

“Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”



St. Matthew 16:16

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27, 2023

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (ELW) No. 502

*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 *Built on a Rock* (ELW) NO. 652

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Care for Your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without Your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. 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

Isaiah 51:1-6

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 138

¹I will give thanks to You, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing
Your praise.

**²I will bow down toward Your holy temple and praise Your Name, because of Your love
and faithfulness;**

³For You have glorified Your name and Your word above all things.

⁴When I called, You answered me; You increased my strength within me.

⁵All the kings of the earth will praise You, O LORD, when they have heard the words of
Your mouth.

⁶They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁷Though the LORD be high, He cares for the lowly; He perceives the haughty from afar.

**⁸Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You keep me safe; You stretch forth Your hand
against the fury of my enemies; Your right hand shall save me.**

⁹The LORD will make good His purpose for me; O LORD, Your love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of Your hands.

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-12:8

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 16:13-20

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

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

(ELW) No. 596

*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

Faith of Our Fathers

(ELW) No. 812

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

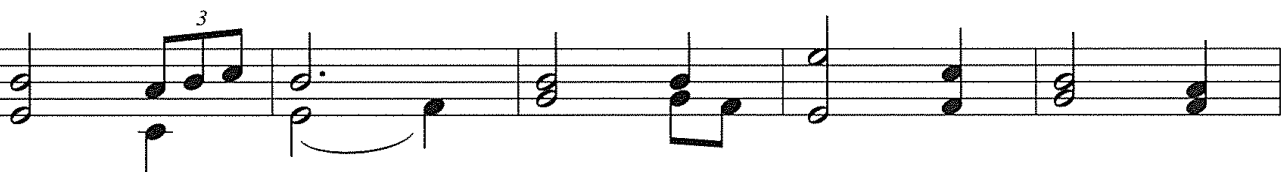
Postlude

Church Service begins at 11:00 next Sunday.

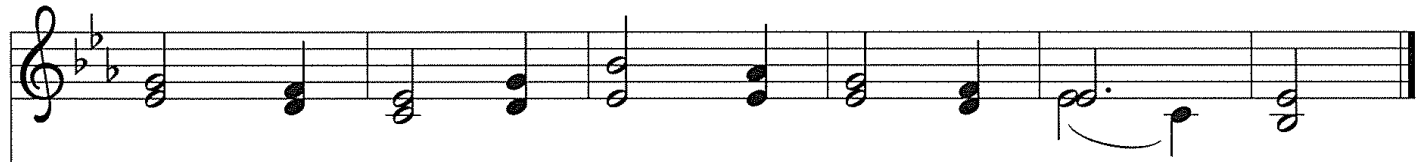
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



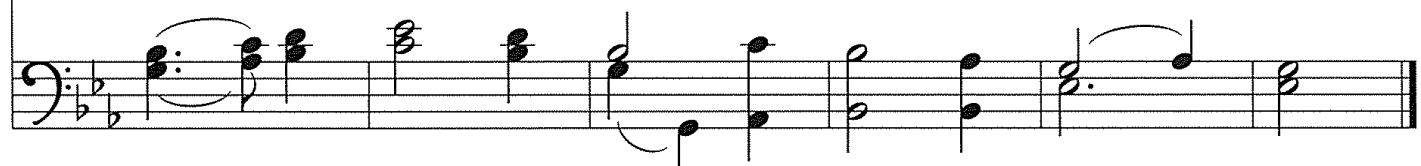
1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.



5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is

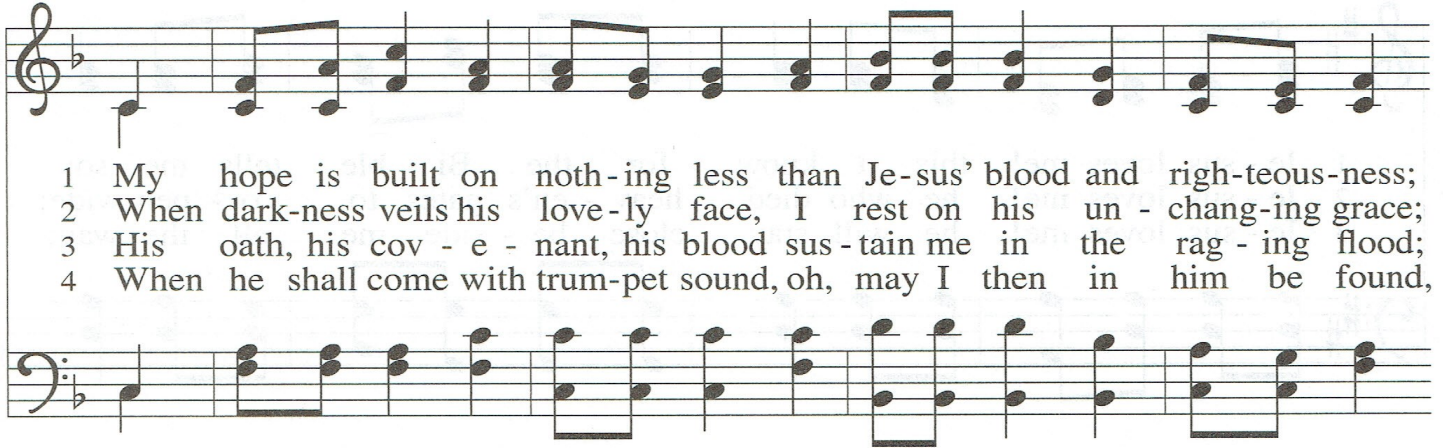
fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

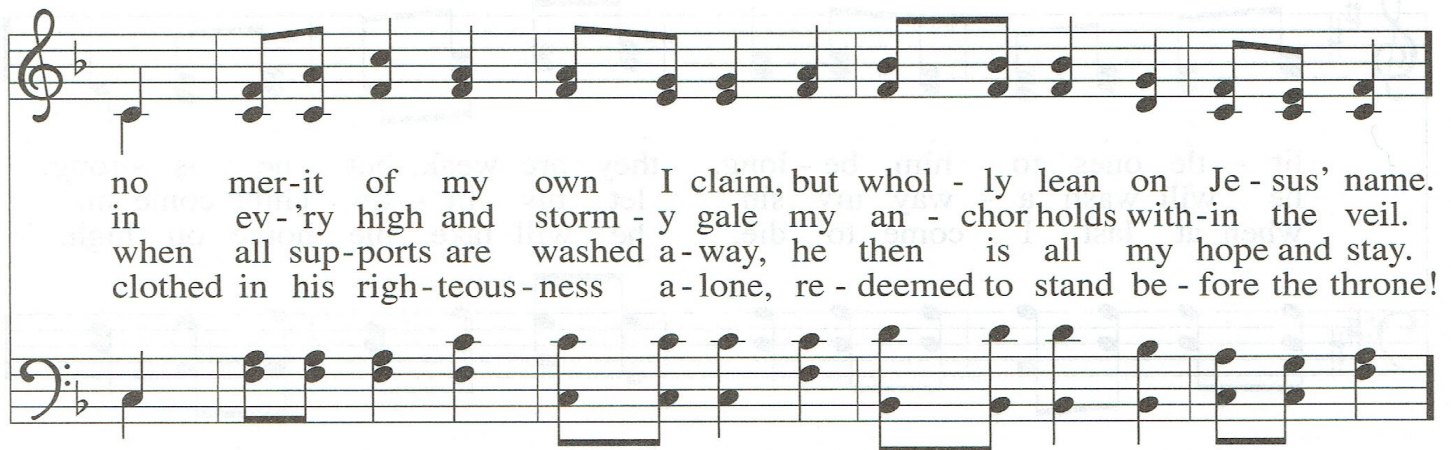
souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

(continue on next page)

- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
“I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen.”

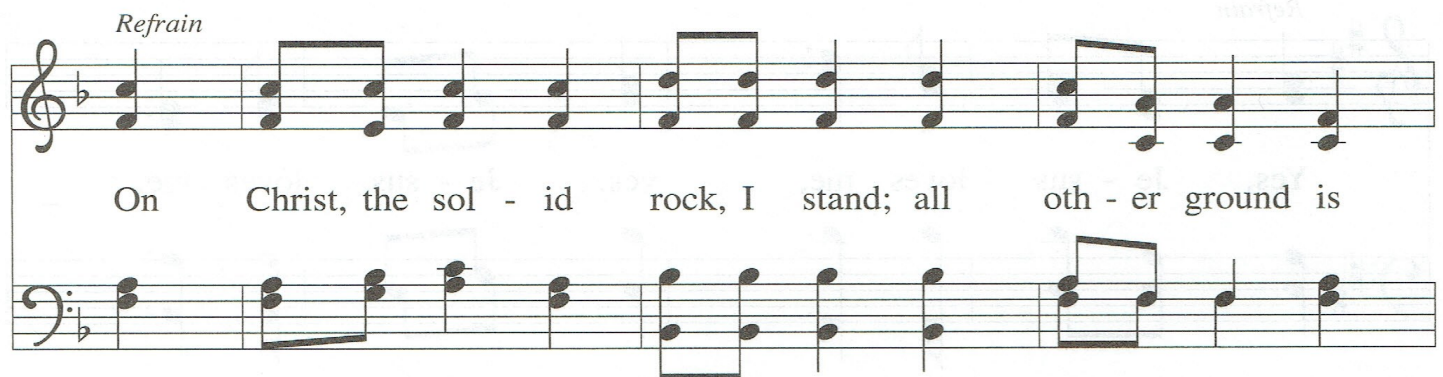


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,




no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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 chords. 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 and accompaniment. 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 and accompaniment. 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 and accompaniment. 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 with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.".

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
 3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in

fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
 all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain

when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
 if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
 by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.

ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

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

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God in memory of our loving parents Joseph R. Sarver, Betty Sarver, and Laird and Jane Boddorf. A donation is being made by Judy and Joe Sarver for the roof fund.

The Lay Reader is Lisa Hager.

Acolytes are Heidi and Denico Walsh.

Counters/Greeters today are J. Black and H. Quedenfeld.

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 7 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, 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, Jim H., Barbara Mounts, Chiquita Pearson, Tim and Sharon, Judy Coble, Gary Conti, Linnese, Beckie, Karen and John.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Painting event is on Sept. 23. Flyer in Narthex.

Adult Catechism starts Sept. 5th at 11 AM and 7 PM.

September newsletter in Narthex. It has a list of all the events beginning in September.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost—August 27, 2023

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’” -Matthew 16:13-16-

The word “messiah” means “anointed one.” As the Messiah, Jesus was a prophet, a priest, and a king. Indeed, he was the ultimate prophet, the ultimate priest, and the ultimate king. He was the one to whom all the prophets, priests, and kings pointed and continue to point. As Lutherans, we often focus upon Christ’s priestly office which he exercised by sacrificing himself on the cross. However, before Jesus made this priestly sacrifice and before he ascended to heaven as king, he exercised the office of a prophet. Thus, it was natural that his contemporaries would see him as a prophet, even if this description was incomplete.

So what is a prophet? A prophet is God’s prosecuting attorney. He or she announces the breaches of God’s covenant (or law) and the sanctions that will follow if people do not amend their lives. So understood, a prophet is both a foreteller and a forth-teller. As a foreteller, a prophet foretells the future, and as a forth-teller, a prophet tells it like it is. In his Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 5-7) and in his denunciations of the Pharisees, Jesus was a forth-teller. He proclaimed God’s law and called for an amendment of life. But Jesus was also a foreteller. For instance, in his Olivet Discourse (see Matt. 24), Jesus foretold the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

Today we must embrace Christ’s prophetic office as a prelude to engaging culture prophetically. Our culture desperately needs us to raise a prophetic voice, yet we are afraid to speak. Indeed, as Lutherans, we may well be afraid to use God’s law due to our concern about legalism. However, legalism becomes an issue only when we try to earn our salvation through the law, not when we use God’s law as a moral standard.

On a practical level, some say that prophetic engagement will reduce church attendance because such an approach is not seeker sensitive. However, in the long run, the opposite is true. After all, if we do not proclaim the law, we cannot define sin. If we cannot define sin, we have no gospel. And if we have no gospel, Christianity is meaningless. Today the church is hemorrhaging young people because a culture of moral relativism has made Christianity meaningless in their eyes. To solve this problem, we need prophetic engagement, not another seeker sensitive program that waters down the faith.