

St. Matthew 14:27b

“Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 13, 2023

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* (ELW) No. 774

\*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 *When Peace like a River* (ELW) NO. 785

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Almighty and merciful God, only by Your gift of grace can the faithful offer service that is worthy of You and deserving of praise. Keep us from stumbling as we run to receive Your promises; 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

Job 38:4-18

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 18: 1-6 [7-17]

<sup>1</sup>I love You, O LORD my strength, O LORD my stronghold, my crag, and my haven.

**<sup>2</sup>My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge: You are worthy of praise.**

<sup>3</sup>I will call upon the LORD, and so shall I be saved from my enemies.

**<sup>4</sup>The breakers of death rolled over me, and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.**

<sup>5</sup>The cords of hell entangled me, and the snares of death were set for me.

**<sup>6</sup>I called upon the LORD in my distress and cried out to my God for help.**

[<sup>7</sup>He heard my voice from His heavenly dwelling; my cry of anguish came to His ears.

**<sup>8</sup>The earth reeled and rocked; the roots of the mountains shook; they reeled because of His anger.**

<sup>9</sup>Smoke rose from His nostrils and a consuming fire out of His mouth; hot burning coals blazed forth from Him.

**<sup>10</sup>He parted the heavens and came down with a storm cloud under His feet.**

<sup>11</sup>He mounted on cherubim and flew; He swooped on the wings of the wind.

**<sup>12</sup>He wrapped darkness about Him; He made dark waters and thick clouds His pavilion.**

<sup>13</sup>From the brightness of His presence, through the clouds, burst hailstones and coals of fire.

**<sup>14</sup>The LORD thundered out of heaven; the Most High uttered His voice.**

<sup>15</sup>He loosed His arrows and scattered them; He hurled thunderbolts and routed them.

**<sup>16</sup>The beds of the seas were uncovered, and the foundations of the world laid bare, at Your battle cry, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.**

<sup>17</sup>He reached down from on high and grasped me; He drew me out of great waters.]

Second Reading

Romans 10:5-17

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 14:22-33

**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

\*The Hymn of the Day

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

(ELW) No. 756

\*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

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

(ELW) No. 802

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

774

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



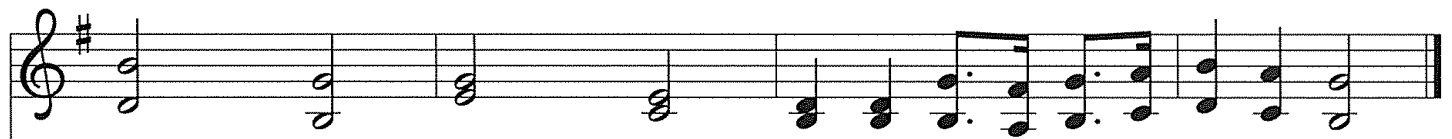
## *Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.

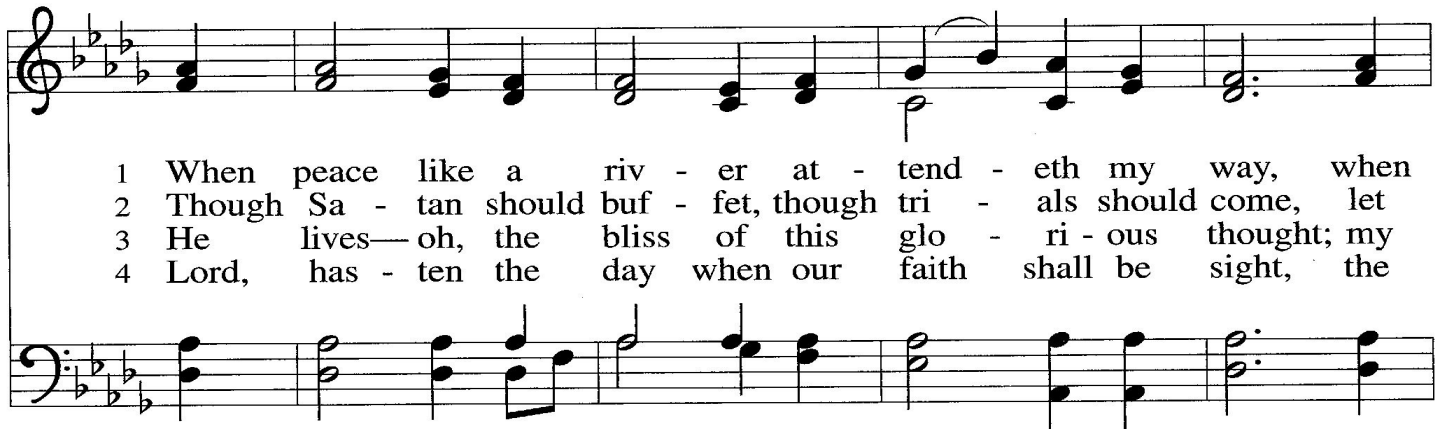


lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

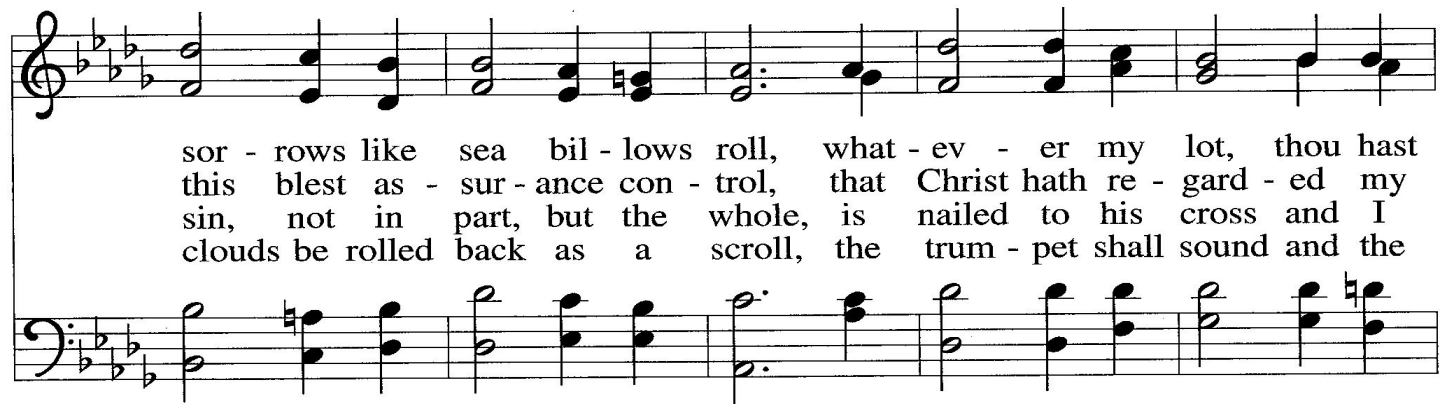
# When Peace like a River

*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.

