

St. Luke 24:15b



“Jesus Himself drew near and went with them”

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 23, 2023

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* (ELW) No. 414

*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 Joyful Eastertide* (ELW) NO. 391

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, by the humiliation of Your Son, You raised up this fallen world. Teach us whom You have rescued from endless death to have the fullness of eternal joy, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 116:1-14

¹I 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.

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

³Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray You, save my life."

⁴Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

⁵The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought very low, and He helped me.

⁶Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has treated you well.

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

⁸I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

⁹I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low." In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

¹⁰How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things He has done for me?

¹¹I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD.

¹²I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.

¹³Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His servants.

¹⁴O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant and the child of your handmaid; You have freed me from my bonds.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-25

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

John 20:19-31

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 a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

(ELW) No. 697

* 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

*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 Know That My Redeemer Lives (verses 4-8)

(ELW) No. 619

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.


Postlude

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

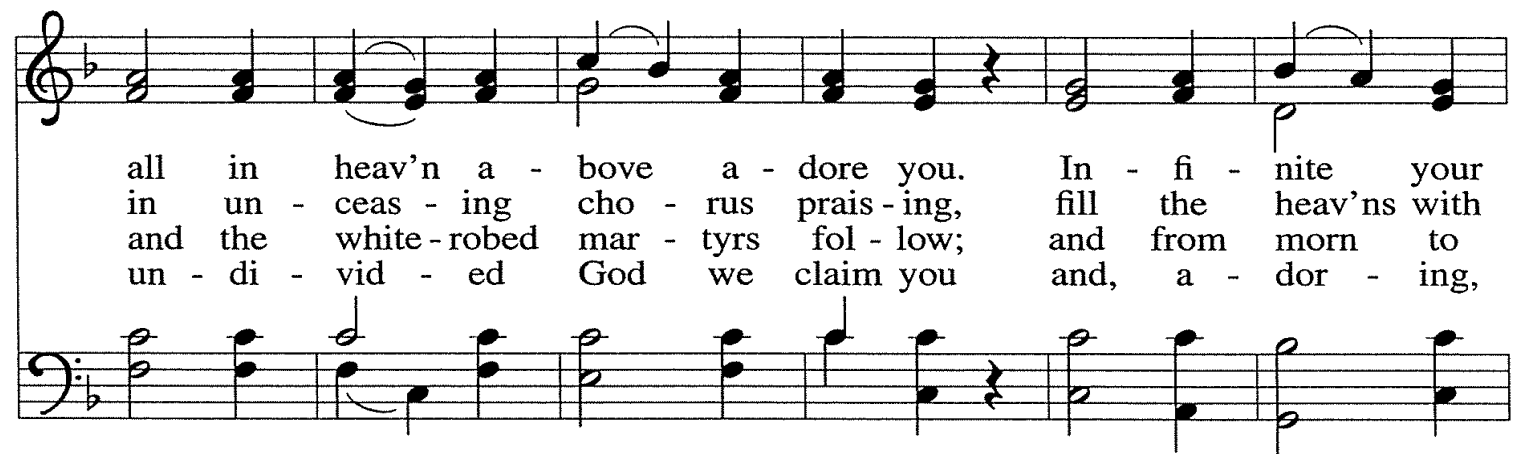
414



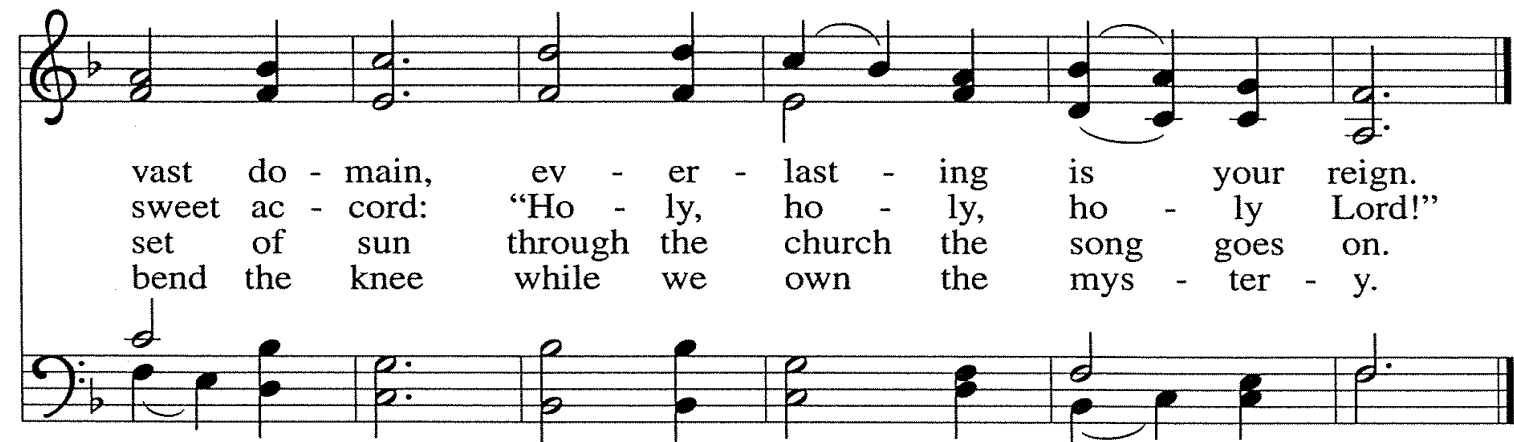
1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun through the church the song goes on.
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
 2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
 3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
 slum - ber till trump from east to west shall
 riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - row.
 wake the dead in num - ber.
 pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

