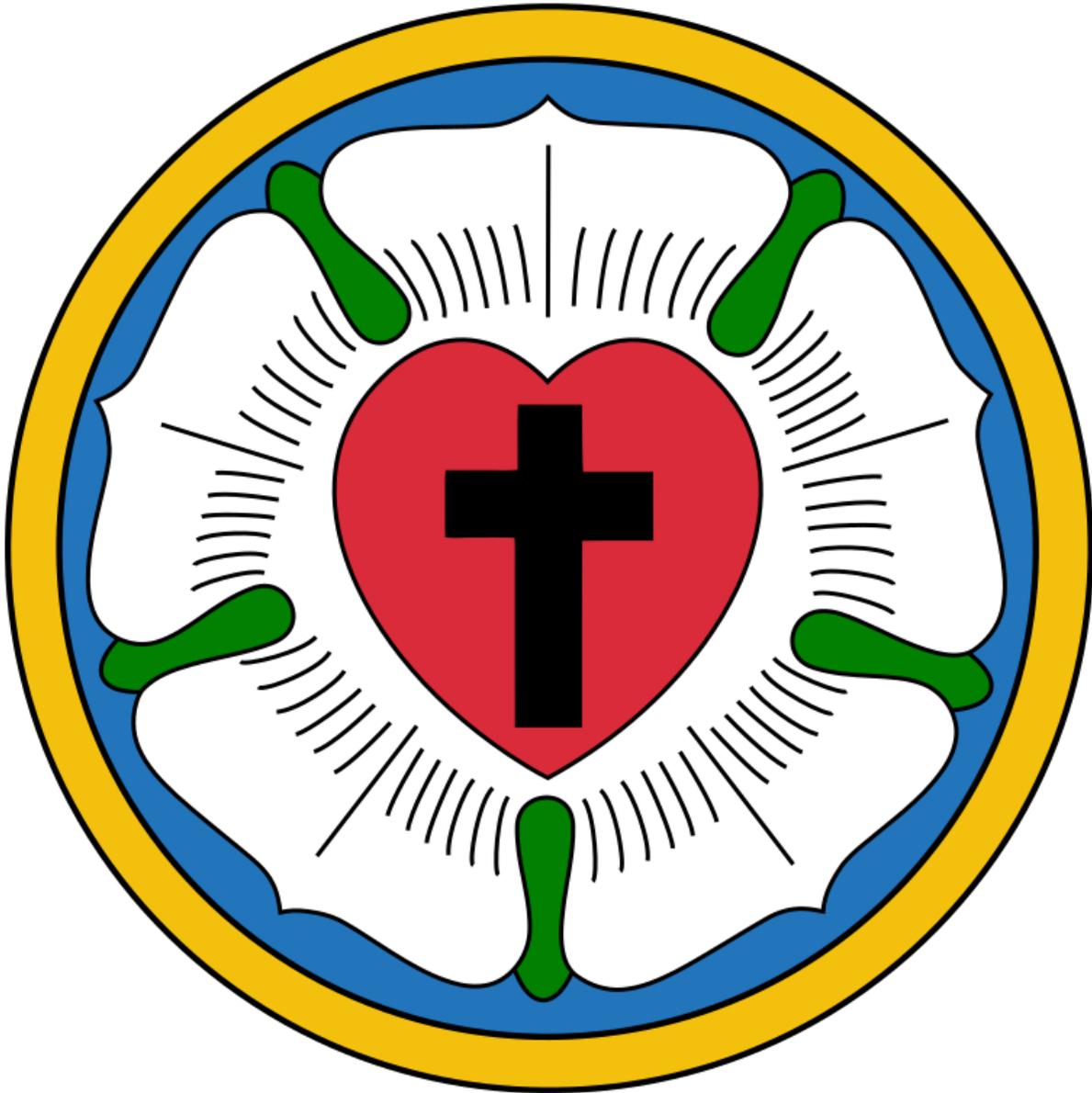


St. Matthew 21:33-46

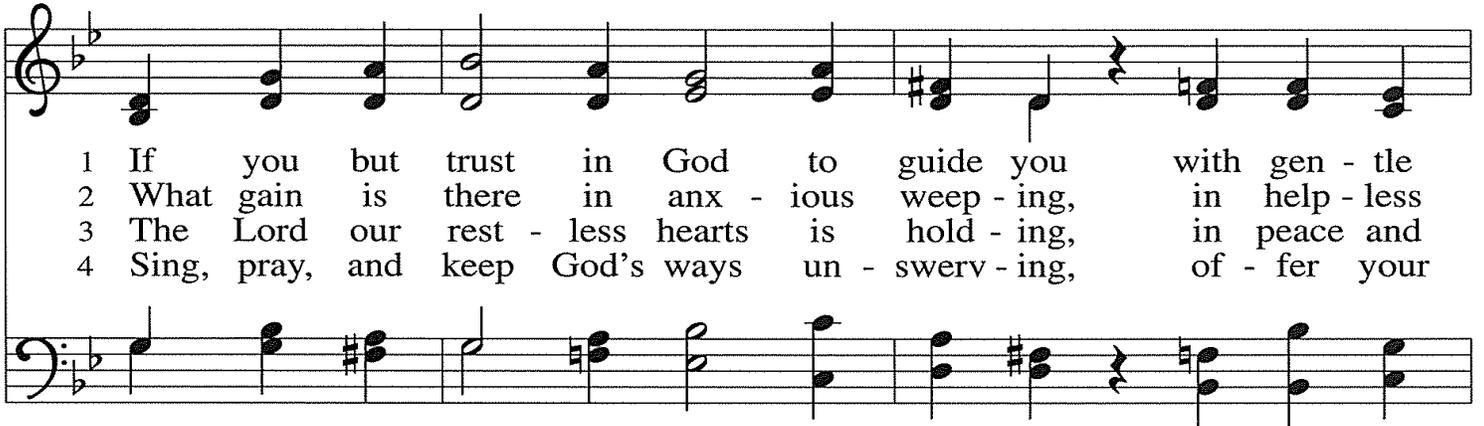


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2020

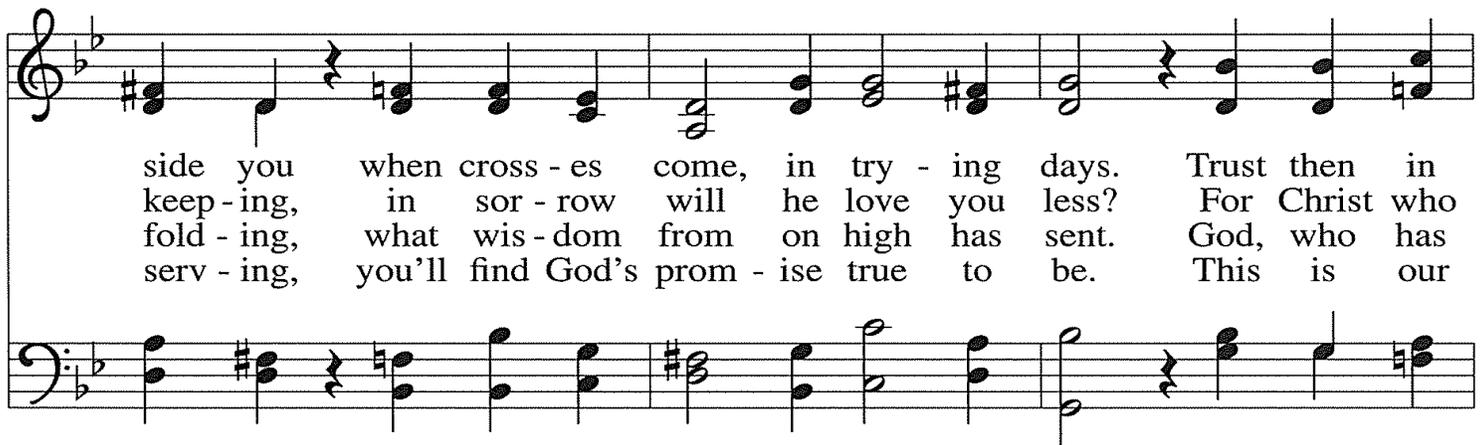
- Prelude *Morning Has Broken* Mark Hayes  
*Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us* by Thrupp/Bradbury
- \*The Processional Hymn *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* (ELW) No. 769
- \*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94
- P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C: Amen.**
- P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**C: Amen.**
- P: Most merciful God,  
**C: 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.**
- P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C: Amen.**
- \*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138
- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C: And also with you.**
- \*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138
- P: ....., let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C: Amen.**
- \*The Hymn of Praise *This is the Feast* (ELW) No. 140



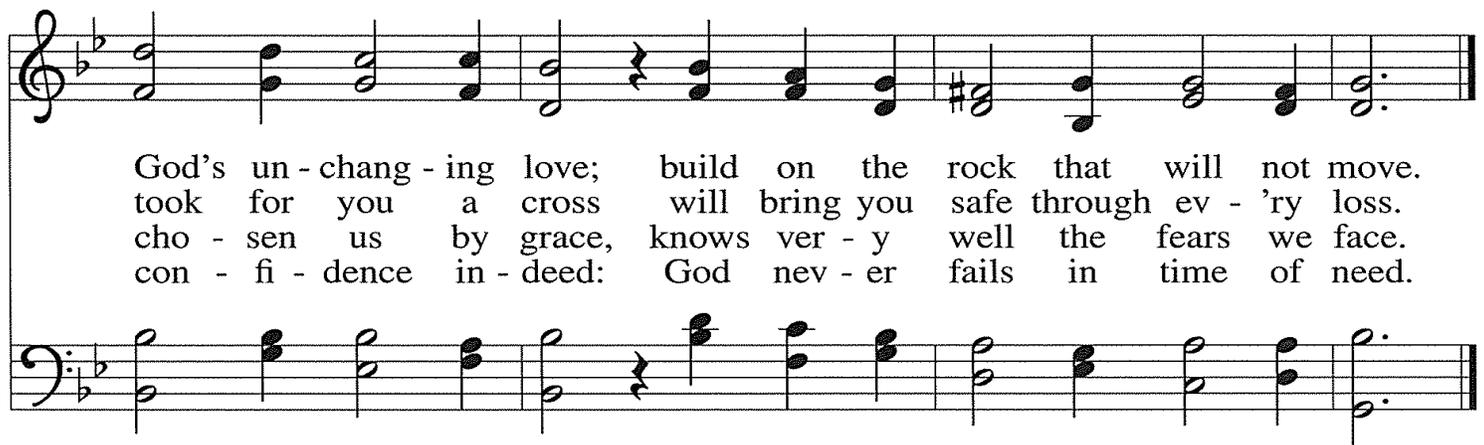
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less  
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and  
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's  
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -  
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.  
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



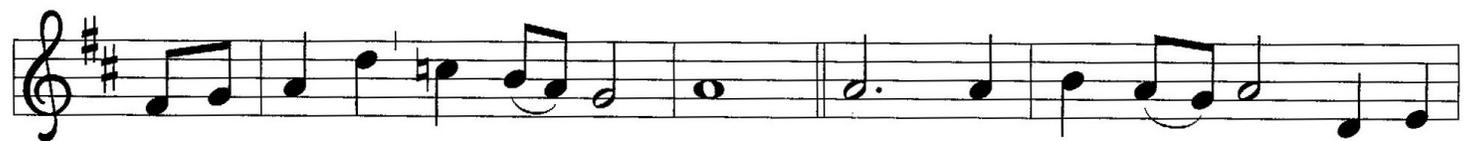
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



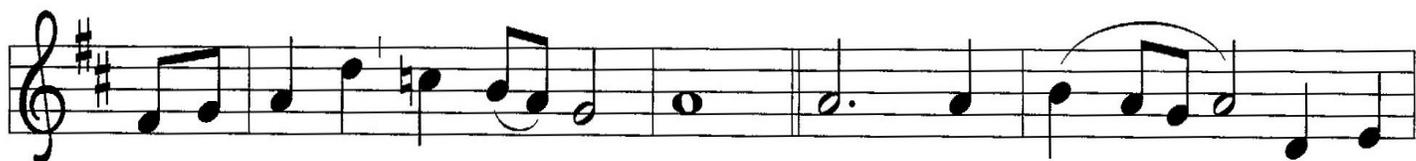
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Generously pardon and give peace to Your faithful people, O Lord, that being cleansed from every sin, we may be free and glad to serve; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 80:7-18

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of Your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>8</sup>You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You cast out the nations and planted it.**

<sup>9</sup>You prepared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

**<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

**<sup>12</sup>Why have You broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**<sup>14</sup>Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; preserve what Your right hand has planted.**

<sup>15</sup>They burn it with fire like rubbish; at the rebuke of Your countenance let them perish.

**<sup>16</sup>Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, the son of man You have made so strong for Yourself.**

<sup>17</sup>And so will we never turn away from You; give us life, that we may call upon Your Name.

**<sup>18</sup>Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of Your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading:

Philippians 3:4b-14

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation (sung)

(ELW) page 142

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\*Gospel:

Matthew 21:33-46

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

The Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Day

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

(ELW) No. 781

\*The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

# Children of the Heavenly Father

*Tryggare kan ingen vara*

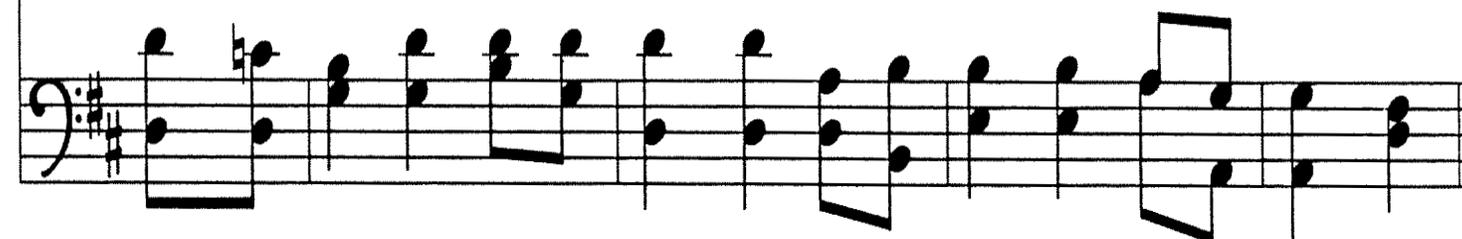
781



*Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,*  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



*stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.*  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

by Hayes/Bradbury

\*The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(ELW) No. 188

\*The Great Thanksgiving

(ELW) page 144

\* The Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Lamb of God

(ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn

*We Walk by Faith*

(ELW) No. 635

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

\*The Benediction (*sung response*)

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

\*The Recessional Hymn

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

(ELW) No. 596

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*FLC Sending Hymn

*Be The Love of Christ*

arr. Michael Showalter

Roger Thornhill

Postlude

*In Heaven Above*

Norwegian Folk Tune

## Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

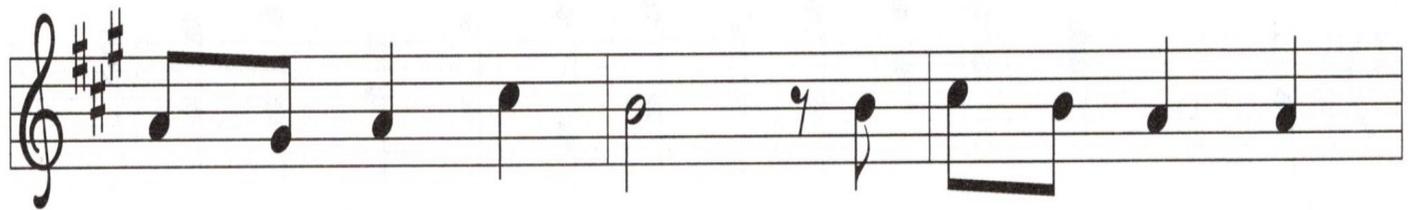
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

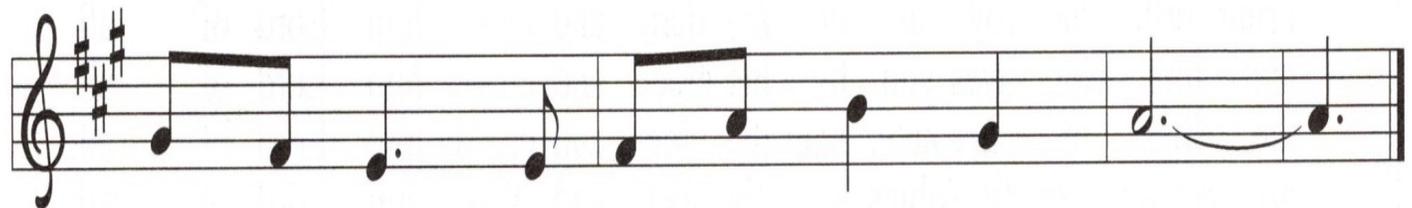
## We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in

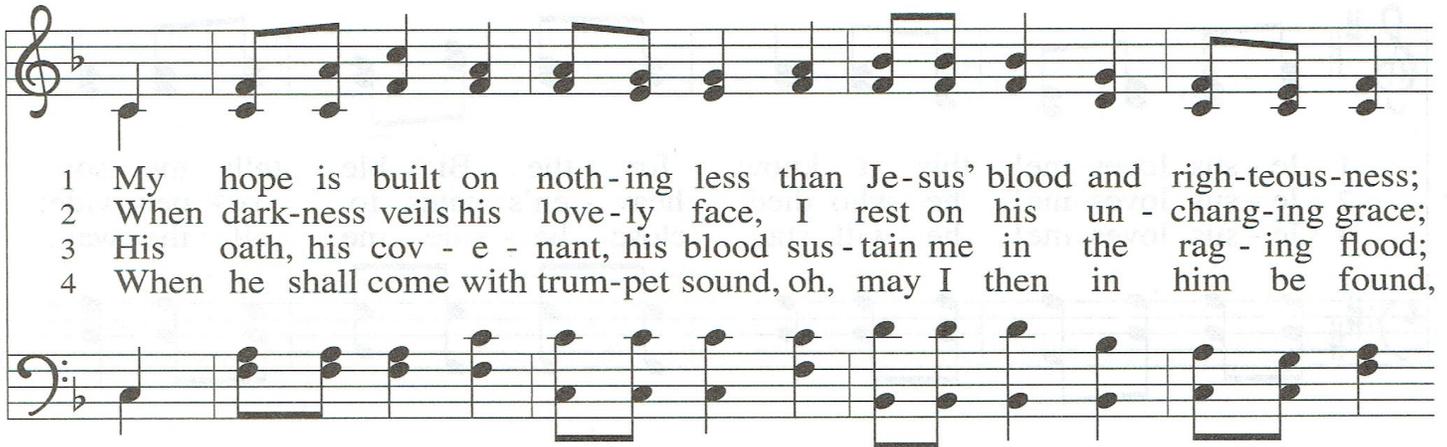


gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

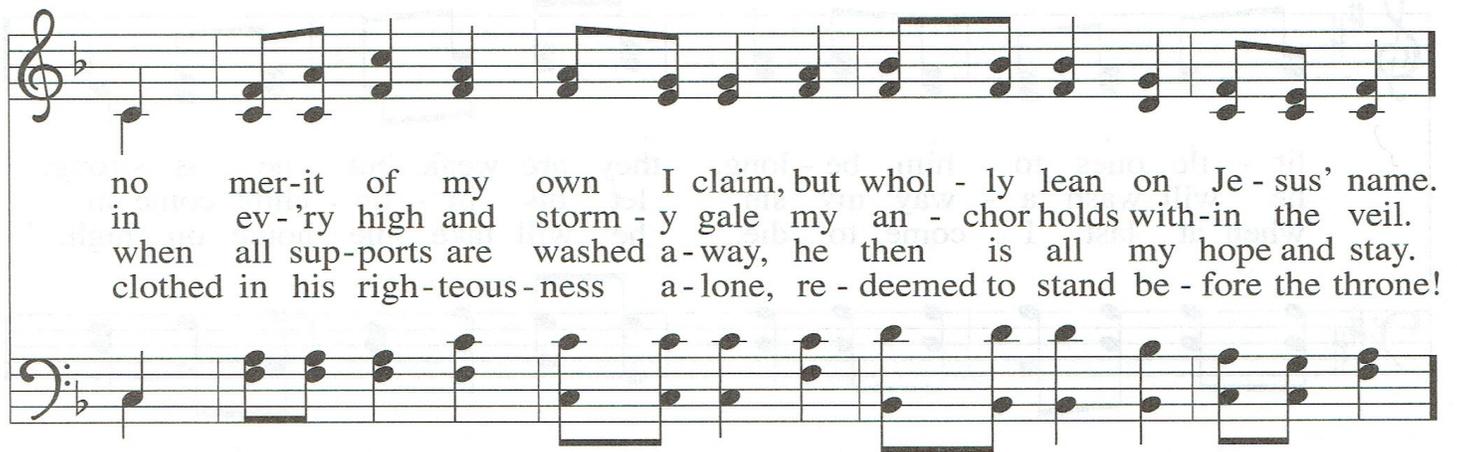


none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

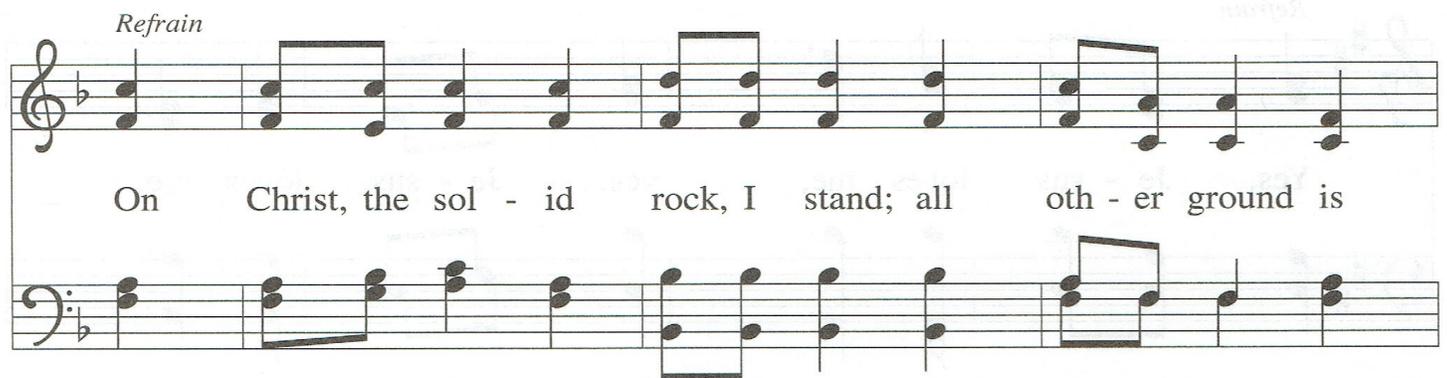


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;  
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;  
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

