

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

January 19, 2025

8:30 a.m.

THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY
BELOVED COMMUNITY SUNDAY

*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 staffed 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 *Two Settings of "We Shall Overcome"*

Adolfus Hailstork (b. 1941)

WELCOME

LITANY

We remember the conviction of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that "freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

God of freedom, give courage and determination to those who are oppressed.

We remember Dr. King's warning that there are those ". . . more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefer a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice."

**God of justice, help those who work for peace in our world
to not be afraid of the tension that comes in working for justice.**

We remember Dr. King's insight that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

**God of all, allow us to see nothing in isolation, but know ourselves
bound to one another and to all people under heaven.**

We remember Dr. King's lament that "the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are."

**God of courage, we pray that neither this congregation nor any church may be silent in the face of
wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo when that is your call to us.**

We remember Dr. King's hope that "dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not-too-distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and [kinship] will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."

**In faith, we commend ourselves and our work for justice, to your goodness,
gracious and Holy God. Amen.**

Modified from the RCA by Duke University Chapel, Martin Luther King, Jr Service 2017. Modified by Pastor Loufman 2025

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN ACS #903 *Freedom Is Coming*

1 Oh, free - dom, oh, free - dom, oh,
1 Free-dom is com-ing. Free-dom is

free - dom. Oh,
com - ing. Free-dom is com - ing. Oh, yes, I

free - dom, oh, free - dom, oh,
know. Free-dom is com - ing. Free-dom is

free - dom. Oh,
com - ing. Free-dom is com - ing. Oh, yes, I

yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know. Oh,
know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, oh, yes, I

yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know. Oh,

know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, oh, yes, I

yes, I know. Oh,

know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I

yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know. Oh,

know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, oh, yes, I

yes, I know.

know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know.

2 Oh, Jesus.
 Jesus is coming.
 Oh, yes, I know.

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

Holy One, we give thanks for the gift of your holy word. May the Spirit who called out these ancient writings continue to call us out today that our lives may reflect the mission of Jesus, our crucified and risen Christ, who brings good news to the poor and lets the oppressed go free. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING Psalm 19 (*read responsively*)

- ¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- ²One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- ³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- ⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- ⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- ¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹²Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.
- ¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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 ELW #841 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

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 "**fcduluth**" 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 ANTHEM *There Shall a Star Come out of Jacob* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Soli Deo Gloria Choir

There shall a star come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel, with might destroying princes and cities.

As bright the star of morning gleams, so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation.

Thy word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation; Thine be praise and adoration!

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We pray together the prayer Jesus taught to help illumine our path:

**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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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.

ANTHEM *Only When It's Dark* words by Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), music by Jake Alexander
Soli Deo Gloria Choir
"I know, somehow, that only when it's dark enough can you see the stars."

COMMUNION HYMNS: **ELW #461 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly***
ELW #471 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

Nourishing God,

**at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.**

**Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ 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 #717 *Let Justice Flow like Streams*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Psalm 19: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*

Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

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
Reader Molly Burgstahler
Musicians Soli Deo Gloria Choir
Audio/Video Team 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

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