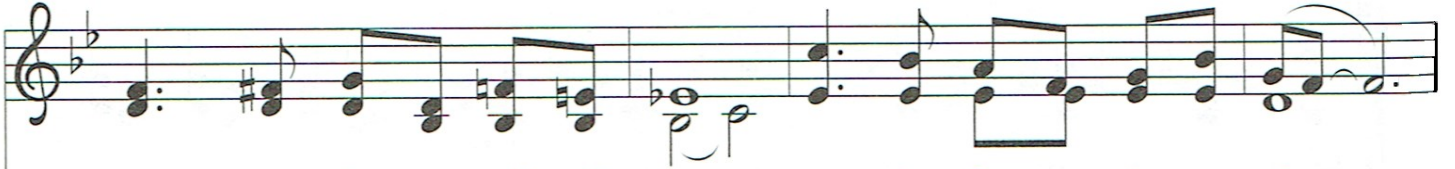
Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

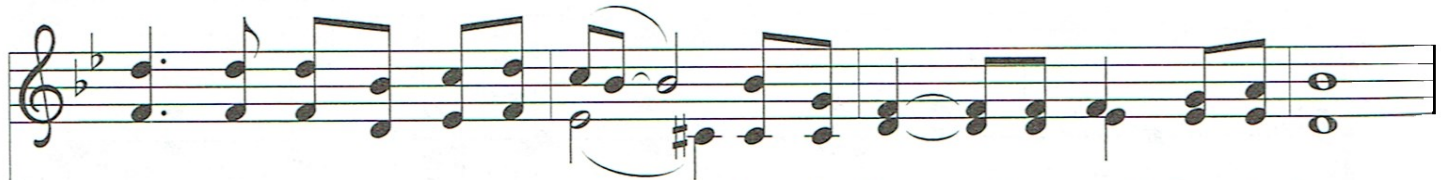
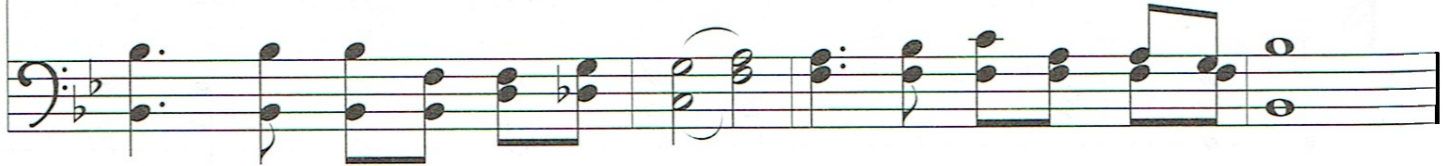
faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

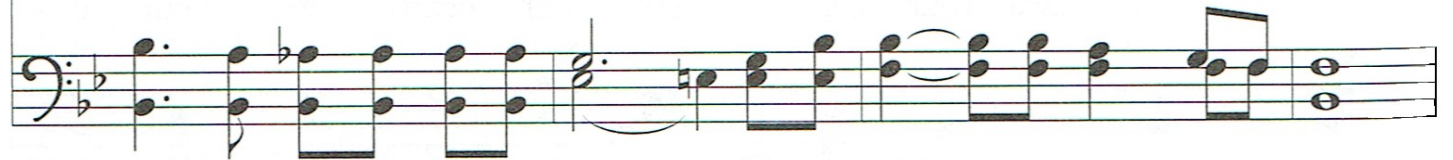
Just a Closer Walk with Thee



Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;
 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain*



