



"A city built on a hill cannot be hid" Matthew 5:14

Fifth Weekend after Epiphany

February 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

February 8, 2026 at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Church
Decorah, IA

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whatever your country of origin or ancestry, your race or ethnic heritage, and whether you are religious or not, Christian or not, or Lutheran or not, you are welcome here.

Whether you are male, female or transgender, young or old, straight, gay, lesbian or bisexual, you are welcome here.

Whether you are single or partnered, married, widowed or divorced, you are welcome here.

Whether you are wealthy or poor, own a home or rent, live at home or are homeless, you are welcome here.

Whatever your political views - whether to the right, to the left or to the center, you are welcome here.

Whatever your strengths or weaknesses, gifts or challenges, they will be honored, for you are welcome here.

First Lutheran Church is committed to being a loving and welcoming community centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ. In faithfulness to the Christian Gospel, in reflection of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and in celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we promise to enter into ministry with all who seek God here.

We invite you to join us for worship and take up your place with us in ministry for you are welcome at First Lutheran Church.

NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:

This **bulletin** contains the prayers, readings, some music, and responses that you will need to participate in worship.

Hymnals can be found in the pews for most congregational songs. We use both the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) and purple All Creation Sings (ACS) hymnals.

The **communion meal** is open to all who desire to participate, of any age. Gluten-free wafers and juice are available. Individual communion kits are also available as you enter the worship space for those who wish to remain in the pews.

Children are welcome at all of our worship services. A play area, where you'll also find quiet bags, is available for families in sanctuary. Feel free to nurse or feed your child in the sanctuary. We also have a staffed nursery during Sunday worship. Ask an usher for directions or follow the signs out the door at the northeast corner of the sanctuary.

Are you visiting? We invite you to fill out a yellow connection card found in your pew. Please also introduce yourself to Pr. Mike and Pr. David on your way out! Consider yourself welcome and invited to participate in the activities and worship life of this congregation!

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE 5:00 p.m. - Lord, whose love in humble service - The Sacred Harp/
Mark Hayes

8:15 a.m. - Chant de Paix, Op 40, No. 3 - Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

*GATHERING SONG O God of Love, This Is a Time of Turning

10:30 a.m. only

Music by Jean Sibelius
Lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

1. O God of love, this is a time of turn - ing,
2. O God of peace, we hear your gra - cious prom - ise:
3. O God of all, of im - mi - grant and neigh - bor,
4. O God of love, have mer - cy on your church - es;

a time of change, with con - flict in the news.
Your love can heal the hearts of hu - man - kind.
of those in pow'r and of the re - fu - gee,
Take from our hearts our pa - ra - lyz - ing fear.

For in our land, some migh - ty winds are churn - ing;
May we stand firm for truth and peace and jus - tice;
You give us all our com - mon life and la - bor,
Give us new faith! Make us cou - ra - geous work - ers.

There's much at stake that we could gain or lose.
May we leave fear and ha - tred far be - hind.
our com - mon hope, the peace we long to see.
Help us to la - bor on from year to year.

Love sings out strong, yet fires of hate are burn - ing;
May we sing out, and sing - ing be a wit - ness,
God, may we turn and be made strong to - ge - ther.
When oth - er voi - ces call out to dis - tract us,

O God of all, you call us all to choose.
and show re - solve to work for what is kind.
May we seek jus - tice, love, and u - ni - ty.
May we choose well and seek your king - dom here.

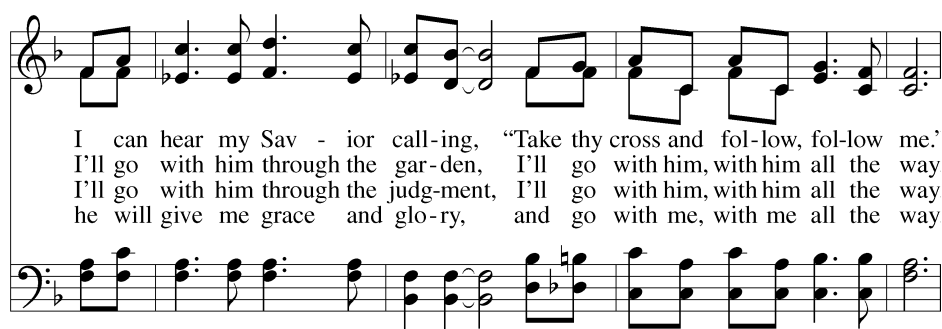
WELCOME Everyone is invited to share their prayer requests on the yellow cards found in the pews. If you are new to worship, please also include your contact information.

***GATHERING HYMN** TFF 146 I Can Hear My Savior Calling

8:15 a.m. only



1 I can hear my Sav - ior call-ing, I can hear my Sav - ior call-ing,
2 I'll go with him through the gar-den, I'll go with him through the gar-den,
3 I'll go with him through the judg-ment, I'll go with him through the judg-ment,
4 He will give me grace and glo-ry, he will give me grace and glo-ry,



I can hear my Sav - ior call-ing, "Take thy cross and fol-low, fol-low me."
I'll go with him through the gar-den, I'll go with him, with him all the way
I'll go with him through the judg-ment, I'll go with him, with him all the way
he will give me grace and glo-ry, and go with me, with me all the way



Refrain
Where he leads me I will fol-low, where he leads me I will fol-low,



where he leads me I will fol-low, I'll go with him, with him all the way.

***CONFESSION AND
FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

***CANTICLE**

This canticle comes from Tanzania and was taught to Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis by Deogratia Mahumba, a musician and choir director from Bukoba, Tanzania, during a companion synod visit.

ELW 797 Blessed Be the Name



He - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
1. Bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
2. Let us fol-low Je-sus, let us fol-low Je-sus, let us fol-low Je-sus on the way.



He - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
Bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
Let us fol-low Je-sus, let us fol-low Je-sus, let us fol-low Je-sus on the way.



Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya. He - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Bless - ed be the name, Je - sus' name.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Let us fol - low Je - sus on the way.



Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya. he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Bless - ed be the name, Je - sus' name.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Let us fol - low Je - sus on the way.

***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** *After we pause to breathe and for personal prayer, the presiding minister will pray.*
Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,
"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

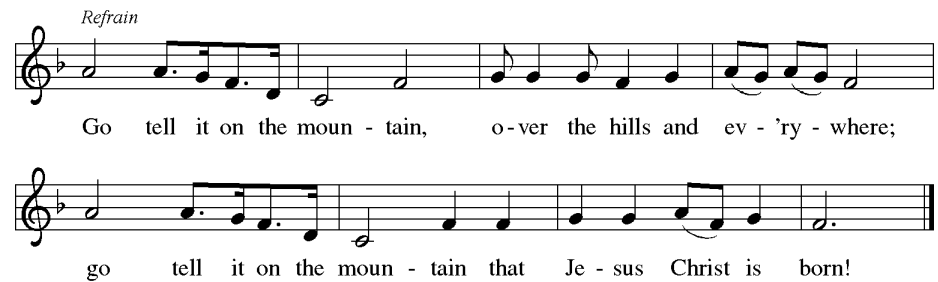
¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows

what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.
¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 290 Go Tell in on the Mountain (*refrain only*)



