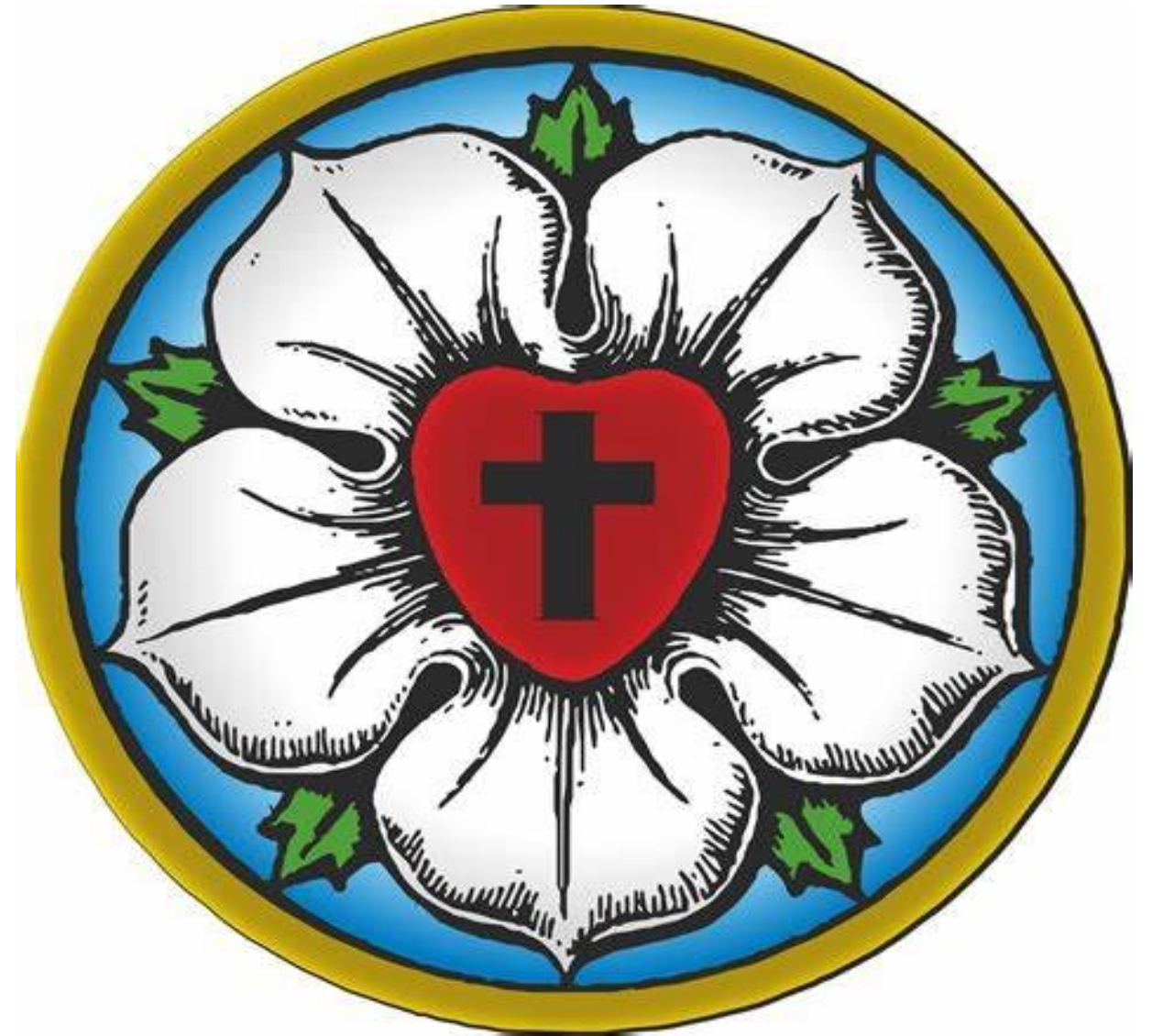


Psalm 119:2

“Happy are they who observe His decrees and seek  
Him with all their hearts.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 12, 2023

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn                      *Just As I Am, without One Plea*                      (ELW) No. 592

\*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                      *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*                      (ELW) NO. 802

## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

February 12, 2023—Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” - 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 -

It won't be long and farmers will be back in the fields planting seeds with the hope of a ripe harvest in the fall. I have had the blessing of serving my pastoral calls in rural farming communities. Spending time in those communities has taught me much about God's Word and how he works.

This past summer was one of the driest summers much of our country has seen for some time. Wild fires burned out in the west. The plains saw their crops drying up by mid-July. Droughts are hard on farmers and anyone who intends to plant seeds and produce fruit of various kinds: crops, gardens, orchards, etc. For the gardener and farmer, they know they must rely on God to provide the rain waters to nourish the seed in the ground. They must rely on God to bring forth the warmth of the sun to allow the seeds to sprout and grow.

In the same way, Christians need nourishment. Unfortunately, the Christian can experience times of drought. We get caught up in the busyness of life that we push our faith to the back burner. Church is no longer a priority but sports and activities are. After some time, we might notice that begin to wilt. We need to be nourished regularly by God's Word.

Martin Luther reminds us, “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise his Word and the preaching of it, but acknowledge it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.” As Lutherans, we believe that sabbath is based first and foremost on the hearing and preaching of God's Word. When we take time for that each week, we are blessed with nourishment and recharge. We can rest and relax all we want, but if we don't have God's Word, we will never grow. “Only God gives the growth” (1 Cor. 3:7b). Are you going through a time of drought? Is God calling you to return to sabbath, to rest in His Word?

Prayer: Gracious and Merciful Father, we give you thanks that you have blessed us with your Holy Word. May we eagerly hear it and gladly learn it. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: O Lord, graciously hear the requests of Your people. May we who are afflicted for our sins be mercifully relieved, for the sake of Your glory, to find new life through the love of Jesus Christ, Your Son who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalms 119:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD!

**<sup>2</sup>Happy are they who observe His decrees  
and seek Him with all their hearts!**

<sup>3</sup>Who never do any wrong,  
but always walk in His ways.

**<sup>4</sup>You laid down Your commandments,  
that we should fully keep them.**

<sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were made so direct  
that I might keep Your statutes!

**<sup>6</sup>Then I should not be put to shame,  
when I regard all Your commandments.**

<sup>7</sup>I will thank You with an unfeigned heart,  
when I have learned Your righteous judgments.

**<sup>8</sup>I will keep Your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

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 5:21-37

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

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

(ELW) No. 517

\*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.

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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.

# O Master, Let Me Walk with You

818

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly  
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,  
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,  
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;  
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward  
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith  
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,  
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

\*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

*O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

(ELW) No. 818

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

## First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: [secretary@flcwash.church](mailto:secretary@flcwash.church)

website: [www.flcwash.church](http://www.flcwash.church)

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

[revrob@flcwash.church](mailto:revrob@flcwash.church)

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God and to the righteous prayers and miracles in our human family. We give grateful praise to God almighty. Donation made toward roof and window fund by Chris, Lisa & Erik Maust.

**The Lay Reader** is Lisa Hager.

**Acolytes are** Lillah and Elijah Clark.

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

# 188

## 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.

# Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word 517

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

**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, Becky & Chuck, Nikki, and Rosemary Dittman, Nick, Marty Hebrank, and Noah Walker.

## Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,  
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead

through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,

On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be

full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.  
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.

Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.