

"O that you would tear open the heaven and come down" Isaiah 64:1

Until the Dawn

CRY OUT

First Weekend of Advent

November 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
November 29, 2026 at 8:15 a.m.
November 29, 2026 at 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. Children & youth, be sure to pick-up a **children's bulletin** where you'll find activities & more related to today's worship.

Hymnals can be found in the pews for most congregational songs - 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 NE corner of the sanctuary.

An induction **hearing loop system** is available throughout the sanctuary. Sound is broadcast directly from our audio system into your personal hearing device, significantly reducing background noise and echo. How to connect: Switch your hearing aid or cochlear implant to the "T" (Telecoil), "loop" or "stream boost" setting.

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. - The Wexford Carol - English carol/Mark Hayes
8:15 a.m. - Wachet Auf - J. S. Bach
10:30 a.m. - ELW (red) 438 My Lord, What a Morning

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**
5:00 p.m. omit

8:15 a.m. - ACS (purple) 902 Come Now, O God
10:30 a.m. - ACS (purple) 901 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

***CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS, AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

The presiding minister begins at the font and people may make the sign of the cross in a remembrance of baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who keeps watch with us through the night and whose mercy is new every morning. **Amen.**

Let us bring the truth of our lives to the God who listens.

Silence for reflection.

Holy God, we confess that we have swallowed our grief and hidden our longing. We have waited for someone else to take the first step. We have stayed silent when love called us to speak. We have let fear hold our hearts, when you called us to courage. Turn us around. Restore us. Let your face shine, that we may rise to meet your dawn. Amen.

Beloved of God, hear the good news: by the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high shines upon us. In Jesus, God has torn open the heavens and come down, not to condemn the world but to save it. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's mercy is new every morning. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Forgiven and set free, we keep watch for the dawn.

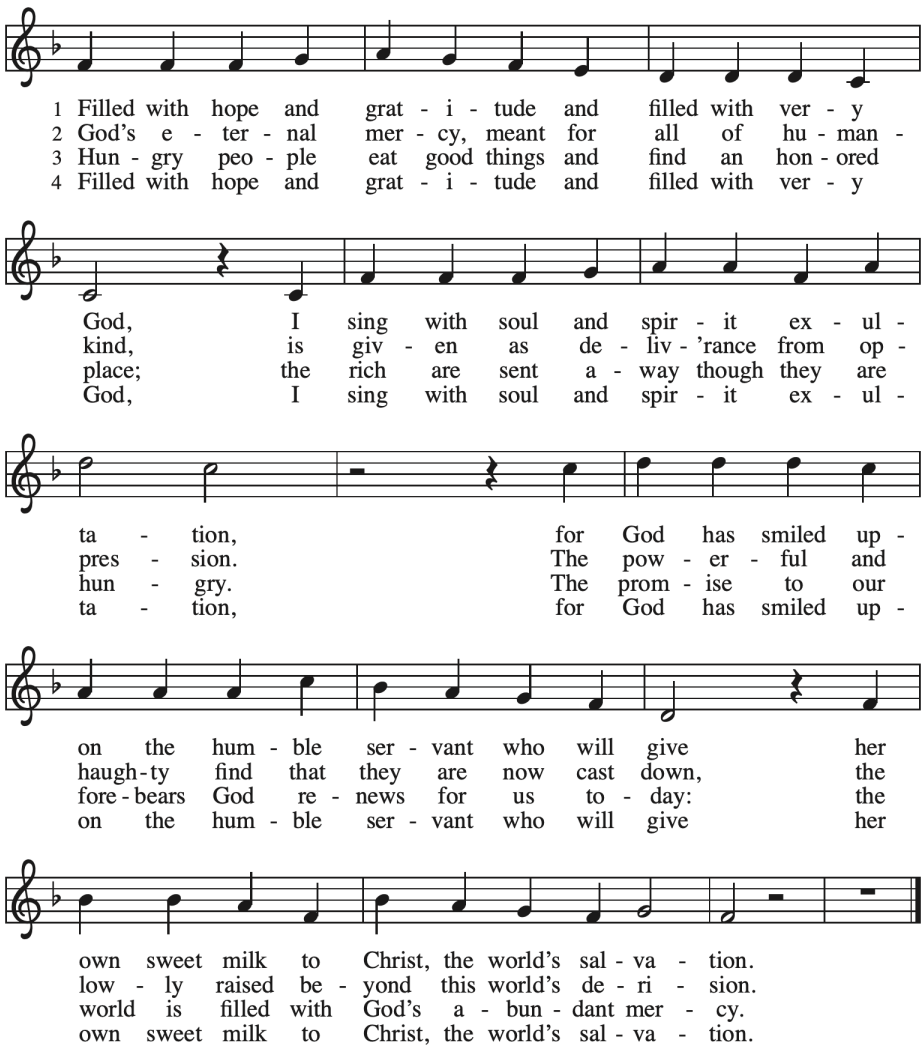
When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
we cry out to God without holding back.
When grief weighs heavy and injustice will not end,
we gather close, arm in arm.
When the morning feels far away,
we light the candle of hope.
The light is small, but it will grow.
Until the dawn, may it guide our path. Amen.

