

St. Matthew 13:44a

“The Kingdom of heaven is like  
treasure hidden in a field”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 30, 2023

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory* (ELW) No. 705

\*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 Is My Father's World* (ELW) NO. 824

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: O God, Your almighty power is most clearly shown in Your mercy and pity. Multiply Your grace that we may run to Your promises and be made to share in Your heavenly joy; 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

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 125

<sup>1</sup>Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever.

**<sup>2</sup>The hills stand about Jerusalem; so does the LORD stand round about  
His people, from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup>The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just,  
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

**<sup>4</sup>Show Your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good  
and to those who are true of heart.**

<sup>5</sup>As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,  
the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers;  
but peace be upon Israel.

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-39

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 13:44-52

**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 Wondrous Love Is This*

(ELW) No. 666

\*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

*Be Thou My Vision*

(ELW) No. 793

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

## God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

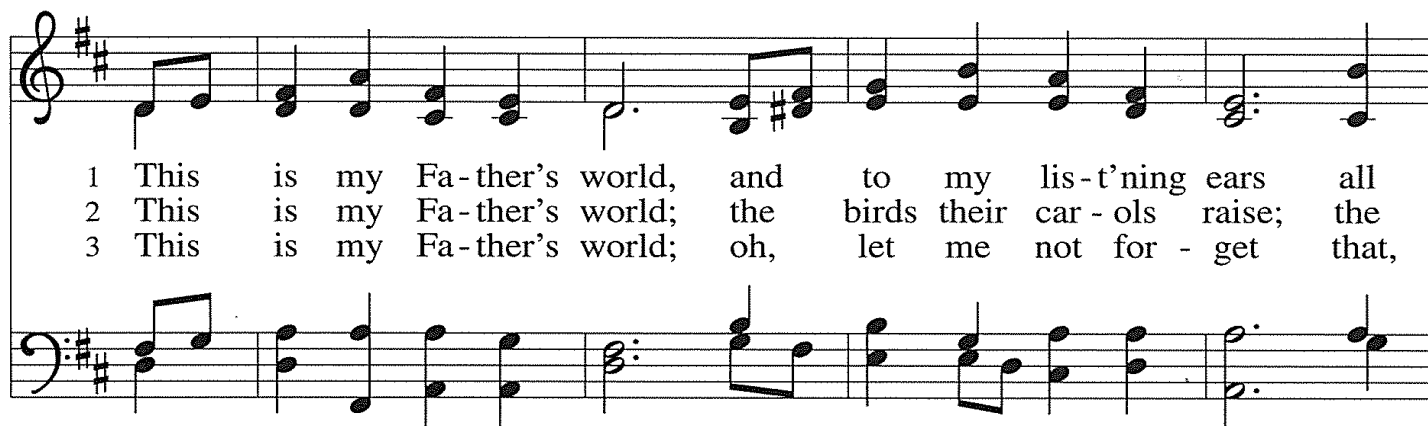
pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

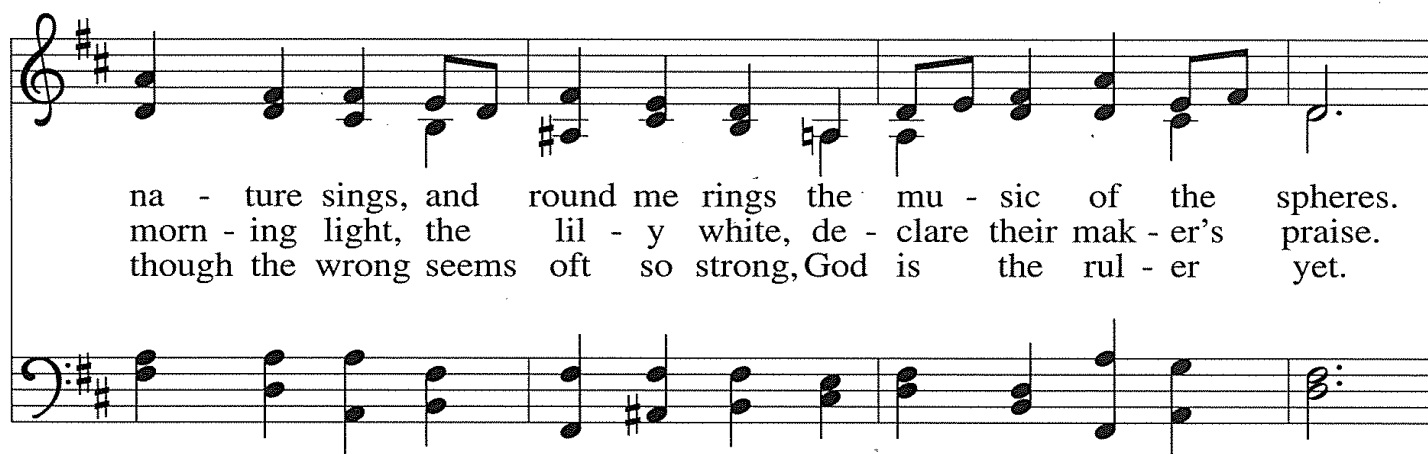
for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