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 two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. 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,

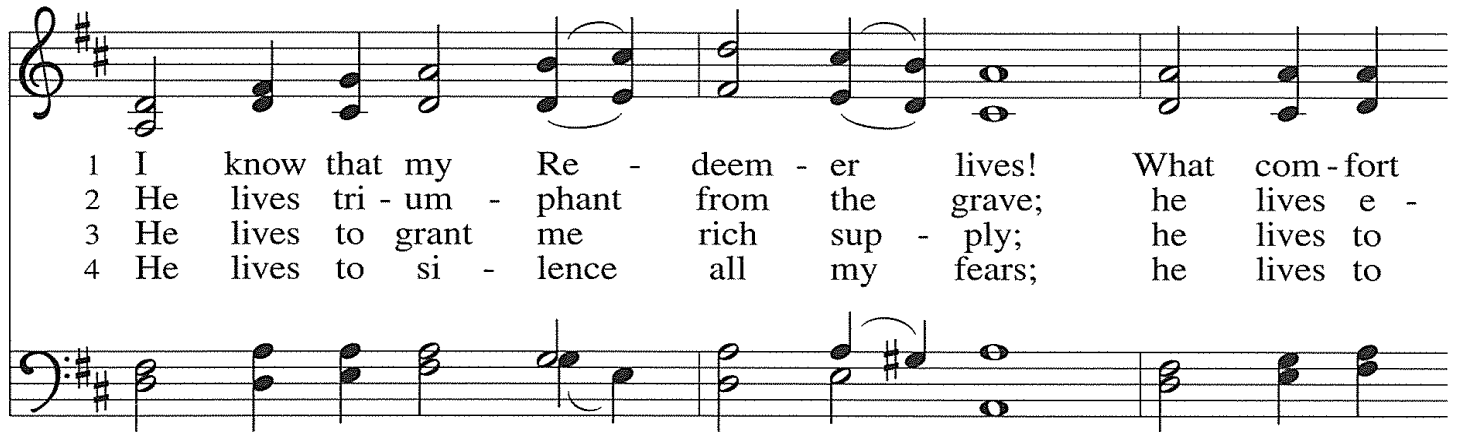
The fourth system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,".

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

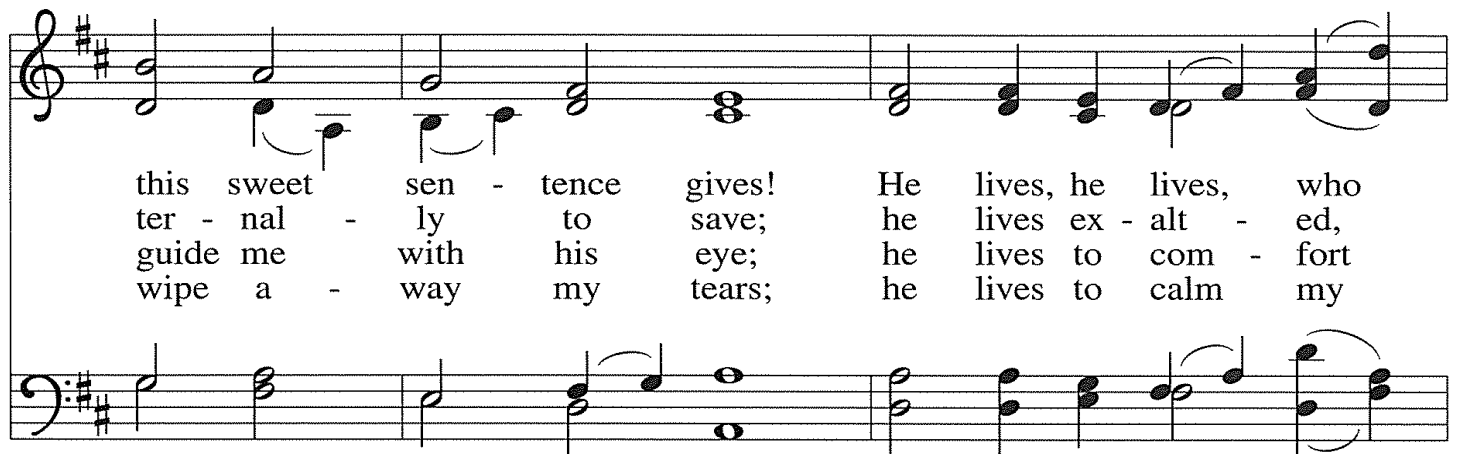
The fifth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.".

