

St. Matthew 4:19b



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 22, 2023

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *You Servants of God* (ELW) No. 825

*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 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (ELW) NO. 773

Listening for the Promise
Weekly Devotional
January 22, 2023—Third Sunday After Epiphany

“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-

The cross is foolishness and weakness to outsiders, to those who don't understand the power of the cross. God chose to save the world through the crucifixion of his son Jesus Christ. Some might say it appears to be a weak way to save the world-- God dying the death of a common criminal. Certainly to those who don't understand the power of forgiveness and salvation, the cross seems silly.

On the cross, in that place of earthly suffering, God offered spiritual healing. On the cross, in the place of physical death, God showed us the pathway to life. On the cross, God's sinless Son shed His blood as the price that had to be paid to buy us back from sin, Satan, death. On the cross, Jesus' precious blood becomes the Father's heaven-sent cure for all the illnesses which tear at your soul, your mind, your peace, your hope, and heaven.

For the Christian believer, the cross is anything but foolish or silly. Paul's words are not flowery. In fact, his words might seem harsh in a way. But Paul knew that he needed to strip down to the bare bones of the gospel message: “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Jesus defeated death and the devil, and his victory is our victory through faith in him.

God chose Paul to be the “means” of proclamation. In other words, Paul served as God's mouthpiece. You and I have been called to do the same. So when it comes to the life-saving power of the Gospel, we must choose our words carefully, using only God's Word in its most straight-forward form. May we imitate Paul's style when bringing the gospel message to others. And may the Holy Spirit create faith in the hearts of all people.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to proclaim your Good News in its truest form. Use us as your messengers so that all might look to the cross and know its power of salvation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty and eternal God, graciously look down on our weakness. Reach out to us with Your majestic right hand, and satisfy us with His glory. We ask through the same 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 9:1-4

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 27:1-9 [10-14]

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

³Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;

⁴And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in Him.

⁵One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

⁶To behold the fair beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.

⁷For in the day of trouble He shall keep me safe in His shelter; He shall hide me in the secrecy of His dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

⁸Even now He lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.

⁹Therefore I will offer in His dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

[¹⁰Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

¹¹You speak in my heart and say, “Seek My face.” Your face, LORD, will I seek.

¹²Hide not Your face from me, nor turn away Your servant in displeasure.

¹³You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

¹⁴Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will sustain me.]

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

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

Matthew 4:12-25

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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

(ELW) No. 759

*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.

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.

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.

815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
 cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

(ELW) No. 815

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God by Chris, Lisa & Erik Maust. Our Holy God sent His son to cover our iniquities. We prayerfully submit a donation to the roof fund, hoping for long term results to protect this grace filled church.

The Lay Reader is Kris Briggs.

Acolytes are Maria Sobocinski.

Counters/Greeters today are V. Group and C. Group.

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.

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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,

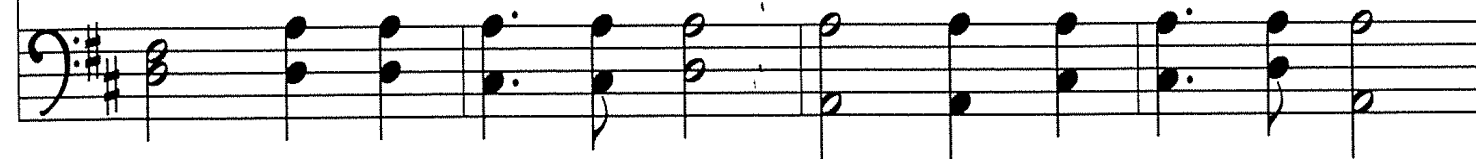
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

759



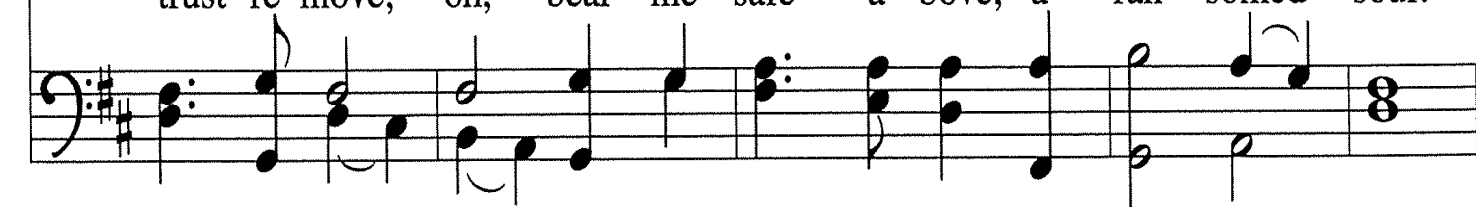
1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love - fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!



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 of 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 Monday at 6 PM.

