

First Lutheran Church

In-person worship at First Lutheran sanctuary,
iHeart radio 620 am and Facebook livestream -
<https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheransiouxcity/>



HOLY COMMUNION Time after Pentecost

Sunday ☩ November 19, 2023 ☩ 10:00 am

The story of the slaves entrusted with talents

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Simple Gifts”

David Schelat

OPENING HYMN

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

ELW 726

Stand and face the entrance to the sanctuary as the cross leads us to worship.



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation.

Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

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

Righteous God, our merciful master,
you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have.
Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom,
and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

TIME FOR CHILDREN

WORD

READING

The day of the LORD

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
^{16a}a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 90

So teach us to number our days

The psalm is read responsively by verse, beginning with the reader. The assembly's part is in BOLD.

Lord, you have been our refuge

from one generation to another.

**²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land
and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,

“Turn back, O children of earth.”

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday
when it is past and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,

they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;

we are afraid because of your wrath.

**⁸Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?

Who rightly fears your indignation?

**¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

READING

Be alert for the day of the Lord

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW, page 124

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

The musical notation consists of two staves in a single system, both in a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,". The second staff contains the melody for the next two phrases: "al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

GOSPEL*The story of the slaves entrusted with talents*

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God of the Fertile Fields”

ACS 1063

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



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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APOSTLES' CREED

We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

"Tis the Gift to be Simple"

Douglas E. Wagner

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Baritones: Jim Lippke and Yvonne Hazlett

Offertory

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

ELW 689, verse one

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. Bread, wine, and money, may be brought forward.

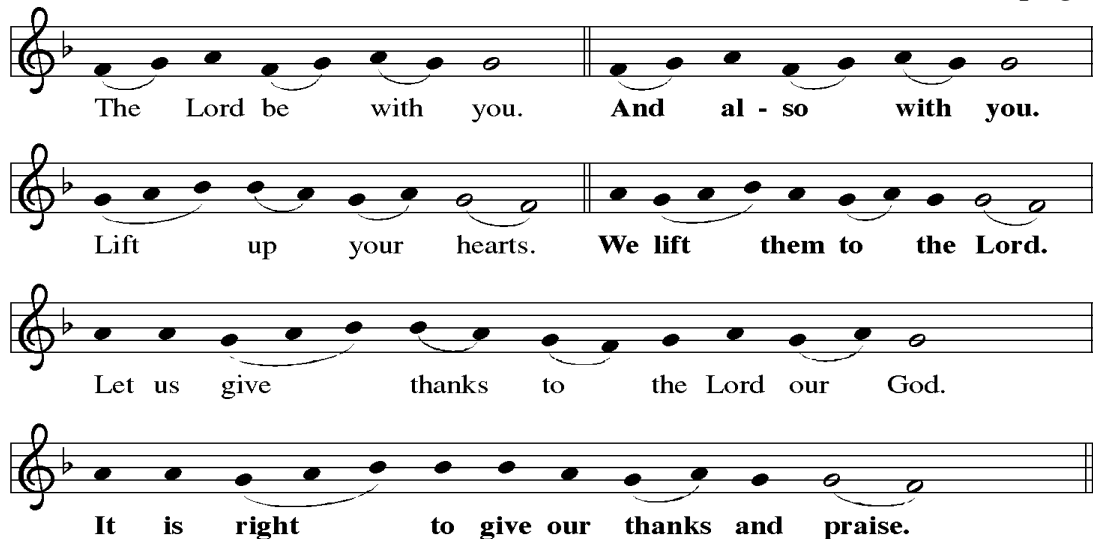
Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Offertory Prayer

God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW, page 129



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW, page 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Lord God, we praise you, bless you, and adore you.

In thanksgiving we bow before you...

...to you, the one true God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

we give our thanks and praise,

joining now and forever in loud songs of praise.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table

There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

COMMUNION

Music during Communion "Lamb of God"

ELW, page 135



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.