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

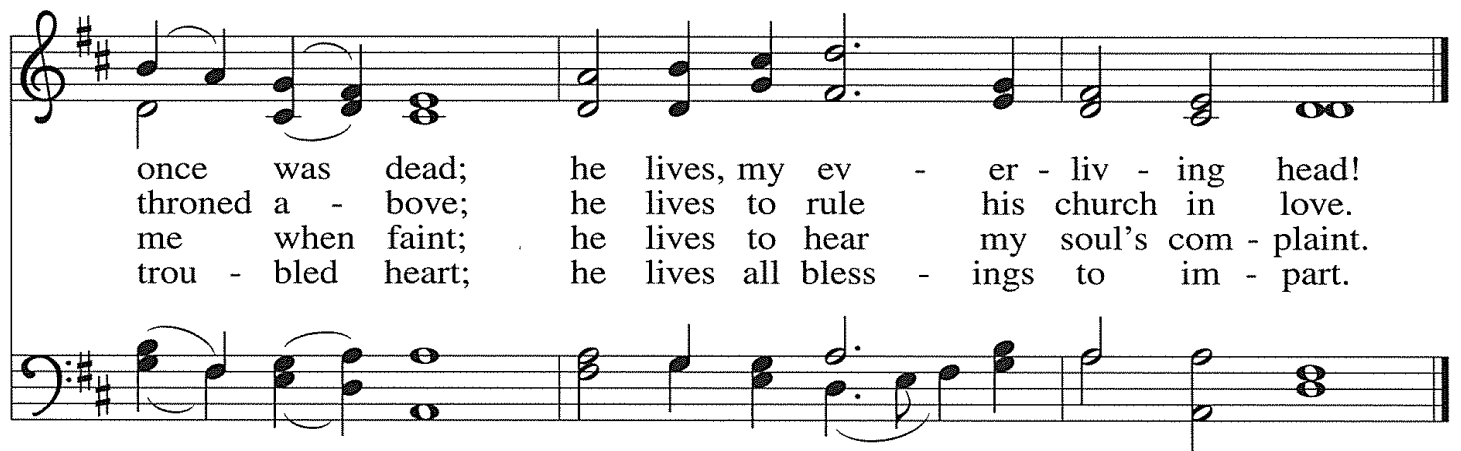
619



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

First Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Organist and Music Director: Kristine Schuerle

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God in memory of my parents, John & Olga Marra, my sisters, Sylvia Korte and Karen Adams by Betty DeGiovanni.

The Lay Reader is Dennis Schmidt.

Acolytes are Lillah Clark and Elijah Clark.

Counters/Greeters today are J. Black and S. Berry.

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 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, 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, Greg Mason, Alexandra Perry, Lu Mayne, Pat, Chaz Sands, Rev. Phil Gagnon, Jacob, Maxine Banko, Brooke, Ellen, Jacob Orr, USN, Roger, John Bartanus, Becky & Chuck, Rosemary Dittman, Marty Hebrank, Noah Walker, Janet Williams, Nathan, Mary, the Lobach Family, Pastor Grewe, Debbie, Sayward, Jim Walter, Larry and Tillie Simpson, and Jim H.

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.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Third Sunday of Easter – April 23, 2023

“For ‘All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.’ And this word is the good news that was preached to you.” -1 Peter 1:24-25 -

- St. Peter, once a fisherman by trade, now takes on the full calling as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Peter writes this letter as encouragement to his readers to endure the suffering and persecution that accompanies the call of a Christian disciple.
- In his letter, Peter quotes these words from Isaiah 40:8. Peter strives to remind his readers that while they must endure suffering, the end reward will be great. The things of this world are temporal; they are perishable; they will end. But the things of God will remain forever. They might be persecuted for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel, but their salvation will not come to an end because of it.
- And so Peter reminds his readers that because they have been “born again,” that is, they have been born anew in the promise of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and salvation, they, too, can share that promise and that same love with all they meet. Our salvation is imperishable only because the Word of God is imperishable.
- In 1817 the Danish Lutheran pastor and hymnwriter Nikolaj Frederik Severin Grundtvig wrote the hymn God’s Word is Our Great Heritage. He wrote it as the fifth verse to Martin Luther’s famous hymn A Mighty Fortress is Our God. The words of Grundtvig’s hymn serve as our prayer for today:
 - God’s Word is our great heritage
 - and shall be ours forever;
 - to spread its light from age to age
 - shall be our chief endeavor.
 - Through life it guides our way,
 - in death it is our stay.
 - Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
 - we keep its teachings pure
 - throughout all generations.
- The things of this world pass, but the Word of the Lord endures forever!