

St. Mark 29(b)

“This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2021

Prelude

*America*

*God of our Fathers*

\*The Processional Hymn

*Lift High the Cross*

(ELW) No. 660

\*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.**

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: O Lord, help Your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow You, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, 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 50:4-10

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 116:1-8

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, because He has heard the voice of my supplication,  
because He has inclined His ear to me whenever I called upon Him.

**<sup>2</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; I came to grief and sorrow.**

<sup>3</sup>Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray You, save my life."

**<sup>4</sup>Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>The Lord watches over the innocent; I was brought very low, and He helped me.

**<sup>6</sup>Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has treated you well.**

<sup>7</sup>For You have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

**<sup>8</sup>I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

Second Reading

James 3:1-12

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

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

\* The Gospel

Mark 9:14-29

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

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

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Day

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

(ELW) No. 666

\*The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord*

arr. Fred Bock

Sung by Pastor and Kimberly Grewe

\*The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(ELW) No. 188

\*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.**

Announcements

\*The Benediction (*sung response*)

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

\*The Recessional Hymn

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

(ELW) No. 547

\*FLC Sending Hymn

*Be The Love of Christ*

arr. Michael Showalter

Roger Thornhill

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*America the Beautiful*

# Lift High the Cross

660

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

774

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms?



what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



## *Refrain*



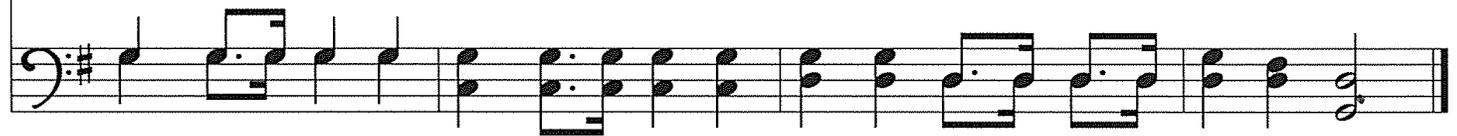
Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.



## Create in Me a Clean Heart

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

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily composed of chords and block chords, with some eighth-note movement in the treble staff. The lyrics are: "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

The second system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "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 -

The third system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -".

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

The fourth system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,".

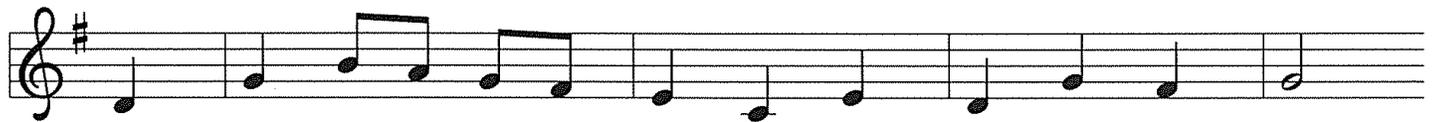
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.".

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to give work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

## **First Lutheran Church**

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Organist and Music Director: Kristina Schuerle

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Emogene and to the glory and grace of our Savior. A donation will be made to the Roof Fund.

**The Lay Reader** is Kimberly Grewe.

**Acolytes** are Lyndsay and Bryce Berry.

**Counters/Greeters** today are K. Luketich and D. Schmidt.

**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.

**Dartball** on September 14 is a bye week.

**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.

**Bell Choir Practice** on Sunday from 1-2 & Thursday from 7-8 PM.

**The Flower Chart for 2021** 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 2021.** 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 2021.** Please sign up.

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

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

Betty Johnson, Janet Burke, Maureen Curry, Eveline Reihner, Rocky and Carol, Shari Kienzle, Chiquita, Stacy Carroll, Byron Christian, Tillie Shawin, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, baby Isaac Christian, Sandy Hebrank, Lynn Hudak, Allan Zimmerman, the Pollana family, Ashley McCartney, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, Kevin Ryan, Bob Cable, baby Ryan David Mayer, Danielle Pinkerton, Dan, Fritz Group, Amy, Lucy & Dave Mehaffey, Stephanie Kennedy, Jessi, Bill Hisiro, Richard, Ruby Rogers, Becky, Mel & Klaus Behrens, Jim Lacko, Joanne Reck, Nikki and family, Barbara, and Michael Selarud.

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.

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**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.

## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

**September 12, 2021 — Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

“I believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)

When Jesus asked what the disciples and scribes were arguing about, the answer came from the father of a spirit-possessed child. “I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able,” he says. Jesus responds in frustration at the “faithless generation.”

We see unbelief in the father of the boy. He brought his child to the disciples with hope they could help, but they did not. Perhaps the father is thinking, “these disciples have met their match and could not do anything about this “kind” of spirit. If the disciples couldn’t cast out the spirit, then perhaps Jesus can’t either.” The father is struggling and cries out to Jesus, “If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus repeats the father’s words, almost mockingly, “If you can!” The father is uncertain of Jesus’ power because of the disciples’ failure. Regardless of how much God’s people may fail, God never fails.

Jesus is troubled by the persistent unbelief of the crowd, expressed by the simple words the boy’s father utters. After all the miracles Jesus has done, maybe there is a limit as to just how powerful Jesus is. Perhaps there is something that he cannot do. In verse 24 the father responds to Jesus by crying out, “I believe; help my unbelief.” This is a beautiful expression of faith, full of doubt and full of hope, and it should give those of us who want to follow Jesus much encouragement. It is an honest expression of the difficulty of faith. Perhaps you may have said the same thing and you are looking for “proof” that you have faith. Maybe, knowing you doubt at times, proves that you have faith. For who doubts what they don’t believe?

As this story concludes we find Jesus in a private conversation with his disciples. They ask, “Why could we not cast the spirit out?” The unbelief of the disciples is exposed. The disciples had failed in the same way the father had.

If this troubles you, take heart! Sometimes faith is not easy, even for the first disciples. But remember, God is pursuing you and wants to give you faith! Faith is not a human power but rather a divine power, the work of the Holy Spirit. God gives us faith through the Word, the Gospel, the sacraments, and the words of a preacher. Amen.