GOSPEL The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 5:13-16

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pr. Mike Wilker

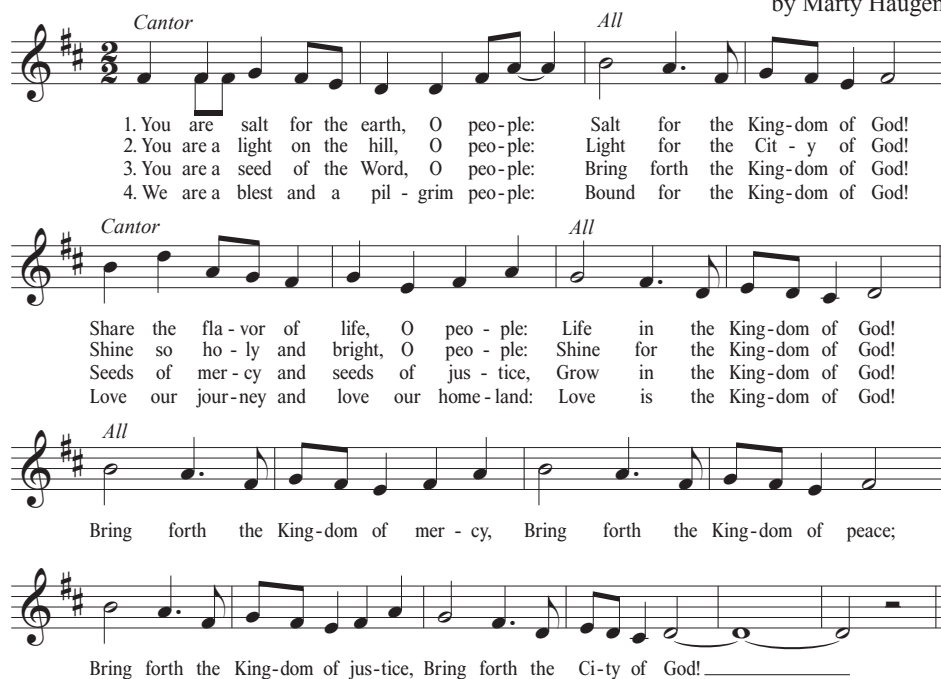
***HYMN OF THE DAY** W&P 22 Bring Forth the Kingdom

W&P 22 Bring Forth the Kingdom

Based on Matthew 5: 13-15

Words and Music
by Marty Haugen

Cantor *All*



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: Salt for the King-dom of God!
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: Light for the Cit - y of God!
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: Bring forth the King-dom of God!
4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo-ple: Bound for the King-dom of God!

Cantor *All*

Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King-dom of God!
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, Grow in the King-dom of God!
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: Love is the King-dom of God!

All

Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the King-dom of peace;

Bring forth the King-dom of jus-tice, Bring forth the Ci-ty of God! _____

***PRAYERS OF
INTERCESSION**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence. Each petition concludes:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



**MINISTRY
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Prayers, announcements, and updates can be found in the weekly AfterWord. Contact the church office if you are not receiving this publication and would like to subscribe. To view the AfterWord online, visit firstlutherandecorah.org/afterword or scan the QR code to the left.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING

Give online at

firstlutherandecorah.org/give,

text "GIVE" to (563) 412-2243,

or scan the QR code.



5:00 p.m. - Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart - Henry Smith/Jan Sanborn

8:15 a.m. - First Lutheran Children's Choir: Sing Unto the Lord by Cristi Cary Miller and Kathlyn Reynolds

10:30 a.m. - Step by Step

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. (x2)

I will seek you in the morning and I will learn to walk in your ways,

And step by step you'll lead me and I will follow you all of my days.

And I will follow you all of my days, and I will follow you all of my days,

and step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

As we journey through our Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh stewardship season, thank you for your faithful weekly offerings that sustain our worship, education, and service ministries. Whether you've pledged for 2026 or are still discerning, your gift today makes God's love visible in Decorah and beyond. If giving cash, please use an offering envelope with your name.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, 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.

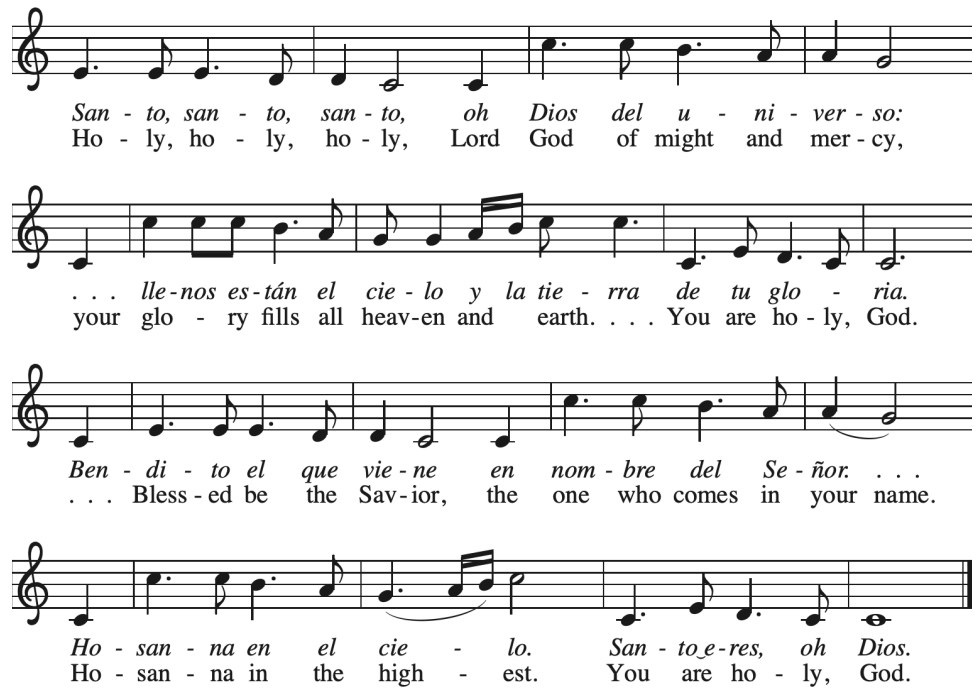
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS

Pablo Sosa, an Argentinian Methodist composer, says this music arises from the charismatic Christian movement in Argentina.

ACS 1089 Holy, Holy, Holy



San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,
 . . . lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.
 your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.
 Ben - di - to el que vie-ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . . .
 . . . Bless - ed be the Sav-ior, the one who comes in your name.
 Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to, e-res, oh Dios.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you create all things. Through the prophets you call your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our lives and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering therefore his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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** *We believe Jesus Christ is present when we share this meal. Here God nourishes our faith, forgives our sin, and calls us to share God's love. Adults and children of any age are welcome to receive communion.*

COMMUNION MUSIC 5:00 p.m. - Make Me a Channel of Your Peace - Sebastion Temple/
Mark Hayes
8:15 & 10:30 a.m. - ACS 962 In This Feast of Love &
W&P 95 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (see page 14)

***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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in love to serve.

***BLESSING** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** ELW 866 We Are Marching/Siyahamba

***DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE** 5:00 p.m. - Siyahamba - Zulu melody/John Carter
8:15 a.m. - As God Imagined - B.E. Boykin (b. 1989)

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis

1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.

Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
 Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
 It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

Last time to coda ⊕

where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
 where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
 in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -

1

and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.

2

3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

D.C. (stanza 4) al coda

loved as to love with all my soul.

⊕ *Coda*

ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

5:00 P.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Pr. Mike Wilker, presiding minister
Melissa O'Rourke, reader & communion assistant
Joe Skoda & Melissa O'Rourke, worship welcome team
Mike Ellingsen, piano

**8:15 A.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

Pr. Mike Wilker, preaching minister
Pr. David Severtson, presiding minister
Rick Stern, assisting minister
Kevin Rockwell, reader & communion assistant
Alex Meszler, organ
First Lutheran Children's Choir
Sarah Schacherer
Jake Nimrod, stream team
Clarence Nimrod, stream team
Kara Franke, nursery
Elliott Christen, worship welcome team
Paul Nichols, worship welcome team
Jim & Sue Haemker, worship welcome team

**10:30 A.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

Pr. Mike Wilker, preaching minister
Pr. David Severtson, presiding minister
Simon Potvin, assisting minister
Noah Potvin, reader & communion assistant
Mark Potvin, lead musician
Kara Franke, nursery
Gregg, Karen, Kyle, & Kate Pattison, worship welcome team



**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU**

SCAN TO TAKE A
SHORT WORSHIP SURVEY