

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

August 23, 2026

8:30 a.m.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*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 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 *God of Grace and God of Glory* - arr. Karen Buckwalter Handbell Ensemble, piano

WELCOME

The assembly stands

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Our help is in the One ☩ who made heaven and earth,
confident in this ever-gracious, never failing help,
we come before God, confessing our brokenness and seeking forgiveness.

Merciful One:

we confess that we are conformed to this world.

**We conform to this world's frantic pace,
too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.**

**We conform to this world's reckless waste,
exploiting what you entrust to our care.**

**We conform to this world's values,
oblivious to the diversity of gifts needed for the whole to function.**

**We conform to this world's impatient attitudes,
preferring the latest instead of the lasting.**

Forgive our conformity and transform us into your image. Amen.

We present ourselves trusting that
in the name of Jesus ☩
we are forgiven and transformed
conformed no longer to the world
but to Christ.

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

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING *Exodus 1:8-2:10*

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING *Romans 12:1-8*

One body in Christ, with gifts that differ

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

The profession of Peter's faith

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 *There Came a Time in Egypt*

text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; tune: Aurelia

**There came a time in Egypt when Joseph wasn't known —
when people had forgotten the seeds of help he'd sown.
With immigrants increasing, the leaders lived in fear.
That fear turned into murmuring: "We do not want them here!"**

**The rulers told the midwives, "Don't let their numbers grow."
But Shiphrah said, with Puah, a quiet, faithful, "No!"
When they were tasked with killing, they saved the baby boys.
God, may we, too, be willing to challenge what destroys.**

**O God, you sent us Jesus who said, "Take up your cross!"
He taught that faithful living will often have a cost.
He taught us to be daring, creative, wise and strong —
to make the world more caring, to challenge what is wrong.**

**When immigrants are struggling, when children live in fear,
when forces of destruction are threatening people here,
God, make us like those women, and may we seek to be
the ones who usher life in, till all are whole and free.**

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 MUSIC *Lord, whose Love in Humble Service* - arr.Buckwalter Handbell Ensemble, piano
The assembly stands.

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. 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.

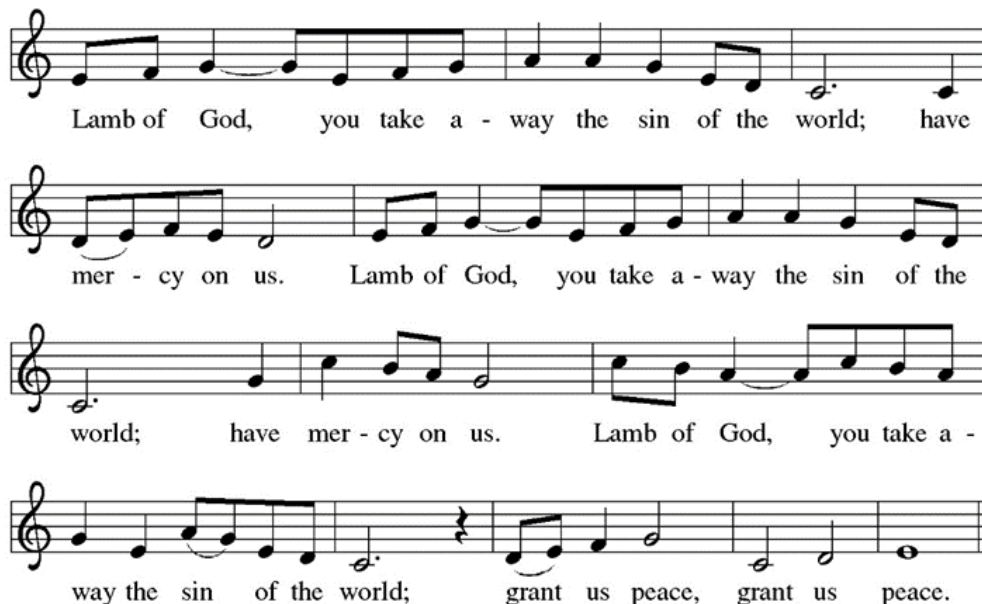
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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



COMMUNION HYMNS ELW #639 *When We Are Living*

ELW #496 *One Bread, One Body*

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 #638 *Blessed Assurance*

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	Diana Ream
Reader	Barb LaMaster
Musicians	Handbell Ensemble: Karen Climis, Sarah Climis, Roberta Maughan
Audio	Eric Gatten, Shania Krause, Sam Weston

Acknowledgements *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and *All Creation Sings* texts and hymns ©2026 Augsburg Fortress. *There Came a Time in Egypt*, text ©2023 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Liturgical music is from Setting 1 in *ELW*. 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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