

"Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him" Matthew 25:6

24th Weekend after Pentecost

November 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
November 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. 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. - When Peace, Like a River - Philip Bliss/Mark Hayes
8:15 a.m. - Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring - D. Cherwien
10:30 a.m. - Lord, I Lift Your Name on High *(see yellow insert)*

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**

8:15 a.m. - ELW (red) 438 My Lord, What a Morning
10:30 a.m. - I Believe, I Do Believe *(see yellow insert)*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**
10:30am omit

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, who forgives and frees us from sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*KYRIE

"Kyrie eleison" means Lord, have mercy. It's one of our most basic prayers. At the beginning of worship we pray that God's mercy fills us and the whole world.



** Please rise in body or spirit.*

*NOW THE FEAST

This is our autumn Hymn of Praise. The words are from Isaiah 25 and Revelation 5. The music is by Marty Haugen.



***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.*

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Sunday only

FIRST READING

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

Amos 5:18-24 (Contemporary English Version)

18 You look forward to the day when the LORD comes to judge.
But you are in for trouble!
It won't be a time of sunshine; all will be darkness.
19 You will run from a lion, only to meet a bear.
You will escape to your house, rest your hand on the wall,
and be bitten by a snake
20 The day when the LORD judges will be dark, very dark,
without a ray of light.
21 I, the LORD, hate and despise your religious celebrations
and your times of worship.
22 I won't accept your offerings or animal sacrifices—
not even your very best.
23 No more of your noisy songs!
I won't listen when you play your harps.
24 But let justice and fairness flow like a river
that never runs dry.

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

SECOND READING

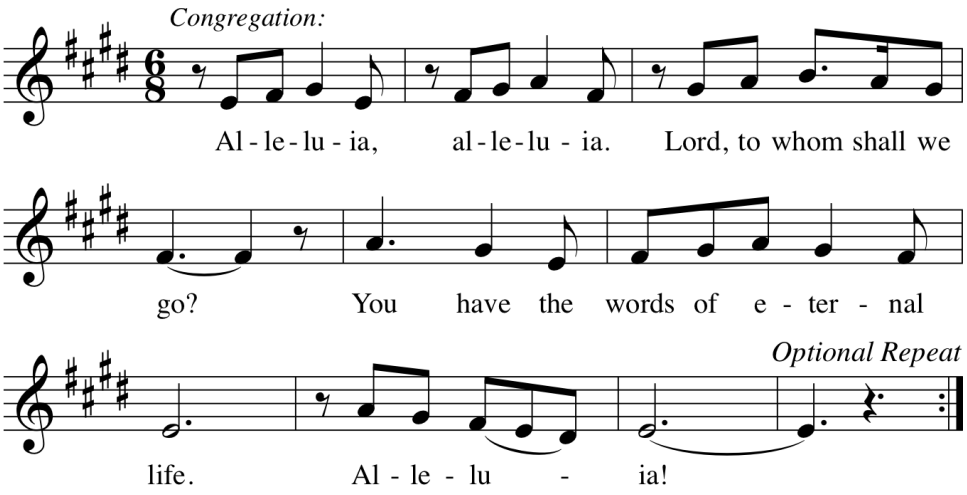
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that Christians who have died will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Contemporary English Version)

13 My friends, we want you to understand how it will be for those followers who have already died. Then you won't grieve over them and be like people who don't have any hope. **14** We believe Jesus died and was raised to life. We also believe that when God brings Jesus back again, he will bring with him all who had faith in Jesus before they died. **15** Our Lord Jesus told us that when he comes, we won't go up to meet him ahead of his followers who have already died. **16** With a loud command and with the shout of the chief angel and a blast of God's trumpet, the Lord will return from heaven. Then those who had faith in Christ before they died will be raised to life. **17** Next, all of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the sky. From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever. **18** Encourage each other with these words.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

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

Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be
like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the
bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3
When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but
the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom
was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at
midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come
out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and
trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some
of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied,
'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go
to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they
went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready
went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11
Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open
to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13
Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

SERMON

Pr. David Severtson

What rest or support do you need to be "awake" to your current life's purpose?

*HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS (purple) 1047 What Is the World Like

HOLY BAPTISMS

10:30 a.m. only

Lucy Kate Canoy Illies, daughter of Allie & Matt Canoy Illies, and Elliott David Krueger, son of Krista & David Krueger

(see purple insert)

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence. Each petition concludes:
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **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 Christ.

OFFERING

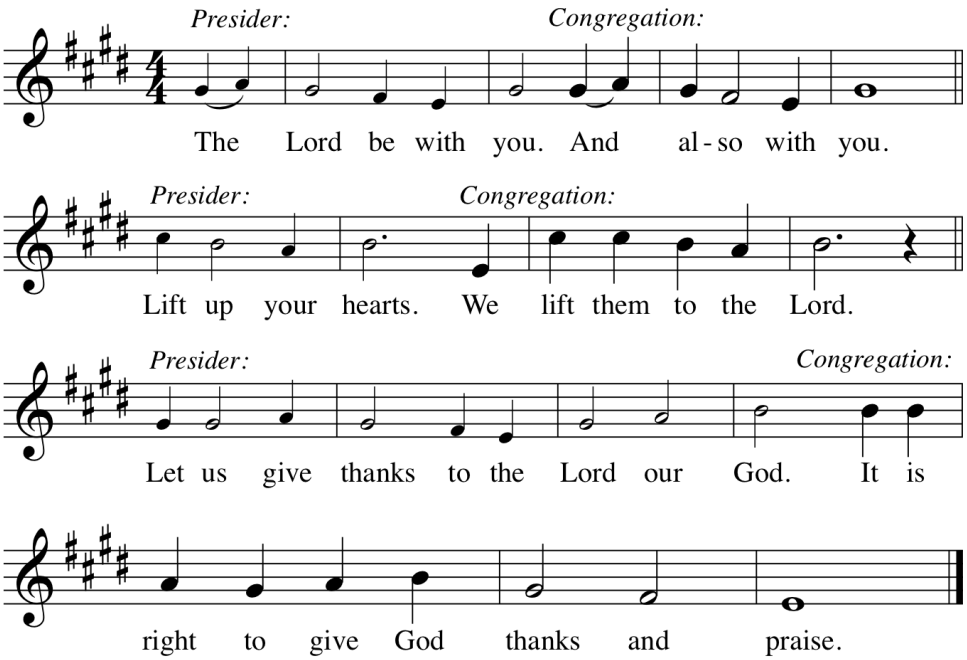
5:00 p.m. - My Lord, What a Morning - spiritual/Mark Hayes
8:15 a.m. - Adult Choir: Christ, Enthroned in Light by Orin Johnson
10:30 a.m. - Holy Time *(see yellow insert)*

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

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

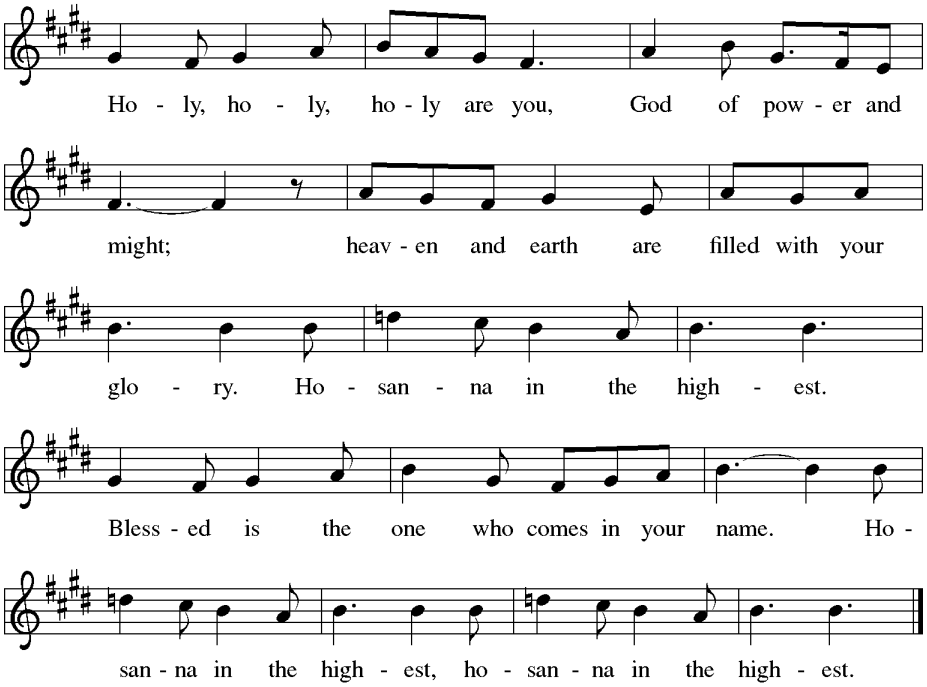
***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



** Please rise in body or spirit.*

…and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and holy is your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. He blessed the poor in spirit, those who mourn, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. By his cross you revealed that your love has no limit; by his resurrection you conquered the last enemy. He is our shepherd and king, who seeks the lost and meets us in the littlest ones.

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 his death and resurrection, we await, with lamps burning, the day of his coming.

In this meal we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, uniting us with all the baptized. Make us faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us, children of light who let justice roll down like waters.

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

Remember our beloved ones, whose baptism is now complete in death. Wipe away every tear, and gather us with them and the great multitude before the throne of the Lamb; through whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty 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. - Deep River - spiritual/Larry Shackley
8:15 a.m. - ACS (purple) 949 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning & ACS (purple) 951 Deep River
10:30 a.m. - Amazing Grace (Alleluia, Allelu) *(see yellow insert)* & ELW (red) 785 When Peace, Like a River

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

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. & 8:15 a.m. - ELW (red) 785 When Peace, Like a River
10:30 a.m. - W&P 53 Great is the Lord



***DISMISSAL** Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

***POSTLUDE** 5:00 p.m. - Soon and Very Soon - Andraé Crouch/Jack Schrader
8:15 a.m. - Let All Things Now Living - F. Stoldt

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

5:00 P.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:
Pr. David Severtson, preaching & presiding minister
Doug van Sloten, reader
Kendra van Sloten, communion assistant
Mike Ellingsen, piano
Doug & Kendra van Sloten, worship welcome team

8:15 A.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:
Pr. David Severtson, preaching minister
Pr. Mike Wilker, presiding minister
Andrew Whitfield, assisting minister
Lindy Borske-Hubbard, reader & communion assistant
First Lutheran Adult Choir
Mark Potvin, director
Serina Norvold Hallquist, organ
Jacob Nimrod, stream team
Clarence Nimrod, stream team
Elliott Christen, worship welcome team
Paul Nichols, worship welcome team
Jim & Sue Haemker, worship welcome team

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:
Pr. David Severtson, preaching minister
Pr. Mike Wilker, presiding minister
Betsy Ratashak-Vogel, assisting minister
Marta Vogel, reader
Simon Vogel, communion assistant
Mandy Severtson, lead musician
Mark Potvin, lead musician
Eleanor Brown, lead musician
Don & Susan Nelson, worship welcome team
Eric & Paige Albjerg, worship welcome team

First Lutheran
Living God's Word

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

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION