

St. John 14:15



Go Ye Therefore, and Teach All Nations, by Harry Anderson, © IRI

If you love Me, you will keep My
Commandments”

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14, 2023

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Children of the Heavenly Father* (ELW) No. 781

*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 *Holy, Holy, Holy* (ELW) NO. 413

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, all good things can come from You alone; generously consider then our humble prayers. Inspire us to consider what is true, and direct us to accomplish what is right; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 17:16-31

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering

Holy God We Praise Your Name

(Bell Choir)

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 66:7-18

⁷Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of His praise to be heard;

⁸Who holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip.

⁹For You, O God, have proved us; You have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹⁰You brought us into the snare; You laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; but You brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹²I will enter Your house with burnt offerings and will pay You my vows, which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹³I will offer You sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; I will give You oxen and goats.

¹⁴Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what He has done for me.

¹⁵I called out to Him with my mouth, and His praise was on my tongue.

¹⁶If I had found evil in my heart, the LORD would not have heard me;

¹⁷But in truth God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

¹⁸Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld His love from me.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

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 14:15-21

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

Take My Life That I May Be

(ELW) No. 685

*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

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

Distribution of Carnations

Love Divine

(Bell Choir)

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

Come Thou Almighty King

(ELW) No. 408

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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.



Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



- take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.



- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

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.".

Come, Thou Almighty King

408



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

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 for all of His many blessings; and on this special day for all the mothers in the world and in remembrance of Geraldine M. Sten, Doris S. Barnhart, Helen Sten, Sara I. Young and Elma Young; and for the grace of Kimberly and Pastor Rob to First Lutheran Church and the community. The flowers are given by the Sten & Young Families.

The Lay Reader is Kristine Briggs.

Acolytes are Heidi and Denico Walsh.

Counters/Greeters today are L. Sten and K. Luketich.

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, Jim H., Eric Group and Larry Zimmerman.

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 14, 2023

“In the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” -1 Peter 3:20b-21-

In many Lutheran churches, the baptismal font has an octagonal shape to it. I must admit that for many years, I did not know why. I just assumed it was a certain preferred style during a certain time in history. It turns out that there is a significant theological reason to the structure of the fonts. The verses above from 1 Peter 3 serve as a backdrop and explanation as well. A baptismal font that is octagonal in shape has eight sides, naturally. The eight sides represent the eight persons that were spared during the flood in the days of Noah. Thus, it makes a direct connection to the life-saving gift of baptism.

Sadly, many have trouble seeing Holy Baptism as God's work. Our human brokenness would rather see Holy Baptism as a human work, “our work.” Sinful and broken humans desire to turn it into an offering to God, instead of recognizing it as a gracious gift of God that restores life, forgives sins, and brings salvation. Holy Baptism saves you, as St. Peter says (see v. 21). Unfortunately, some insist that it has no such power. Rather, it is viewed that the human will has made it's solemn choice, it's decision to follow God and to forsake all, rather than fall away from Him.

As Lutherans we understand this “man-made” idea of Holy Baptism to be dangerous. It places us sinful human beings in the role of God, when in reality we have no power over our salvation whatsoever.

Holy Baptism is a gift of grace, not a human work. “Baptism, which corresponds to (the flood in the days of Noah), now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (v. 21).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of grace you bestow on us through baptism. Grant that we would be kept safe in the holy ark of the Christian church. Renew us daily in the promise we receive at our baptism, that we might be united in a resurrection like Christ's. In Jesus' name, amen.