# This Is My Father's World

824



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.  
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!



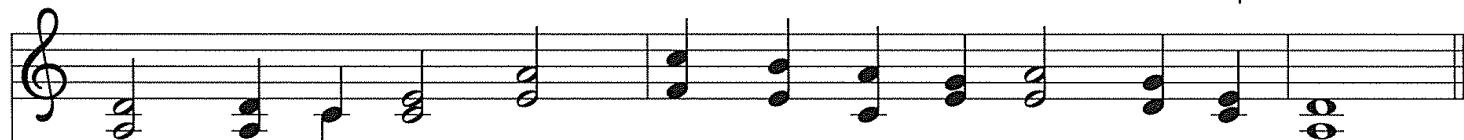
1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.





## Create in Me a Clean Heart

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 is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. 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 and accompaniment. The treble staff shows a melodic line with some rests and ties. The bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.

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

The third system features a melodic line in the treble staff that includes a phrase with a slur and a fermata. The bass staff accompaniment remains consistent.

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

The fourth system continues the musical progression. The treble staff has a melodic line with a fermata over the final note of the phrase. The bass staff accompaniment is visible throughout.

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

The fifth and final system on the page concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The bass staff also concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## **First Lutheran Church**

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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 Cristina Serbak.

**Acolytes** are Cole Johnson.

**Counters/Greeters** today are Caitlyn Group and Vickie 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.

**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, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westcott, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Sylvia Sunstrum, Fritz Group, Eric Group, Danielle Sherman, Amy Verderber, Tillie and Larry, Lou Mayne, Judy, Debbie, Sayward, 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.

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

## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

#### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost—July 30, 2023

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” -Matthew 13:45-46-

Our text tells us that God's Kingdom is the pearl of great price. It is so valuable that it is worth giving up everything to attain it, including our lives. But how valuable is it? Our text does not answer this question because it cannot. Although the Kingdom is more valuable than all we have, we cannot put a price tag on it since it transcends all human values. More basically, its value cannot be measured since the Kingdom is itself the measure of all values.

So, what exactly is the Kingdom? Simply put, the Kingdom is the reign of God. In his Small Catechism, Luther states this truth quite plainly in his explanation of the Second Petition of The Lord's Prayer. Luther tells us that God's Kingdom comes whenever “we believe His holy word and live a godly life.” But in this life, we do not yet see the Kingdom in its fullness.

On this side of God's New Creation, the Kingdom is a reign, but not a realm. Thus, we cannot identify the church or any other human institution with the Kingdom. Rather, God's Kingdom comes in all vocational spheres (the family, the workplace, the state, or the church) whenever and wherever people “believe His holy word and live a godly life.”

In the New Creation, however, the Kingdom will finally be both a reign and a realm. In fact, it will be a realm precisely because God's reign will become uncontested and all-encompassing. In the New Creation, we will see that God's reign is characterized by peace, joy, love, communion, goodness, beauty, order, meaning, purpose, and everything good.

In the New Creation, we will also see that God's reign extends to the transformation of the entire cosmos and thus to life itself. Death will be no more. From this all-encompassing splendor, we will finally see that Jesus Christ is not merely our personal Lord and Savior, but our cosmic Lord and Savior as well. Yet this transformation will be the special work of the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. This same Spirit will quicken our mortal bodies, fill us (and all things) with His glory, and be our intimate friend.

Hence, God's Kingdom is worth giving our lives for, since this Kingdom is literally Life itself.