

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

September 27, 2026

8:30 a.m.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

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. If needed, there is a family room and family bathroom across from the right front sanctuary doors and a self-service 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 *Lift Up Your Heads*

tune by Zebulon Highben, arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

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 HYMN ELW #526 *God is Here!*

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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them,
keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, 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

Pastor Andrea Bonneville

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The fairness of God's way

Word of God.

Word of Life.

PSALM 25:1-9 (read responsively)

To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

A parable of doing God's will

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Bonneville

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

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #1032 Lift Up Your Heads text: Susan Briehl, music: Zebulon Highben

1 Lift up your heads, all you bowed low,
2 Lift up your hands, your voices raise,
3 Lift up your hearts, your great A - men;
4 Be - hold, the Spir - it here a - bides,
hear the liv - ing wa - ter flow: quench - ing
bold in plead - ing, bright with praise. Weep no
Mer - cy feeds her guests a - gain: bread e -
bear - ing God's a - bun - dant life: peace be -
spring and cleans - ing pool, heal - ing riv - er, clear and
more, your God has come; greet the wound - ed, ris - en
nough to break and share, fes - tive wine that scents the
tween you, love with - in, grace be - side you loos - 'ning
cool.
One, How fresh it falls up -
air, who bless - es you with
sin. Oh, taste and see what
Be - lov - ed, Christ a -
on your face, stream - ing from the font of grace.
joy com - plete, dwell - ing in the Word of peace.
once was lost, ris - ing in this feast of love.
mong you stands, mov - ing through your hearts and hands.

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

‘SPRINGS OF WATER’

Kris Karsell

OFFERING

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Text “**fleduluth**” 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 *Christus factus est* - text: Philippians 2:8-9; music: Anton Bruckner Chamber Choir

*Christus factus est pro nobis - Christ became, for us
obediens usque ad mortem, - obedient to the point of death,
mortem autem crucis. - even death on a cross.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum: - Because of this, God has exalted him:
et dedit illi nomen - and given him a name
quod est super omne nomen. - that is above every other name*

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.

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'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, 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

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,*

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS ELW #468 *Around You, O Lord Jesus*

ELW #491 *Come, Let Us Eat*

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 HYMN ELW #543 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* - Welsh tune, arr. David Dahl

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	
Reader	Kristin Cochran
Musicians	Soli Deo Gloria Choir
Audio	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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