The Advent wreath is lit while the congregation sings the canticle on page 4.

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

***HYMN**

Filled with Hope and Gratitude



***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** *The presiding minister speaks the breath prayer three times; we breathe and pray it silently.*

Breath Prayer

INHALE: God weeps
EXHALE: with those who cry out.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Hear us when we cry out, and by your merciful protection awaken us to the dangers of our sins. Keep us blameless until the dawn of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON *Sunday only*

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

PSALM Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

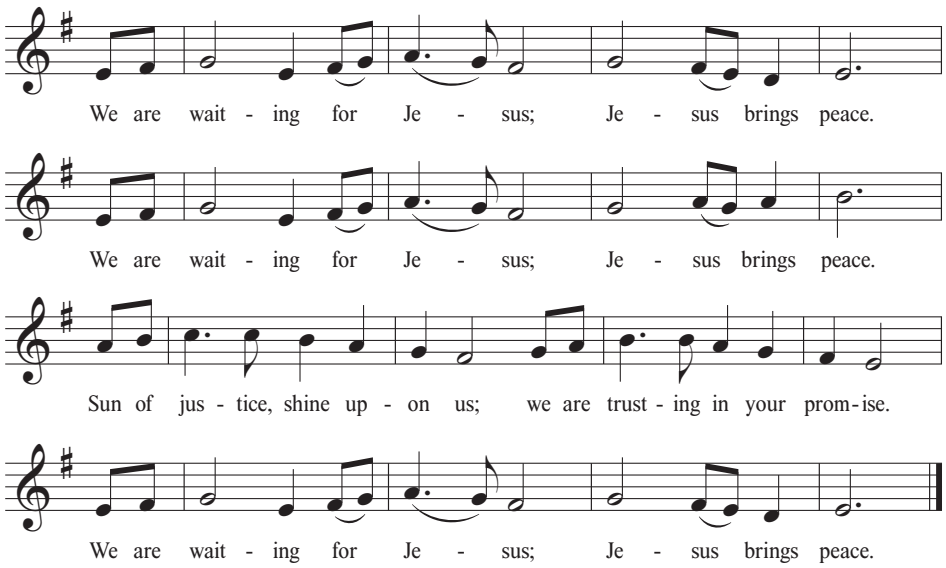
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind —6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great
power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather
the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the
ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch
becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is
near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know
that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation
will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven
and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels
in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert,
for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man
going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in
charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be
on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when
the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or
at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he
comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

SERMON

5:00 p.m. - Pr. Jenny Edinger
8:15 & 10:30 a.m. - Pr. Mike Wilker

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

5:00 p.m. & 8:15 a.m. - ELW (red) 436 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
10:30 a.m. - ELW (red) 242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence. Each petition concludes:

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Find weekly prayers, announcements, and updates in the AfterWord. View this week's edition or sign up to receive it in your inbox each week at firstlutherandecorah.org/afterword or scan the QR code.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

5:00 p.m. - 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime - Huron Carol/ Joseph Martin
8:15 a.m. - The Journey to Bethlehem - C. Franck
10:30 a.m. - ELW (red) 253 He Came Down

*To give online, visit firstlutherandecorah.org/give, text the word "**GIVE**" to (563) 412-2243, or scan the QR code.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray the offering prayer together.

