

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 22, 2024

11:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

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 staffed nursery down the hall.

Hearing assist receivers are available at the ushers' station.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this weary world, **we sing of joy.**

In this fragile world, **we lift each other up.**

In this beautiful world, **we look for God.**

In this tender world, **we hold onto hope.**

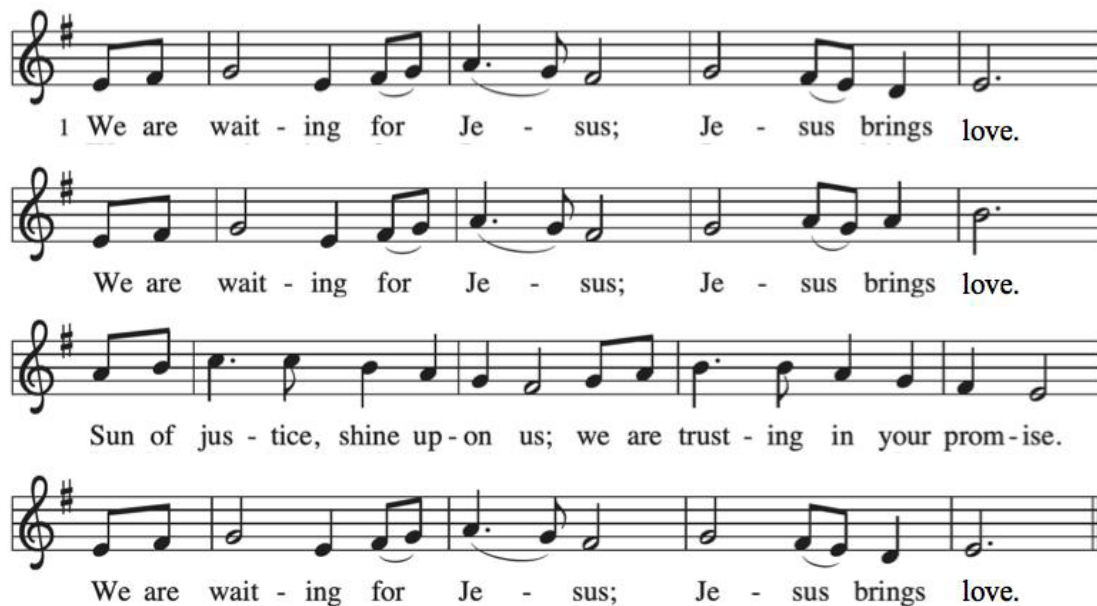
This is the invitation of faith.

In this time of worship, we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto God. **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG ACS #905 *We Are Waiting for Jesus*

words and music by John Helgen

sing verse 1:



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings love.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings love.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings love.

ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with tenderness.

Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and openness.

Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us start with love.

Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

May these flames representing God's gifts to us point the way.

May they point us to the One who helps us begin again - the One who comes in love.

May it be so! **Amen.**

sing verse 2:

We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings love. We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings love.

Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us.

We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings love.

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,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.

We have held fast to worldly things rather than to you.

Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.

Mary's response to the news of Jesus' birth is the awestruck: How can this be?

With her, we, too, must wonder - how can this be that we receive such mercy?

But that is the good news, that is our reason to hope.

Today in the name of Christ + we are forgiven. Today we are set free. Today we can declare with Mary:

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*



Come, thou long— ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet— a king;



from our fears— and sins re - lease— us, let us find our rest— in thee.
born to reign— in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all— the earth thou art;
By thine own— e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all— our hearts a - lone;



dear— de - sire— of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by— thine all— suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to— thy glo - rious throne.

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

Stir up your power, Christ Jesus, and come. Break open our hearts and with your love wash away all that is not of you so that you alone may reside within us. In your holy name, **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

READING Micah 5:2-5a

From Bethlehem comes a ruler

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



1. Nar - row as the road may - seem, — I'll
 2. Here I am with o - pen - hands —
 3. For the one who gave me - life —

3



fol - low where Your spir - it — leads. — Bro - ken as my life may - be, —
 count - ing on Your grace a - gain. — Less of me and more of — You, —
 noth - ing is a sac - ri - fice. — Use me how You want to, — God. .

6



— I will give You ev - ry — piece. — (I) I —
 — I just wan - na see You — move. —
 — Have Your throne with - in my — heart. —

§ CHORUS

10



— hear You — call; I — am a - vail - a - ble. I —

14



— say, "Yes, — Lord." I — am a - vail - a - ble. —

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:



In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you



come to us; bring us your light.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Creator God, you made the whole world—
the farthest stars to our closest breath.**

**You draw near to feed us with these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

With joy and hope, we weave our voices together praying the words Jesus taught:

**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.

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.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

When we come to this table, for just a moment we get a glimpse of God's promised day.

We get a glimpse of a world where all are fed and all are welcomed.

And for just a moment we can believe the angels when they say, "Be not afraid."

COMMUNION HYMN *Mary's Song*

My soul magnifies the Lord

**My spirit rejoices in God
My Savior has seen his servant in need
And behold the great things He has done**

**He scatters the proud and rich
He lifts up the humble and weak
The kings of the earth He casts from their thrones
And the hungry He welcomes to feast**

**(Refrain) Oh behold my Savior has come
And my soul will tell of His praise
For He Who is strong has come to the weak
And at last He will reign as our King of Peace**

**From now to the end of time
The nations will know me as blest
For God has made new His promise of love
And mercy through Abraham's seed**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

**Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.
Amen.*

SENDING HYMN *I Could Sing of Your Love Forever*



O - ver the moun - tains and the sea Your riv - er runs with love for me,

3



and I will o - pen up my heart, and let the Heal - er set me free.

5



I'm hap - py to be in the truth, and I will dai - ly lift my hands,

7



for I will al - ways sing of when Your love came down, yeah. I could sing of Your love

10



for - ev - er, I could sing of Your love for - ev - er,

13



I could sing of Your love for - ev - er,

15



I could sing of Your love for - ev - er.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Ministers

All People of First Lutheran Church

Pastor The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
Program Staff Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
Assisting Minister Steve Cvek
Reader
Musicians The Rising Sound
Audio/Video Team Eric Gatten, Shania Krause, Sam Weston

Acknowledgements *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, With One Voice* and *All Creation Sings* texts and hymns ©2024 Augsburg Fortress. Some of the words of the liturgy are taken from *Sundays & Seasons* and *A Sanctified Art*, and some were written by Pastor Dianne O. Loufman. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917, ©2024 a sanctified art | sanctifiedart.org, 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

(218) 728-3668 | flcdulth.org | flcduluth@flcduluth.org

