

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

September 13, 2026

11:00 a.m.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

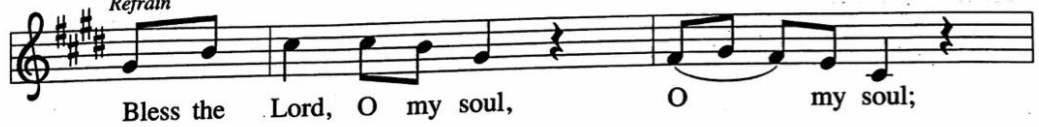
**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news:

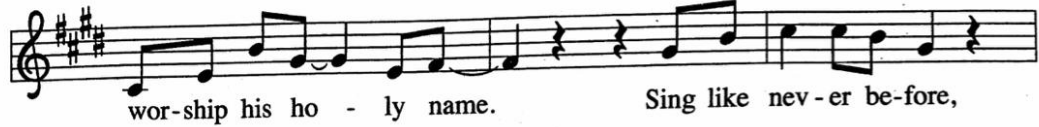
We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING *10,000 Reasons*

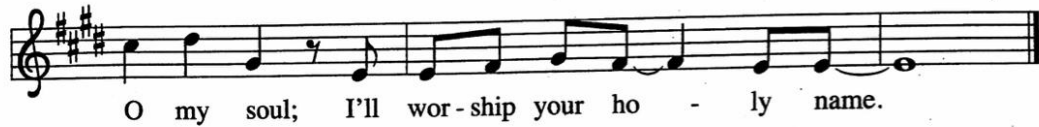
Refrain



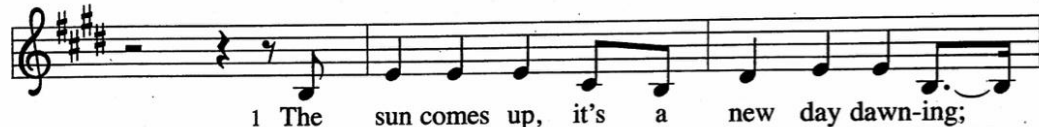
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,



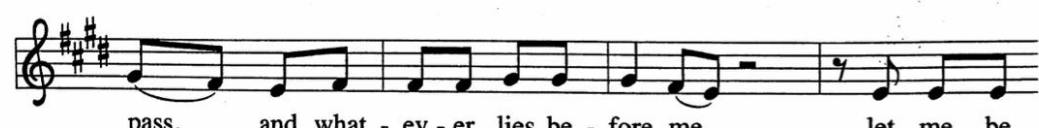
O my soul; I'll wor-ship your ho - ly name.



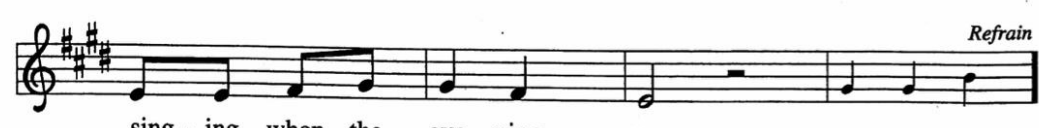
1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing;
2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



... it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name... is ... great, and your heart is kind. For all ... your
end ... draws near, and my time has come; ... still, my



pass, and what - ev - er lies be - fore me, let me be
good-ness, I will keep .. on .. sing-ing— ten thou-sand
soul will sing your praise un - end-ing— ten thou-sand



sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
rea - sons for my heart to find.
years and then for - ev - er - more!

Refrain

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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through 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 **Blessing of Backpacks**

FIRST READING **Genesis 50:15-21**

Word of God.

Word of Life.

PSALM 103 (read responsively)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

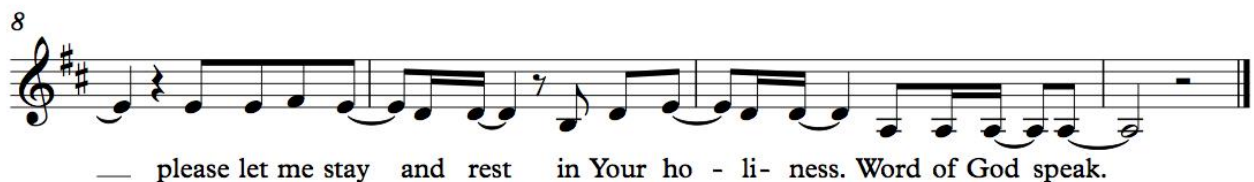
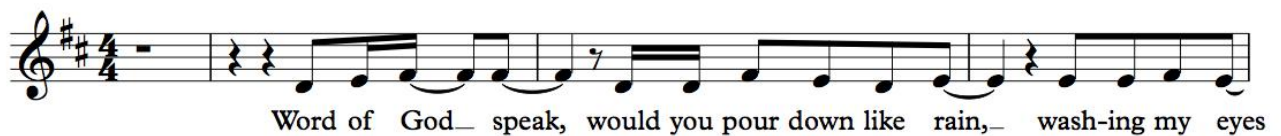
As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING **Romans 14:1-12**

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Word of God, Speak*



GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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 *Forgive Us*

For - give us of all of our sin, and give us the

8
grace to for - give when we have been sinned a - gainst. Re -

10
store us, re - new us a - gain. Give us the

12
meek - ness to heal; give us the mer - cy to mend. For - give us all our sin,

15
as we our - selves for - give.

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:

God of creation,

you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,

today and always. 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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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 *Great, Are You Lord*

**You give life
You are love
You bring light to darkness
You give hope
You restore every heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord.**

**(chorus) It's Your breath in our lungs,
so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs,
so we pour out our praise to You only.**

**And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
Great are You, Lord**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

Sustaining God,

with this bread and cup,

you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.

**Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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 *You Are Good*

9 Lord, You are good, and Your mer - cy en - dures for - ev - er.

13 Lord, You are good, and Your mer - cy en - dures for - ev - er.

17 Peo - ple from ev - er - y na - tion and tongue, from gen - er - a - tion to gen - er - a - tion. We

22 wor - ship You, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; We wor - ship You

28 - le - lu - jah; We wor - ship You for who You are; - 'cause You are good!

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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	Paula Tsufis
Reader	Rachel Johnson
Musicians	The Rising Sound

Acknowledgements *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, With One Voice* and *All Creation Sings* texts and hymns ©2026 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917, One License #A-729428, CCLI License #1816436, CCS WorshipCast Streaming License #13132.. *Made New* Colby Wedgeworth | Josiah James Meeker | Lincoln Brewster © Colby Wedgeworth Music; Integrity Worship Music; Integrity's Praise! Music. *All Belong Here* Lacey Brown © 2022 Poor Clare. *You Are Good* Israel Houghton © 2001 Integrity's Praise! Music; Sound Of The New Breed. Musical arrangements by Bryan Gatten.

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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