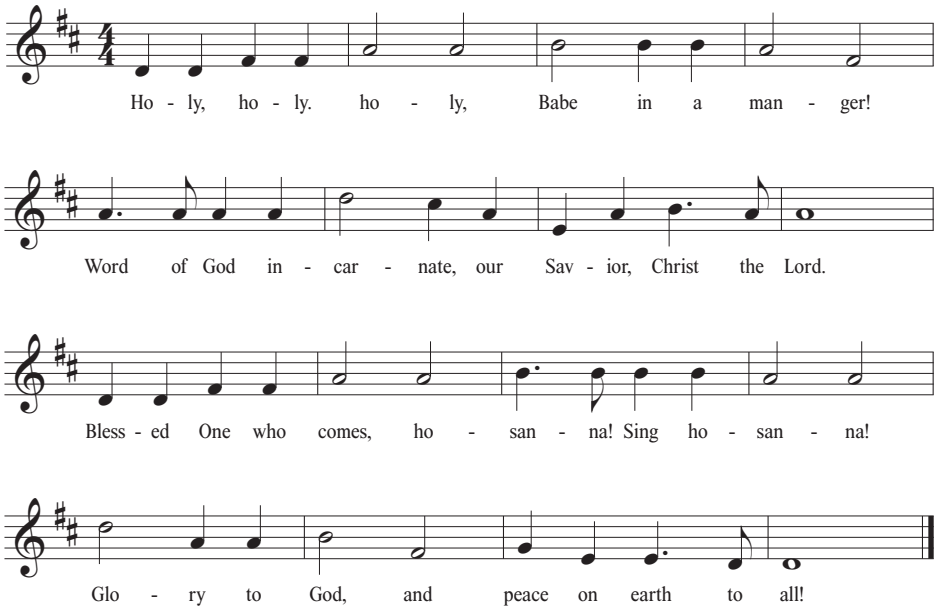
God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

***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, the dawn from on high, who gives light to those in the shadow of death. 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:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for hearing your people when they cry out.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's courageous yes.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. Until the dawn of his coming, we wait with hope and work in love. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Make your Word take flesh in us. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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. - Watchman, Tell Us of the Night - Joseph Parry/Mark Hayes
8:15 a.m. - ACS (purple) 901 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper & ELW (red) 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
10:30 a.m. - ELW (red) 487 What Feast of Love & Messiah (Dakota Road)

Someone's shouting from the dessert.
Someone's shouting from the sea.
Someone's shouting from the mountain.
Someone's shouting from the valley.

Messiah, come and be our King. *(repeat)*

Someone's shouting from the city; I am young and I am cold.
Someone's shouting from the country; I am lonely, I am old.

Someone's shouting I am broken.
Someone's shouting make me whole.
Someone's shouting come and change me.
Someone's shouting save my soul.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of the long night and the rising sun, at this table you have fed us with Christ, the dawn from on high. Strengthen us for the holy work of waiting: to cry out with all who suffer, to start where we are, to speak the truth in love, and to take courage until your promised day breaks over all the earth and all who hunger are filled with good things. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Light and our Lord. **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**

5:00 p.m - ELW (red) 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!
8:15 a.m. - ELW (red) 435 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
10:30 a.m. - ELW (red) 715 Christ, Be Our Light

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

***POSTLUDE**

5:00 p.m. - How Brightly Beams the Morning Star - Philip Nicolas/ John Carter
8:15 a.m. - Tell Out My Soul - arr. P. Manz

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

5:00PM WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:
Pr. Jenny Edinger, preaching & presiding minister
Sue Ellingsen, reader & advent wreath
Darrel Jensen, communion assistant
Mike Ellingsen, piano
Darrel & Mary Pat Jensen, worship welcome team

8:15AM WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:
Pr. Mike Wilker, preaching minister
Pr. David Severtson, presiding minister
Vicky Jaeger, assisting minister
Jen Anderson, reader & communion assistant
Jen & Matt Anderson, advent wreath
Serina Norvold Hallquist, organ
Noah Potvin, stream team
Rich & Linda Svenson, worship welcome team
Karen Martin-Schramm, worship welcome team
Brenda Carlson, worship welcome team

10:30AM WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:
Pr. Mike Wilker, preaching minister
Pr. David Severtson, presiding minister
Pat Seckar, assisting minister
Clara Muggli-Toyloy, reader
Dennis Tack, communion assistant
Darryl & Clara Muggli-Toyloy and Olive, Zeno, & Dahlia, advent wreath
Mark Potvin, lead musician
Oliver Brummel, lead musician
JT Vogel & Betsy Ratashak-Vogel and Marta, Simon, Jace, & Ruth, worship welcome team

The altar arrangements are provided in loving memory of Paul Dirks by his family.