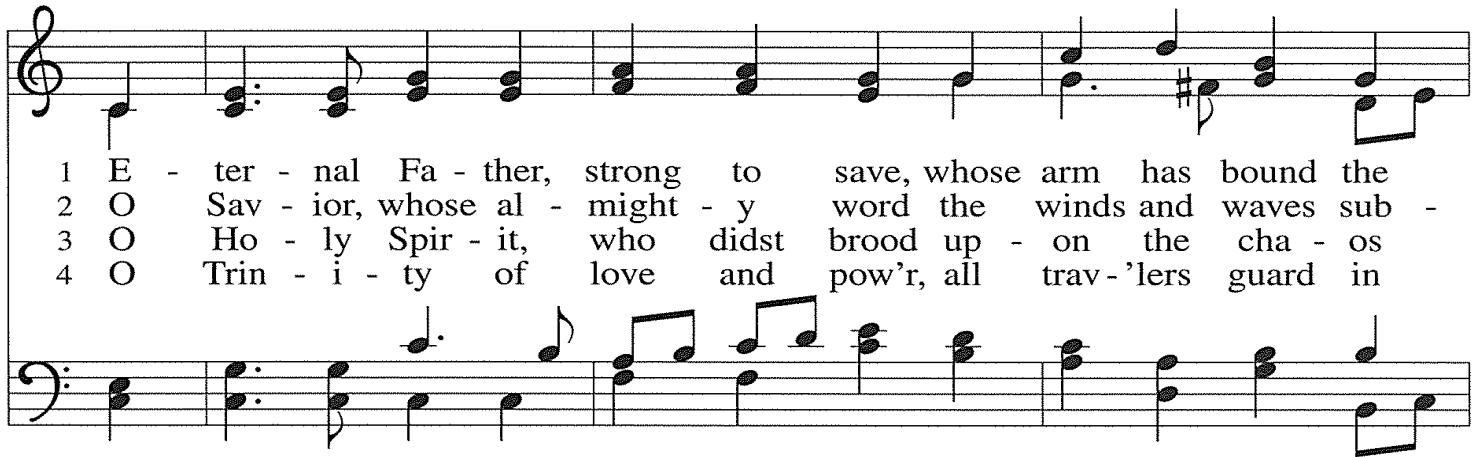
*Refrain*



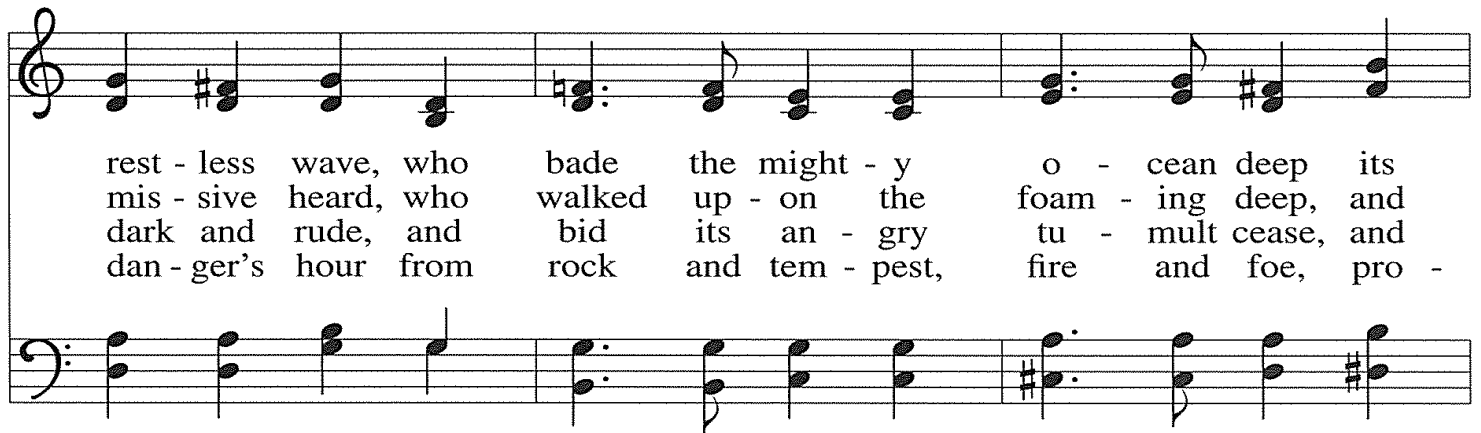
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul,

