



*Peace*

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

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## **GATHERING**

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

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### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING REFLECTION**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✙ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.

**Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN**

*Hark, the Glad Sound* ELW #239

**(Vs. 1, 3 & 4)**

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## **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.**

## **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

P: We light the second candle, a sign of peace. Christ is our peace, who breaks down the walls that divide us.

**C: The peace of Christ surpasses all understanding.**

P: Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, fill our hearts with your harmony and love.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus, and make us instruments of your peace. Amen.**

## **KYRIE**

**ELW page 138**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE—*Glory be to God in heaven***

**ELW page 204  
(Vs. 1)**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST CHOIR

*Soon and Very Soon*

Arr. Crouch/Schrader

CCLI #11249

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## WORD

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

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### FIRST READING—Isaiah 11:1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations  
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **PSALM—Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

## **SECOND READING—Romans 15:4-13**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup> and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to the third chapter of Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL—Matthew 3:1-12**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* ELW #249

**(Vs. 1, 3 & 5)**

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## APOSTLES' CREED

**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**

## THE PRAYERS

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease especially those in our hearts and on our prayer list. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## **WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*He Came Down* ELW #253  
(Vs. 3)

**He came down that we may have peace;  
He came down that we may have peace;  
He came down that we may have peace;  
Hallelujah forever more.**

One License #00114 & CCLI #4679219

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Nourishing God,  
**you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**  
**Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,**  
**that we may rejoice and be for the world**  
**signs of your kingdom come.**  
**Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW page 144

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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Holy, holy, holy* ELW page 144

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Here is life. God is with us.  
Come, receive what God has promised.**

***Lamb of God ELW page 146***

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.**

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## SENDING

*The God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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## BLESSING

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

***All Earth Is Hopeful* ELW #266  
(Vs. 1 & 3)**

One License #82861 & One License #92276

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### **Welcome to First Lutheran Church**

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship  
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you  
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*



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Expires 6/2026

Church ArtPro—Account #74057560

Expires 12/15/2025

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **December Ministry Focus: Love Baskets**

As we enter this holy season of hope and anticipation, we are reminded that Christ calls us into community—both within our congregation and out in the world. One meaningful way we live out this calling is through our ministry of visitation. By spending time with those who are homebound, living alone, or experiencing seasons of loneliness, we interrupt the weight of social isolation with compassion and presence. A simple visit, a shared prayer, or even a warm conversation can be a profound expression of God's love. Thank you to Sue Michaelis for organizing this year's love basket visits.

The Love Baskets will be distributed the week of December 7.

### **The New Banner**

In this Advent Season, we will see a new banner in our sanctuary. Inspired by First Lutheran's stained-glass windows, it features a beautiful center panel depicting the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus. Vibrant colors of blue, yellow, green and red surround the nativity scene.

Four words are also featured on this banner. Each Sunday in Advent, as we anticipate Christ's birth, we light the Advent candles. To serve as a visual reminder of this spiritual preparation for Christmas, the banner displays the words associated with each of the candles: hope, peace, joy, and love.

The banner was designed and sewn by the creative team of Brenda Tews, Rita Patrias, Edrie Barton and Sue Nelson. Their hope is that the meaningful imagery in the banner will help all of us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!

## **December 21st Featuring First Choir at Worship**

Each year the choir members of First Choir give the gift of music to our church family. The 2025 theme is The Memories of Christmas: God With Us. Along with music of the season by the choir you can sing carols and hear reflections on the meaning of Christmas from First members. Choir members give of their time and talents throughout the church year and would appreciate your attendance to show your support and celebrate the birth of Jesus in song.

First Lutheran Church

116 Inner Drive

Le Sueur, MN 56058

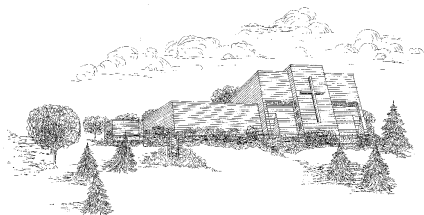
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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another  
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.



## Weekly Schedule

Sunday, December 7	<b>9:00a</b> 10:15a 4:00p	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b> First Choir Rehearsal RISE/RISE UP Christmas Program
Monday, December 8	10:00a	Nursing Home Service
Tuesday, December 9	10:00a 6:00p	Mary Unit Christmas Party Beer & Carols @ The Bar
Wednesday, December 10	9:00a 6:00p 6:30-7:30p 6:30-8p 6:30-8p	Staff Meeting Meal @ UMC RISE RISE UP FLY
Sunday, December 14	<b>9:00a</b> 10:15a	<b>Worship</b> First Choir Rehearsal

## Worship Assistants

### December 7, 2025

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Lyndon Rassmussen
Reader:	Vance Vanden Einde
Usher:	Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters:	Vanden Einde Family
Communion Asst:	LeRoy & Joan May
Council Member:	Miles Heille
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Joan May Dave Johnson
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker

### December 14, 2025

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Everett Greisen
Reader:	Ian Mailleue
Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	
Council Member:	Megan Schwarz
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Bob Patrias John Miller
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker