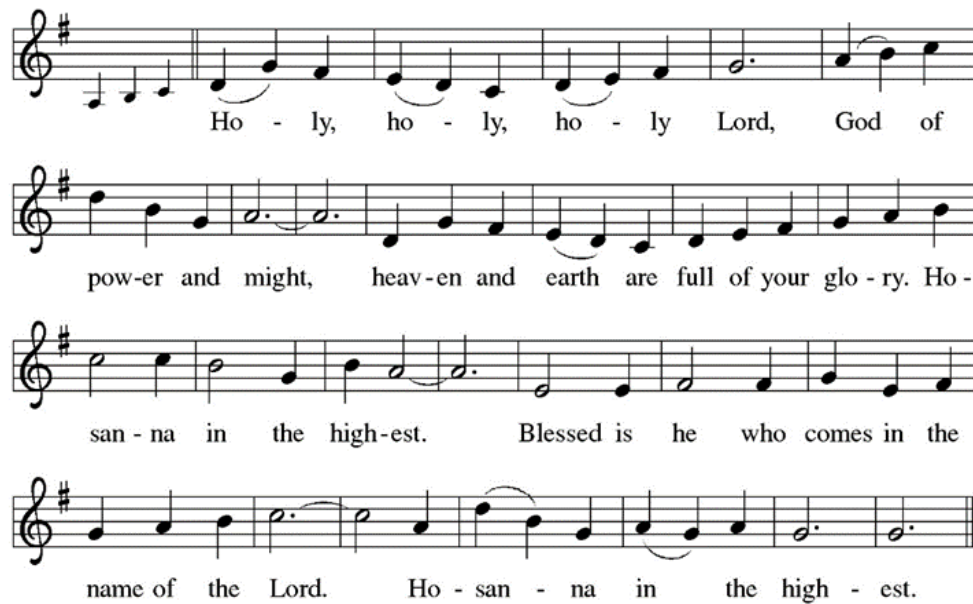
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



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.

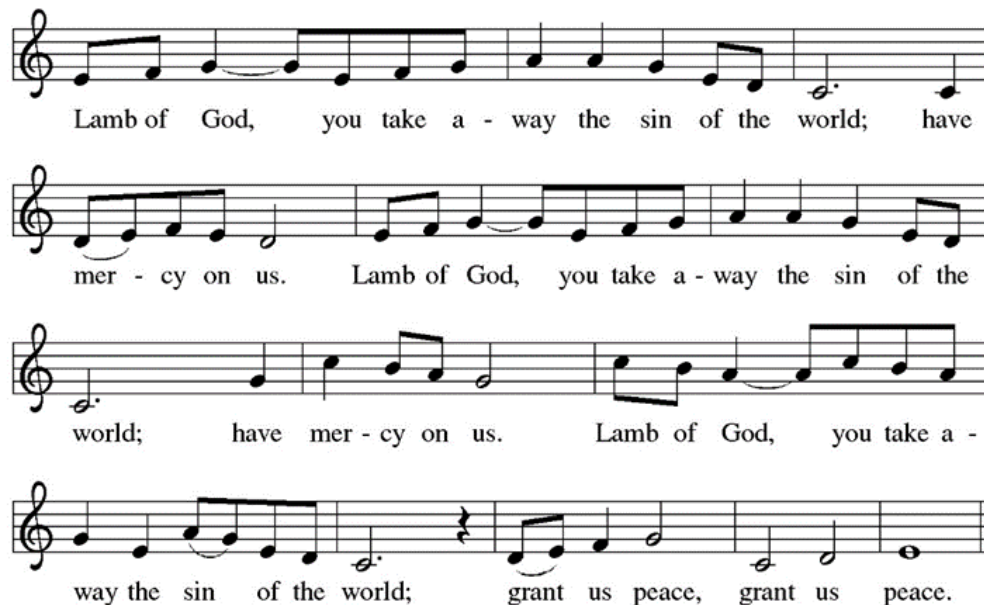
Invitation to Communion

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



COMMUNION HYMN ELW #471 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

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

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 HYMN ELW #867 *In Thee Is Gladness*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace planting seeds of peace and grace
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jane Howard, piano

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 and Organist Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
Assisting Minister	
Reader	Barb LaMaster
Musicians	Jane Howard, piano; Jen Fuchs, cantor
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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