**First Lutheran Church**

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website: www.flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Organist and Music Director: Bobbi Heastings

barbara\_heastings@comcast.net

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of our parents, Jacob N. & Edna Nelson, Joseph S. & Mary E. Lacko, for the twelfth anniversary today of Jason & Melissa Carpenter, for the fifty-fourth anniversary on Oct. 6th for J. Judson & Sally S. Lacko, and God's love of our son, J. Denny Lacko.

**The Lay Reader** is Kris Briggs.

**Please pray for those in need of healing:**

Betty Johnson, Janet Burke, Maureen Curry, Eveline Reihner, Rocky and Carol, Leah, Shari Kienzle, Joanne Reck, Chiquita, Patricia Zablony, Stacy Carroll, Byron Christian, Tilley Shawin, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, little Karson, Gertie Sten, Pastor Bruce and Marie Kreutzer, Melissa McCabe, baby Isaac Christian, Barbara Mounts, Joe Mecca, Sandy Hebrank, Rachel Rogers, Lynn Hudak, Sonie Rea, Allan Zimmerman, Donna O. the Pollana family, Iva Romano, Frank Kubichar, Ashley Carpenter, Amy Verderber.

**Please join us for Coffee Hour following the service.**

**Counters and Greeters** today are C. Group, J. Ulanich, R. Williams.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

**Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Grewe.

**Nursery:** We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

**Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia.**  
**Please consider this as a call to help others in need.**

**The Flower Chart for 2020** is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

**Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2020.** Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

**Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2020.** Please sign up.

**Bell Choir Practice** on Sunday from 1-2 PM and Thursday from 7-8:30 PM.

**Church Offering Change:** In order to keep everyone safe we have changed how we collect the Sunday Offering. We do not have our ushers pass the plates around. Instead, we have one offering plate located by the last pew and one by the choir loft. Please place your offering in one of those plates. Feel free to place your offering in the plates during our Offertory if you did not do so on the way in.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

Pentecost 18 - October 4, 2020

"If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more..."

- Philippians 3:4-

Do you remember the song, "It's Hard to Be Humble," by Mac Davis? Even if you weren't alive in 1974 when this record was released, you've probably heard it on the radio. The country singer crooned, "O Lord it's hard to be humble, when you're perfect in every way," and, "to know me is to love me...". It's a silly song, however, certainly we know people who actually think this way about themselves.

St. Paul wrote to the church in Philippi saying that he had every reason to be proud of himself. If salvation came by works of the flesh, he had a resume that was sure to impress: circumcised on the eighth day according to the Law, a Benjaminite, a good Hebrew when it came to following the Torah, a Pharisee full of zeal, and blameless when it came to righteousness. Who can compete with that? No one! And, that's not the way it works with Jesus anyway. (Thanks be to God!)

Instead of singing, "It's hard to be humble when you're perfect in every way," St. Paul was saying, "I count all of that as loss for the sake of Christ." Just sit with that sentiment for a moment. In a world where success means more money, more possessions, more status and power, it is quite countercultural to be of the mind of Christ, "who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).

Salvation comes through the cross of Christ alone. Our human desire is to be noticed, rewarded for our efforts, praised even. But humility and servanthood is the way of the cross. We can laugh at Mac Davis' song, and then we can recognize that his words bear witness to our lack of humbleness. There was only one who was perfect in every way, and he was the epitome of self-emptying humility. (He would never have dared to sing such a tune!) All the accomplishments we can put on our resume are nothing if we do not have Christ in our lives. He is our treasure and our greatest gift. Amen.

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