

Matthew 9:9-13



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 11, 2023

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Chief of Sinners Though I Be* (ELW) No. 609

*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 *Here I Am, Lord* (ELW) NO. 574

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, You are the protector of all who trust in You, and beside You, nothing is strong or holy. Multiply Your mercy and guide us that while using the good things of this fleeting life, we do not lose hold of the things that endure forever. 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

Hosea 5:15-6:6

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 119:65-72

⁶⁵O LORD, You have dealt graciously with Your servant,
according to Your word.

**⁶⁶Teach me discernment and knowledge,
for I have believed in Your commandments.**

⁶⁷Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I keep Your word.

**⁶⁸You are good and You bring forth good;
instruct me in Your statutes.**

⁶⁹The proud have smeared me with lies,
but I will keep Your commandments with my whole heart.

**⁷⁰Their heart is gross and fat,
but my delight is in Your law.**

⁷¹It is good for me that I have been afflicted,
that I might learn Your statutes.

**⁷²The law of Your mouth is dearer to me
than thousands in gold and silver.**

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

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

Matthew 9:9-13

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

read by Dennis Schmidt, Lay Worship Leader

*The Hymn of the Day

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

(ELW) No. 617

*The Apostle's 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

Will You Come and Follow Me

(ELW) No. 798

*The Dismissal (*response*)

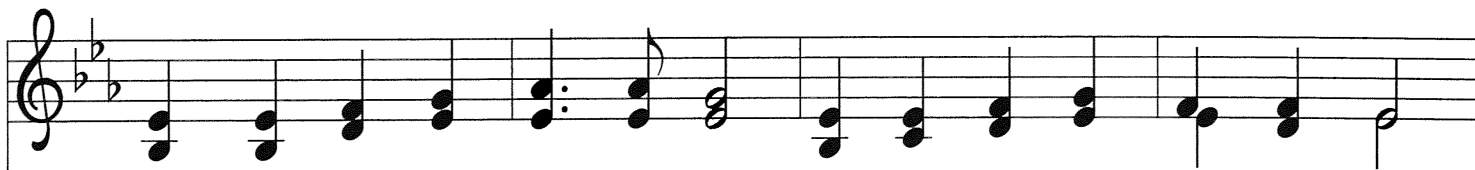
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Please continue to pray for healing for Pastor Rob.

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

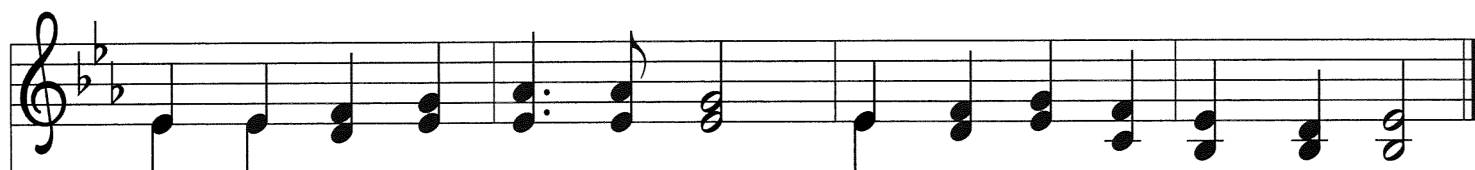
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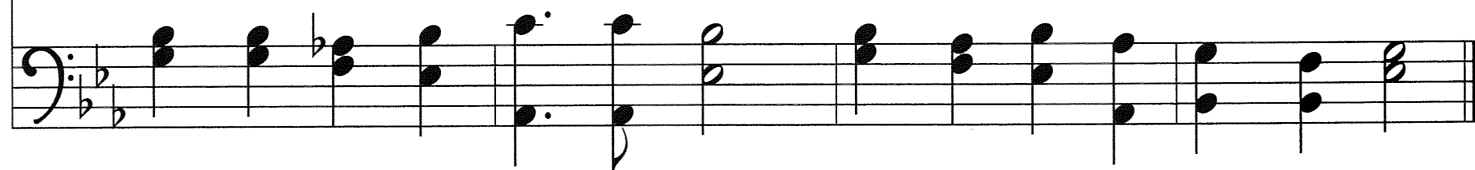
1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.



