

St. Matthew 20:16

“So the last will be first, and the first last.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *O Jesus, I Have Promised* (ELW) No. 810

*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 Are They* (ELW) NO. 728

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Direct our hearts, O Lord, by Your merciful reign, because without Your help it is impossible to please You. 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 55:6-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 27:1-13

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

³Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;

⁴And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in Him.

⁵One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

⁶To behold the fair beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.

⁷For in the day of trouble He shall keep me safe in His shelter; He shall hide me in the secrecy of His dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

⁸Even now He lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.

⁹Therefore I will offer in His dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

¹⁰Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

¹¹You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, LORD, will I seek.

¹²Hide not Your face from me, nor turn away Your servant in displeasure.

¹³You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Grewe

(children leave for Sunday School)

*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 20:1-16

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

We Give Thee but Thine Own

(ELW) No. 686

*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

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

(ELW) No. 536

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

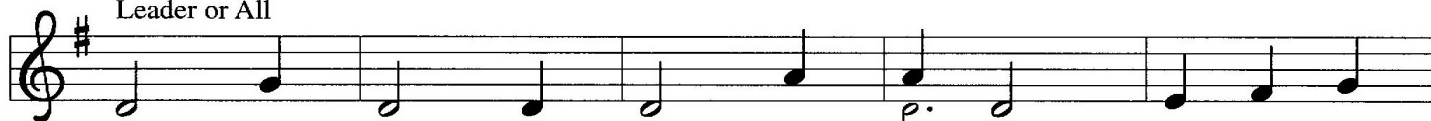
I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Blest Are They

728

Leader or All



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
her - it the earth. Blest are they, who
shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest are they, who
cause . . . of me. Re - jice, be glad,



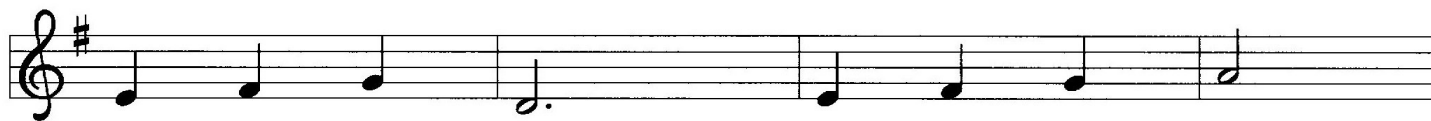
full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
pure of heart; they shall see God.
suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

All



Re - jice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!

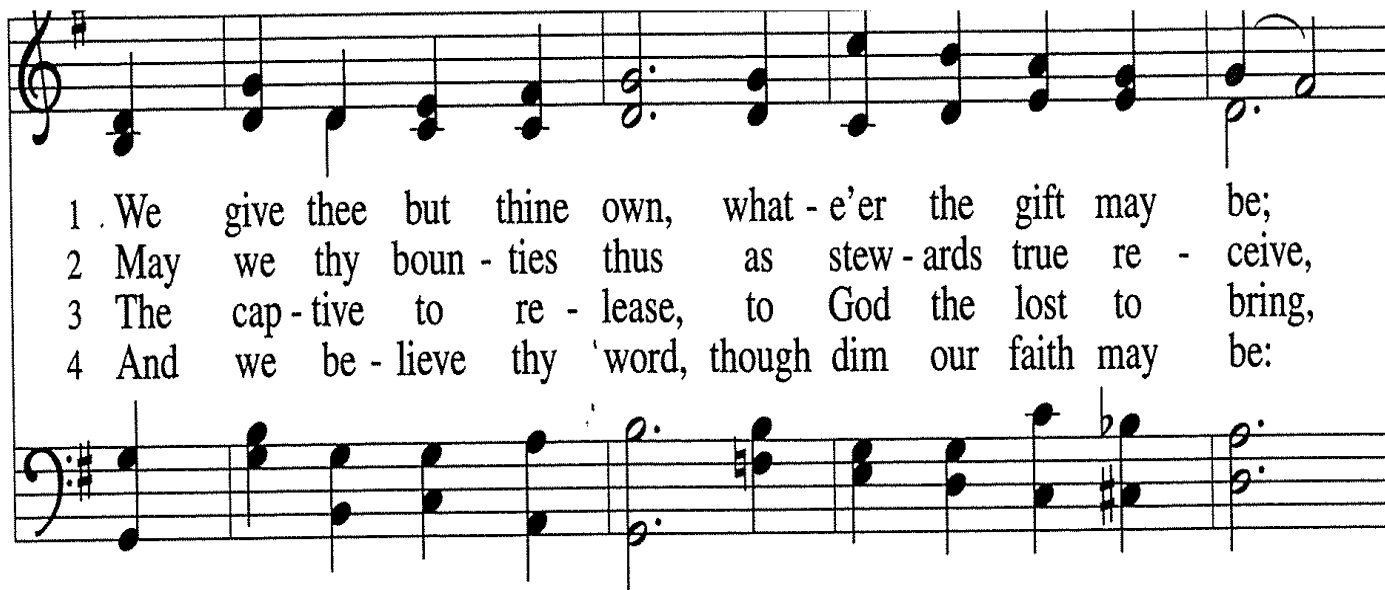


Re - jice and be glad!