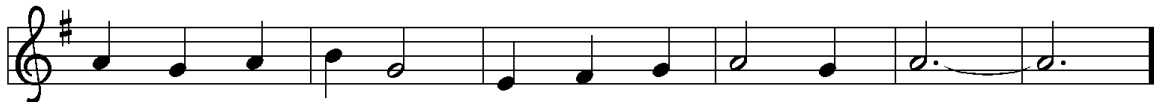




1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

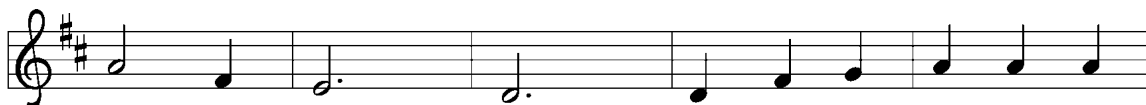


SENDING HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Michael Burkhardt

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Kristine Stedje *presider*
Janet Gross *assisting minister*
Seth Reinhardt *crucifer*
Yvonne Hazlett *organist*
Jackie Paulson *reader*

Ben and Ellie Hertenstein *sound and media technicians*
Vanessa Bremer, Jackie Paulson *children time teachers*
David Gross *communion minister, sacristan*

Mike VanBeest *usher*
Mark Viksten, Carole Heider *greeters*
Ann Doellinger, Enola Peters *fellowship hosts*
Sandie & Craig LaMaster *radio broadcast*
David & Janet Gross *livestream*
Bev Rosenkrans & Fran Krommenhoek *seasonal design*

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**WELCOME.
WORSHIP.
SERVICE.**

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church. We are a **welcoming** congregation who **worships and serves** the God we love. Holy Communion is served each Sunday morning, this is Jesus' meal and he invites you to come and receive. We serve communion with individual cups and communion bread. Gluten-free wafers are available.

On Saturday, November 18, two of our youngest worshipers met with Pastor Kristine to learn about the mystery of holy communion. Kyhren Plummer and Isaiah Merriweather, participated in a **First Communion Class** where we learned about Jesus' meal and its importance, then we made communion bread, which will be served this morning. This will not be the only time these two learn about this blessed meal. Once they realize others are receiving something they are not, they get curious...and that is when we teach them about "all" being welcome at Jesus' table! Welcome to Jesus' meal Kyhren and Isaiah!

***Siouxland Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve
Worship hosted by First Lutheran***

First Lutheran will serve as the host congregation for the Siouxland Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship on **Wednesday, November 22 at 7 pm** in the sanctuary. There will be pick-up choir, rehearsing prior to the worship service at 6 pm.

This gathering will invite ELCA congregations, as well as our ecumenical partners to join in worshipping together to give thanks to God for the blessings we enjoy. Following the worship service, a time for conversation and pie will be offered in Fellowship Hall. Living into our vision word, as a *welcoming* congregation, we look

forward to hosting this gathering and invite you to participate by serving as greeters and ushers, kitchen assistants (other congregations will bring the pie!) and choir members. Please mark your calendars and plan to include this worship service in your Thanksgiving plans. If you would like to volunteer to help, sign up in the narthex on the "name tag" bulletin board, or contact Pastor Kristine.

On **Sunday, November 26**, we will celebrate the **Holy Family Food Pantry's 25th year** of serving the hungry. For this *Gratitude Gathering* you are invited to bring a dish to share for a potluck meal in Fellowship Hall, immediately following worship. We will give thanks to God for the many blessings this ministry has shared with those who come seeking a meal. Join us in celebration of this ministry of First Lutheran.

Thank you to the Sandie & Craig LaMaster for sponsoring this week's **radio broadcast** and David & Janet Gross for sponsoring this week's **livestream**. We have openings available for radio broadcast and livestream. The sign-up sheet is located on the back of the nametag board in the narthex.

Wednesday, December 6, volunteers will be needed at the **Soup Kitchen** at 4:00 PM for at least six (6) helpers. Please call Candy Johnson if you would like to volunteer at 712-251-9411

THIS WEEK AT FIRST...November 19 – 25, 2023

Sunday:

10:00 Worship w/Holy Communion
After Worship – Fellowship, FR

Monday: Office Closed

5:00 Rising Stars, Gym
7:00 Scouts in FH

Tuesday:

10:00 Text Study
5:00 Rising Stars, Gym
6:30 Council Meeting, FR
7:00 Pickleball, Gym

Wednesday:

9:00-11:30 Food Pantry
7:00 Siouxland Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve

Friday:

9:00 Quilters, FH
9:00 Pickleball, Gym
7:00 AA in FH

Saturday:

9:00 Pickleball, Gym
12:00 Family Tillo, Gym