# Eternal Father, Strong to Save

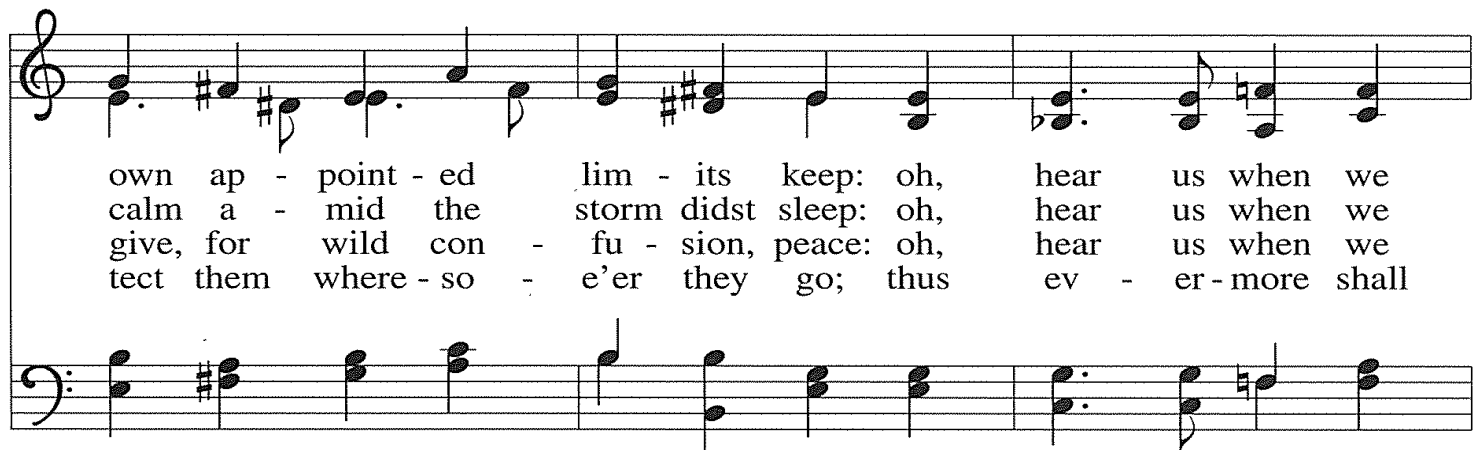
756




1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we  
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we  
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we  
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.



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 three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-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,

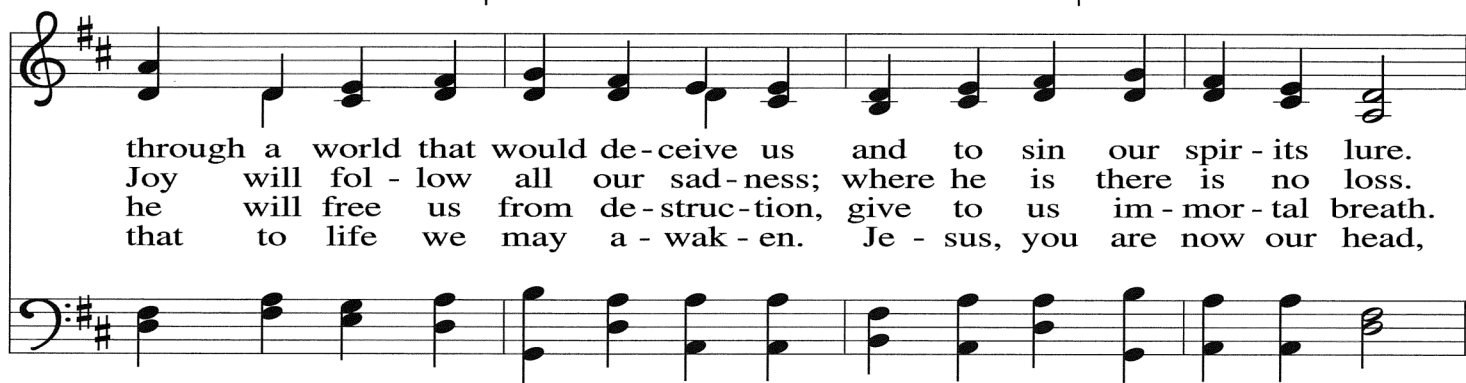
The fourth system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,".

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.".