Here I Am, Lord

574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



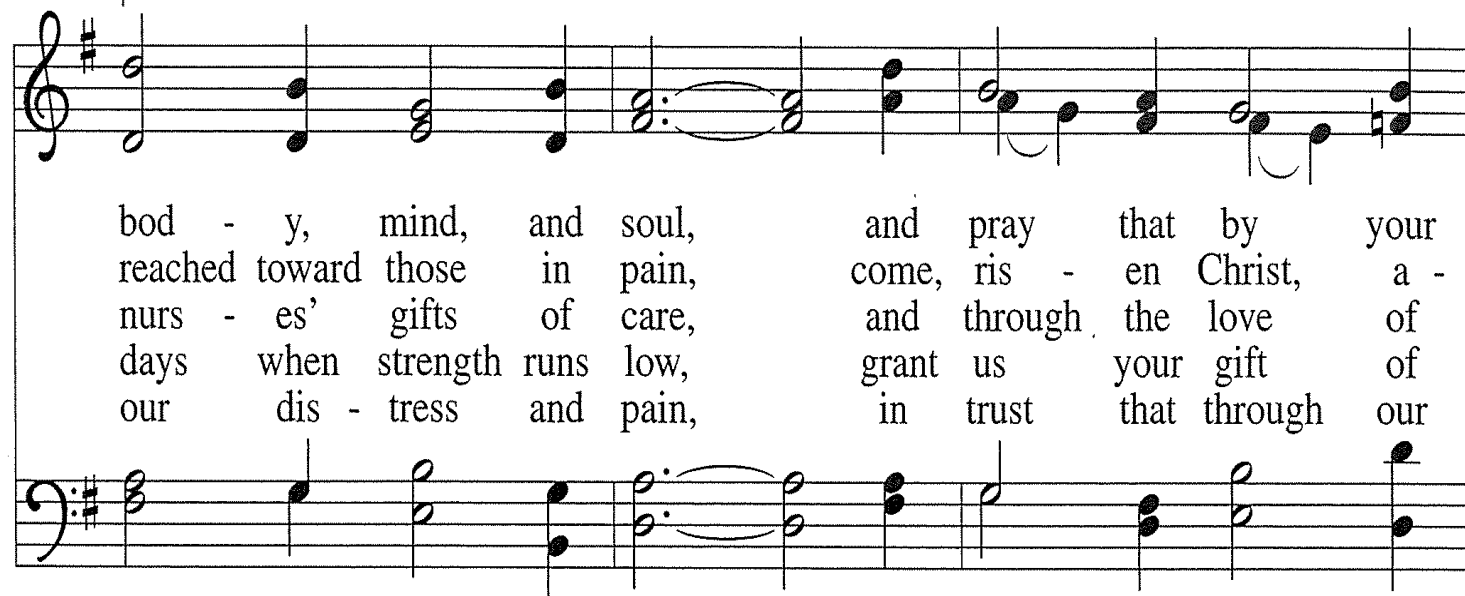
lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

