

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

October 11, 2026

11:00 a.m.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S SUNDAY



*Many Native American peoples share a legend of how the world was created on the back of a giant sea turtle
(some still refer to North America as "turtle island").*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to the Anishinaabe, the first people of this land. We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred in this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts we pray in Your name, and in the name of Your son the Peacemaker and in the name of the Sacred Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Gathered here on this Holy Ground,
The Psalmist of Psalm 24 reminds us that

**The earth is the Creator's,
and everything in it –
this world and all who live in it.**

We confess that many who have come before us
-misrepresented Holy Scripture in order to dispossess indigenous inhabitants
of their homes and sovereignty;
-claimed divine authority to take these lands;
-used treaties as tools of imperial exploitation.

They forgot, but we must remember:

**The earth is the Creator's,
and everything in it –
this world and all who live in it.**

We confess that the "Doctrine of Discovery" harms all it touches:
the generations of those it has oppressed;
the spirits of those who use it to oppress.

Hope of Healing calls us to remember:

**The earth is the Creator's,
and everything in it –
this world and all who live in it.**

We confess that as present-day residents
of our precious Mother Earth,
we have not been faithful stewards of her care
nor of the circle of life and all our relations, human and non-human.

All Creation calls us to remember:

**The earth is the Creator's,
and everything in it –
this world and all who live in it.**

moment of silence

Let us pray together:

**On this day we come, seeking divine forgiveness
and holding ourselves accountable
to live in faithfulness and reconciliation
for the sake of the earth and seven generations to come.**

We believe in the Holy One, Maker of us all, who is faithful to forgive us, cleanse us and free us to walk in wholeness. Friends, trust and receive the good news that in Christ + we are forgiven and freed. **Amen.**

GATHERING *Send Down Your Spirit*



WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

FIRST READING Isaiah 25:1-9

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING Philippians 4:1-9

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL John 8:54-59 First Nations version

The story of Jesus is intended to be translated to every tribe, tongue, people and nation. The First Nations Version recounts the Creator's Story-the Christian Scriptures-following the tradition of Native storytellers' oral cultures. This way of speaking, with its simple yet profound beauty and rich cultural idioms, still resonates in the hearts of First Nations people.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

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 *Breathe*



Breathe, breathe on me now, o - pen Your mouth and speak the word that heals
Breathe, breathe on us now, o - pen Your mouth and speak the word that heals

4
— this bro-ken ground. Say, say what You will, as we are still,
— this bro-ken ground. Say, say what You will, show us Your will,

7
— as we breathe in the ver - y breath of God.
— as we breathe in the ver - y breath of God.

9
Oh, Spir-it of God, here with us now, giv-ing us life a - gain.

13
Breathe, breathe on us now, fill us with Your love,

15
— send us with Your pow'r, Spir - it of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (based on Chief Seattle's words)

All is Sacred!

All is Sacred!

Every part of this earth is Sacred.

Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore,

Every mist in the dark woods,

every clearing and insect is holy.

The rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts and all people;

all belong to the same family.

Teach your children that the Earth is our Mother.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.

The water's murmur is the voice of our father's father.

We are a part of the earth and the earth is a part of us.

The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst.

The perfumed flowers are our sisters.

The air is precious,

For all of us share the same breath.

The wind that gave our grandparents breath also received their last sigh.

The wind gave our children the spirit of life, and will continue.

This we know: the earth does not belong to us;

we belong to the earth.

This we know: all things are connected;
like the blood which unites our family.

All things are connected.

Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.

We did not weave the web of life;

we are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the web,

we do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the web in the circle that connects us.

Thanks be to Creator, the God of All! A-Ho or Amen

Our Prayers continue:

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 **"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

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Blessed are you, O God,

source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,

help us to serve one another and all in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 *Maker of the Moon*

**Hello maker of the moon
Your creation has inspired my every move
You're the science in the stars
There is beauty there is fire in your eyes**

**Here we are face to face
Lost in wonder at the God of time and space
The universe declares your praise
Singing holy holy is your name**

**Hello tamer of the tides
Every day you're moving deeper in my life
You're the wildness in the wind
And I feel you so much closer than my skin**

**I can feel your heartbeat beating
I can hear my God is speaking
King of creation breathe upon me
You can feel my heartbeat beating
You can hear my spirit screaming
King of creation you amaze me**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Walk tall as the trees. Live strong as the mountains.

Be gentle as the spring winds.

Keep the warmth of the summer sun in your heart

And the Great Spirit will always be with you. **A-Ho** or **Amen** (or both!)

(Native American proverb)

SENDING *The Earth is Yours*

Your voice, — it thun-ders, the oaks — start twist-ing;
Your voice, — it thun-ders, the ground — is shak-ing;

the for - est sounds with ce - dars break-ing.
the might - y moun-tains now — are trem-bling.

The wa - ters see You and start — their writh-ing; from
Cre-a - tion sees You and starts — com - pos - ing; fields

— the depths a song — is ris-ing. Now it's ris-ing from the ground.
— and trees they start — re-joic-ing.

— Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.

— The earth is Yours, — and sing - ing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.

— The earth is Yours, — the earth is Yours. —

DISMISSAL

We have honored Christ, our brother. All my relatives, go 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
Reader Brenda Schrader

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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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