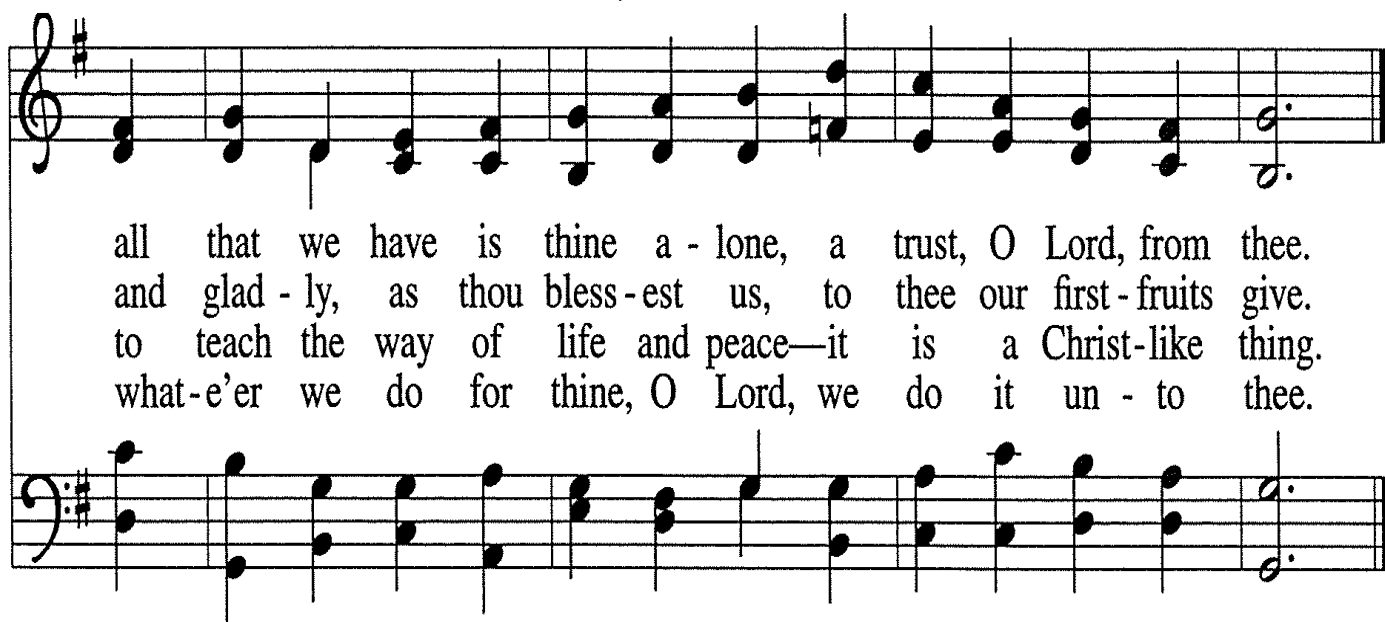


Yours is the king - dom of God!

We Give Thee but Thine Own



1. We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2. May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3. The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4. And we be - lieve thy 'word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
 what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

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 the continuation of the vocal line, and the bass staff provides the harmonic support.

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

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows the continuation of the vocal line, and the bass staff provides the harmonic support.

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

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows the continuation of the vocal line, and the bass staff provides the harmonic support.

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

The fifth system concludes the piece. The treble staff shows the final notes of the vocal line, and the bass staff provides the final harmonic support. The piece ends with a double bar line.

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

536

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,

with a shep - herd's care en - fold you;
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we
till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
meet a - gain,

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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 and for His many blessings. In lieu of flowers, a donation has been made to the roof fund by Cindy Linville.

The Lay Reader is Christina Serbak.

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.

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, Neil Bassi, Phyllis Daniels, Simon Thorp, and Kevin.

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

Adult Catechism Tuesday at 11 AM and 7 PM.

Adult Sunday School at 9:45 AM.

Confirmation Class begins tomorrow from 6-8 PM.

Chess Club meets Thursday evenings at 7:30-9:30 PM.

Women;s Circle meeting Thursday at 10 AM.

Movie and Meal follows the service today.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost—September 24, 2023

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?”

– Psalm 27:1 –

My nine-year-old daughter and I share a common interest in the TV show *The Little House on the Prairie*. We recently watched an episode, where the eldest Ingalls daughter Mary was already blind. She married a blind man named Adam in the show. And in this particular episode, Mary is given a glimpse of hope as she’s able to detect light. She notices when she is in darkness, and when light enters the room, her vision goes from black to white. It gives her hope that she might regain her sight. After a long trip with her Pa to see the specialist in Mankato, Mary receives the disappointing news that her blindness is not reversing after all.

This episode reminded me of the psalmist’s words in Psalm 27:1, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?” Mary was heartbroken at the news she received, but her Pa helped her to “see” things from a different perspective. Mary realized that she had no reason to be afraid because God have given her everything she needed: a loving husband, a devoted family, and a job as a teacher at a school for blind children.

We, too, have moments that seem scary and dark. We deal with various trials in this earthly life. We’re faced with making big decisions. At times, we’re plagued by fear and anxiety for many different reasons. But the psalmist reminds us that we have no reason to be afraid if we believe that God is the source of our light and our salvation. He will lead us down the right path, so long as we heed his voice through Scripture. Our life-source is God himself. He gives us life and salvation; we can share that same love with others. We will still have times that we are in complete darkness, or so it would seem. Can you imagine the darkness that Jesus’ disciples and mother felt on Good Friday after Jesus had suffered terribly at the hands of others, had been nailed to the cross, left to die, and then buried in a borrowed tomb? There was darkness. Darkness covered the earth (see Mk. 15:33). But darkness did not remain.

On the third day, the Light that is Jesus Christ, returned to the earth, risen from the dead. We have that to hold on to in times of fear and trouble. Jesus Christ, our light and salvation, will give us strength and hope in a dark world.