

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 25, 2023

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* (ELW) No. 533

\*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 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (ELW) NO. 656

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: For those who love You, O God, You have chosen and prepared what no eye has seen nor ear heard. Pour into our hearts a loving affection for You, that we may choose You in and above all things. For only then shall we have what You promise, which far exceeds all we can desire; 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

Jeremiah 20:7-13

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 91:1-10 [11-16]

<sup>1</sup>He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

**<sup>2</sup>He shall say to the LORD, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."**

<sup>3</sup>He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence.

**<sup>4</sup>He shall cover you with His pinions, and you shall find refuge under His wings; His faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.**

<sup>5</sup>You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day;

**<sup>6</sup>Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid day.**

<sup>7</sup>A thousand shall fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you.

**<sup>8</sup>Your eyes have only to behold to see the reward of the wicked.**

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,

**<sup>10</sup>There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.**

[<sup>11</sup>For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

**<sup>12</sup>They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup>You shall tread upon the lion and adder; you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

**<sup>14</sup>Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.**

<sup>15</sup>He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

**<sup>16</sup>With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.]**

Second Reading

Romans 6:12-23

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 10:5a, 21-33

**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

*When Peace like a River*

(ELW) No. 785

\*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

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

(ELW) No. 504

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

**Please continue to pray for healing for Pastor Rob.**

## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



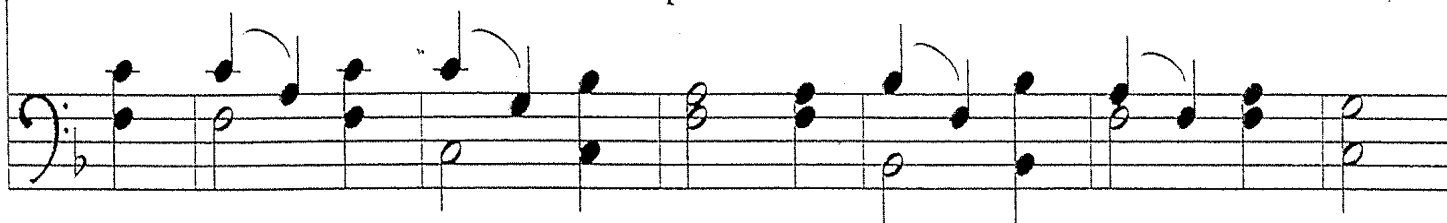
Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.  
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.



## Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares,  
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.



# When Peace like a River

*It Is Well with My Soul*

785

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul,



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.".

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



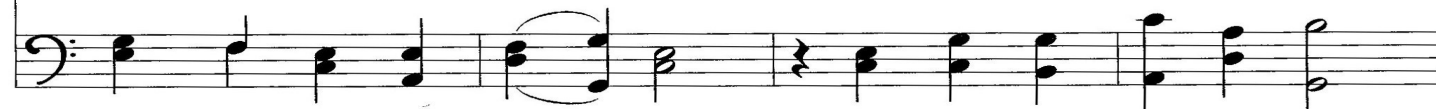
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



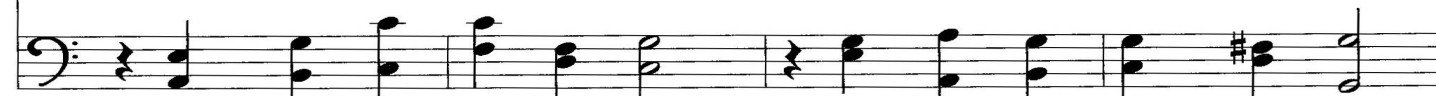
to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!



## **First Lutheran Church**

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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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.

**The Lay Reader** is Dennis Schmidt.

**Acolytes** are Jacin Flowers and Trevor Flowers.

**Counters/Greeters** today are R. Williams and D. Schmidt.

**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.**

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**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, Emerson Dietrich, Daniel Sherman, Allan Zimmerman, 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.

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**Church Offering Change:** Our ushers will pass the plates around during the Musical Offering.

## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

#### Fourth Sunday After Pentecost – June 25, 2023

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows.” -Matthew 10:29-31 -

Because God is omniscient (all-knowing), he is aware of everything in minute detail. Although God is exalted above the heavens, he notices even the little things that we dismiss as trivial. We wonder why God notices the falling of each sparrow or why he numbers the hairs of our heads. On one level this shows us how awesome God's knowledge is. But to stop here is to miss the point of the passage and to reduce God's knowledge to a game of trivial pursuit.

The point of the passage is that God's knowledge is purposeful, not trivial. And if God knows even the little things, how much more does he know and care for those who are created in his image, redeemed by his Son, and sent by his Spirit into his mission. From the broader context, we see that Jesus offers these words to comfort those who face violent persecution from family, friends, and civil government. The point is this: We are not to fear, even in the midst of violent persecution, since the all-knowing God sees us and has our back.

But God doesn't just see us. He also sees our situation and knows how it fits into His missionary plan. Since God's knowledge is purposeful, not trivial, he makes “all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28),” even bad things. And this is so only because God makes all things work together for the accomplishment of his plan! Thus, in the midst of persecution, we can take comfort in two things: 1) God will save us, and 2) God will also accomplish his plan. The mission is God's, not ours, and he will see it through.

On this last point, consider verses 1 and 4 from the hymn “Once to Every Man and Nation:” Once to every man and nation. Comes the moment to decide. In the strife of truth with falsehood. For the good or evil side. Some great cause, some great decision. Offering each the bloom or blight. And the choice goes by forever. Twixt that darkness and that light.

Though the cause of evil prosper. Yet 'tis truth alone is strong. Though her portion be the scaffold. And upon the throne be wrong. Yet that scaffold sways the future. And behind the dim unknown. Standeth God within the shadow. Keeping watch above His own.