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



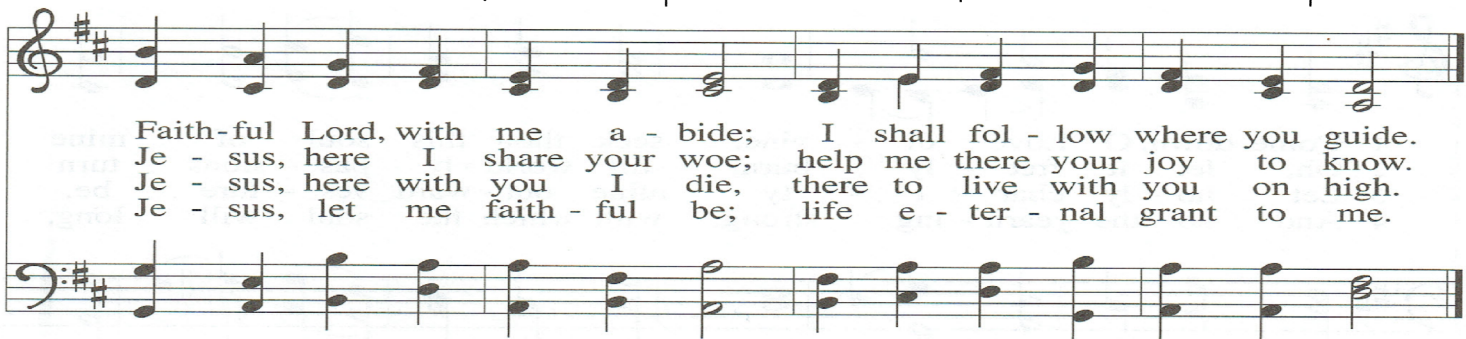
through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.  
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to 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

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God in memory of Byron K. Christian, one year ago 8/14/2022 and recently Kimberly's father, Fred Dupas. A donation was given for both to the roof fund by Bob & Anneliese Christian.

**The Lay Reader** is Denny Lacko.

**Acolytes** are Jacin and Trevor Flowers.

**Counters/Greeters** today are R. Williams and L. Sten.

**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 Westott, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Sylvia Sunstrum, Fritz Group, Eric Group, Danielle Sherman, Amy Verderber, Tillie and Larry, Lou Mayne, Judy, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Barbara Mounts, Chiquita Pearson, Tim and Sharon, Judy Coble, and Gary Conti.

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.

**Justin's Ordination and installation at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 5000 Old William Penn Highway, Export, PA, 15632 will be on August 20th at 4 PM. RSVP to 724-327-2190 to confirm your attendance.**

## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

#### Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost—August 13, 2023

“And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.” -Matthew 14:25-

The account of Jesus walking on the water reminds us of a similar account when Jesus calmed a storm. In both cases, Jesus quieted an actual storm. In both cases, Jesus rebuked one or more of his disciples for lacking faith. And in both cases the disciples were amazed by what Jesus had done.

Yet, their amazement took a different form in each account. When Jesus calmed the storm, their wonder took the form of a question: “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him” (Matt. 8:27b). However, when Jesus walked on the water, their wonder provided the answer to their previous question: “Truly you are the Son of God” (Matt. 14:33b).

In calming the storm and in walking on the water, Jesus showed his disciples that he had control over the forces of nature. As the eternal Word who had created the world, Jesus was able to rule this world. But when he first calmed the storm, the disciples could not yet see his identity this clearly. In walking on the water, however, Jesus revealed more of himself. How so?

In the Bible the waters are the symbol of chaos. In the beginning the world was a watery chaos and was therefore without form and void. And God’s Spirit hovered over the face of the watery deep. God formed the world by dividing and limiting this watery chaos, but he later released these waters to destroy the world in the flood. At the Red Sea, God once again divided the waters to let Israel pass through, but then he released these very waters to drown the Egyptians.

In addition to symbolizing chaos, however, the watery deep is also the realm of the multi-headed dragon Leviathan (i.e. the Serpent). In Revelation 13:1, we see Leviathan with seven heads and ten horns rising from the sea. Moreover, Psalm 74:13-14 portrays creation as an act of dividing the waters and crushing the heads of Leviathan. Metaphorically speaking, therefore, God’s good creation is a victory over the forces of chaos and evil.

Accordingly, when Jesus came walking on the water, his disciples saw Him dancing on the head of Leviathan. Thus, they finally saw him as the Lord of creation with the full authority to crush the Serpent’s head.