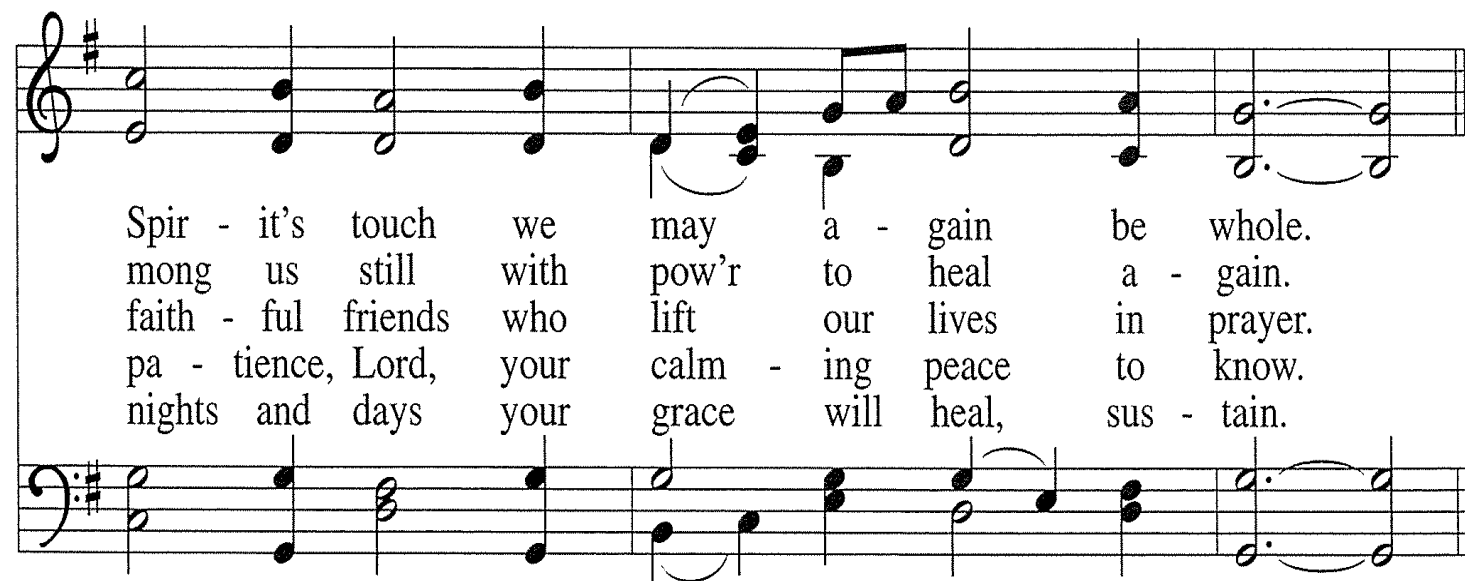
617



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

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

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody. The treble staff features a quarter note D5, followed by quarter notes C5, B-flat4, and A4. The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody. The treble staff features a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes F4, E-flat4, and D4. The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

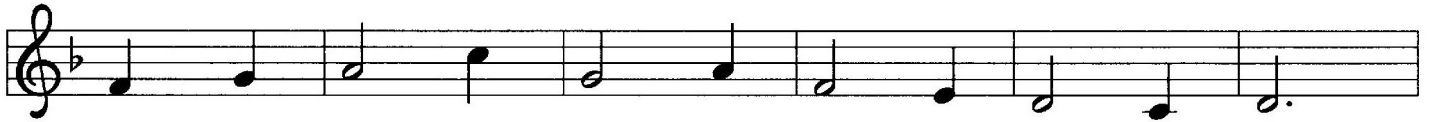
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the melody. The treble staff features a quarter note C4, followed by quarter notes B-flat3, A3, and G3. The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

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

The fifth system concludes the piece. The treble staff features a quarter note F3, followed by quarter notes E3, D3, and C3. The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

Will You Come and Follow Me



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

First Lutheran Church

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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 Mr. & Mrs. Donald P. Hazlett in loving memory of Rita Hazlett & Sons Donald P. Hazlett and Brent Robert Hazlett. "Happy Birthday Rita (6-14-41)."

The Lay Reader is Denny Lacko.

Acolytes are Elijah Clark.

Counters/Greeters today are J. Black 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, Debbie, Sayward, Jim Walter, Larry and Tillie Simpson, Jim H., Eric Group, Larry Zimmerman, Emerson Dietrich, Daniel Sherman, and Pastor Rob.

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

Second Sunday After Pentecost – June 11, 2023

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

–Matthew 9:12b-13 -

In uttering these words, Jesus is responding to the Pharisees who have criticized Him for eating with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus says that He came to heal the sick, not the well, and that He came to call sinners, not the righteous. And to make his meaning clear, Jesus quotes and embeds the words of the Prophet Hosea: “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.” But what does it mean to say, “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice”? At first, this seems like an odd juxtaposition. After all, the Old Testament sacrifices pointed forward to the sacrifice that Christ would make. And this sacrifice would be an expression of His mercy. Through this sacrifice, we would have peace with God, and we would then extend God’s mercy and peace to others. Thus, mercy and sacrifice go together. True sacrifice is based upon mercy and works to extend this mercy to others. Why then does Jesus juxtapose sacrifice and mercy?

The answer is that Jesus is not juxtaposing true sacrifice with mercy. Rather, He is juxtaposing mercy with a mechanical view of sacrifice that seeks salvation through ritual performance (i.e. works). Such an approach treats God as a cosmic vending machine who dispenses religious benefits in exchange for sacrificial works. On this view, we can feel righteous while mercilessly grinding others into the dirt, provided that we offer the right sacrifices.

In the Old Testament, Hosea condemned those who trusted in their sacrificial righteousness while exploiting the poor. In Jesus’ day many of the Pharisees behaved similarly. They covered their evil deeds with a self righteousness based upon ritual performance. Thus, in juxtaposing mercy and sacrifice, Jesus is attacking the Pharisees and their false religious system. And He is doing so to remove barriers to God’s grace and mercy.

But this raises a problem. Since Jesus came for all sinners, how can He exclude the Pharisees from His call? First, we know that Jesus did not exclude all Pharisees since some actually followed Him. Rather, through his harsh response, he is keeping the Pharisees at arm’s length to protect the weak and vulnerable. Thus, in referring to the Pharisees as “the righteous,” Jesus is demeaning their self-righteousness, not excluding them from His call.

In His great mercy, Jesus made the perfect sacrifice so that we might receive and extend His mercy to others. This is good news for all sinners, Pharisees included!