The Flower Chart for 2023 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.

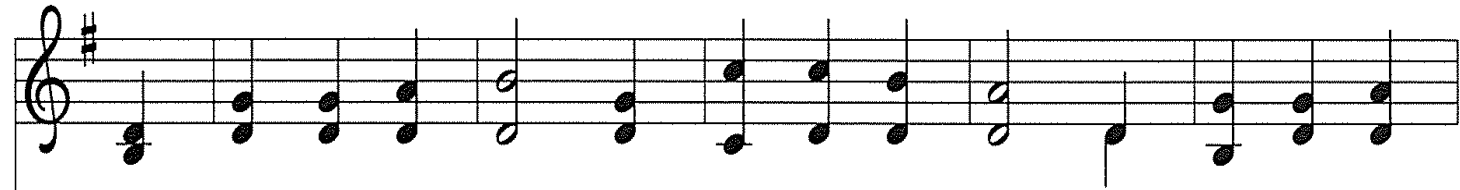
Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2023. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2023. 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.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

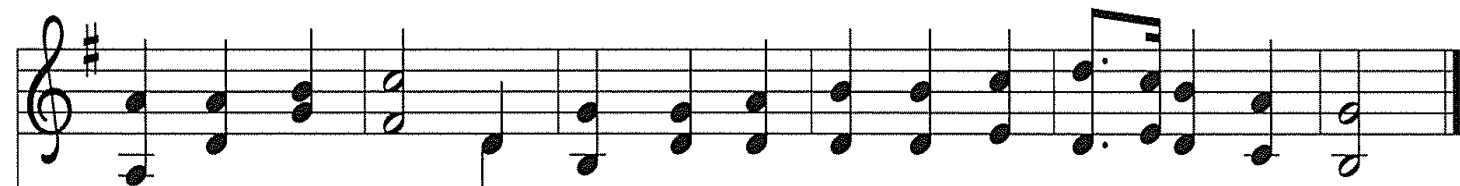
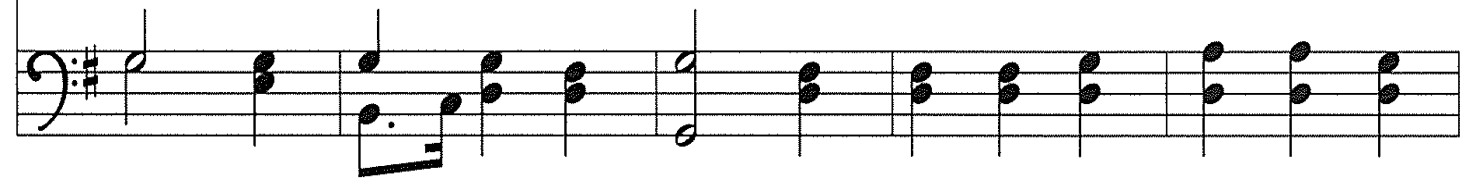
Janet Burke, Eveline Reihner, Carol, Shari Kienzle, Chiquita, Stacy Carroll, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, Kevin Ryan, baby Ryan, Dan, Fritz Group, Amy, Lucy & Dave Mehaffey, Jessi, Bill Hisiro, Richard, Klaus Behrens, Joanne Reck, Bill Stewart, Morgan, Sharon Fritz, Tim & Karen Edwards, Tom Liam, Gary, Daniel, Judy Dombrowsky, Emily Buchleitner, Jean Erdmann, Greg Mason, Alexandra Perry, Lu Mayne, Pat, Delores Stebella, Jerry Vitteck, Chaz Sands, Rev. Phil Gagnon, Jacob, Lindsay, Maxine Banko, Brooke, Ellen, Jacob Orr, USN, Jammie, Roger, John Bartanus, Helen Swank, Becky & Chuck, Nikki, and Rosemary Dittman.



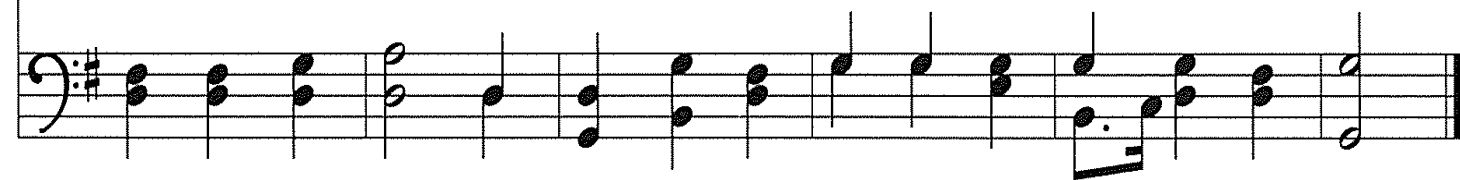
1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
 tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
 an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows . . drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
 and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.