

St. Matthew 21:42a

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 8, 2023

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn *Children of the Heavenly Father* (ELW) No. 781

\*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 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* (ELW) NO. 769

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Generously pardon and give peace to Your faithful people, O Lord, that being cleansed from every sin, we may be free and glad to serve; 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 5:1-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 80:7-18

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of Your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>8</sup>You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You cast out the nations and planted it.**

<sup>9</sup>You prepared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

**<sup>10</sup>The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

**<sup>12</sup>Why have You broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**<sup>14</sup>Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; preserve what Your right hand has planted.**

<sup>15</sup>They burn it with fire like rubbish; at the rebuke of Your countenance let them perish.

**<sup>16</sup>Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, the son of man You have made so strong for Yourself.**

<sup>17</sup>And so will we never turn away from You; give us life, that we may call upon Your Name.

**<sup>18</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; show the light of Your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

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 21:33-46

**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

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

(ELW) No. 834

\*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

*Love Lifted Me*

Choir

\*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

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

(ELW) No. 596

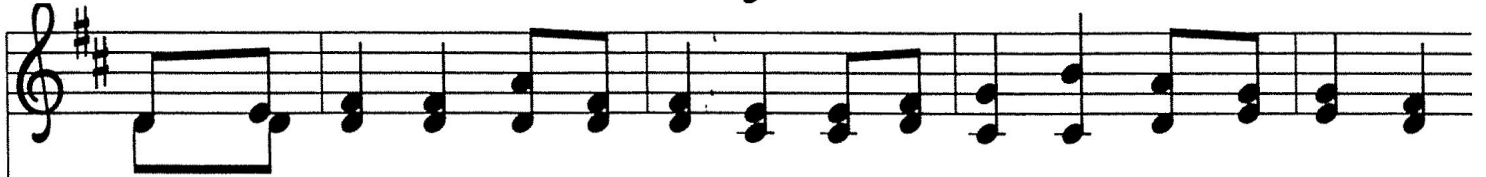
\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# Children of the Heavenly Father

781



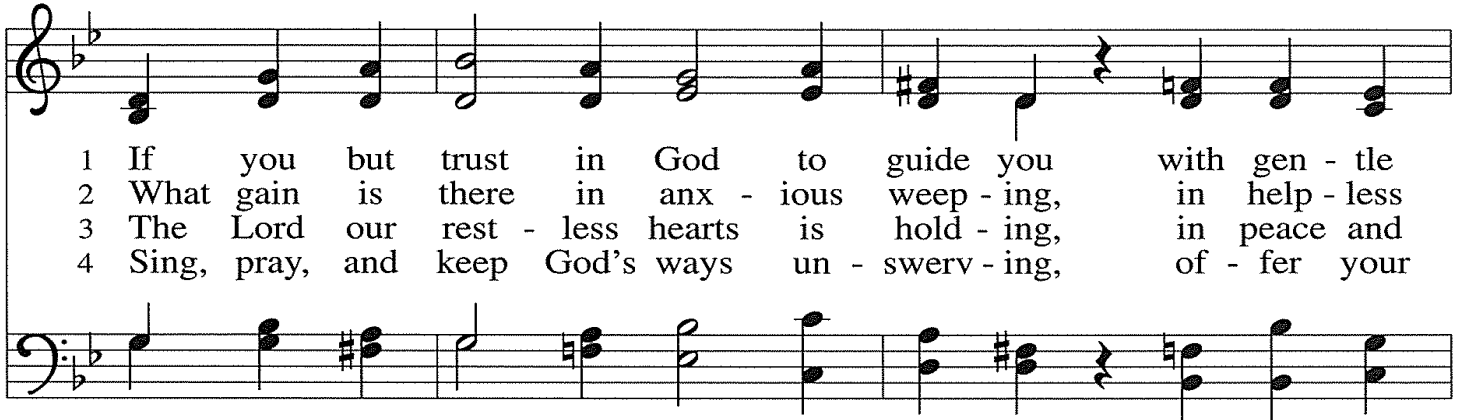
- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa-ther safe-ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



## If You But Trust in God to Guide You



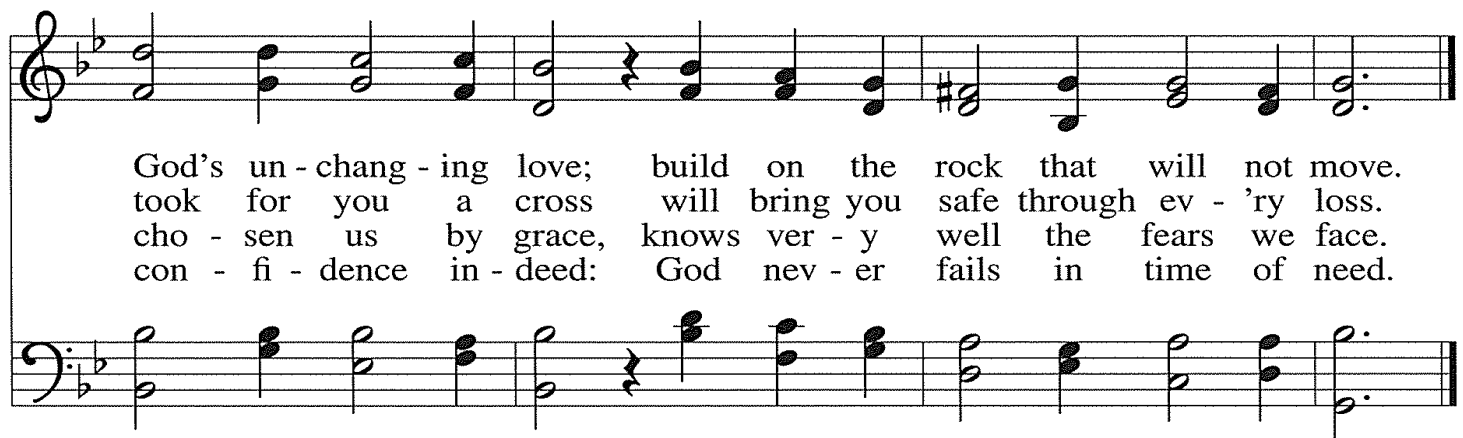
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less  
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and  
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's  
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -  
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.  
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

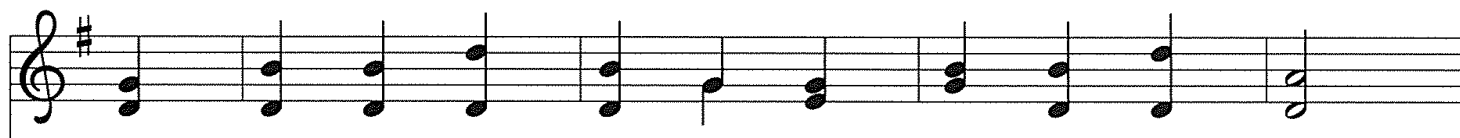
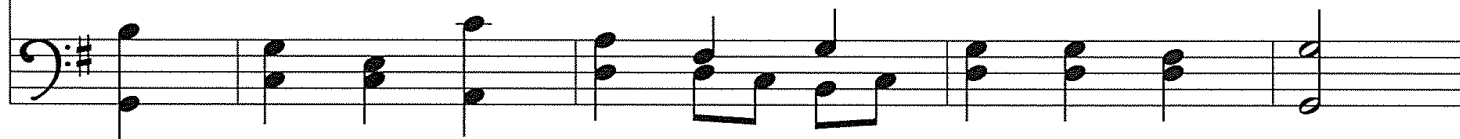
834



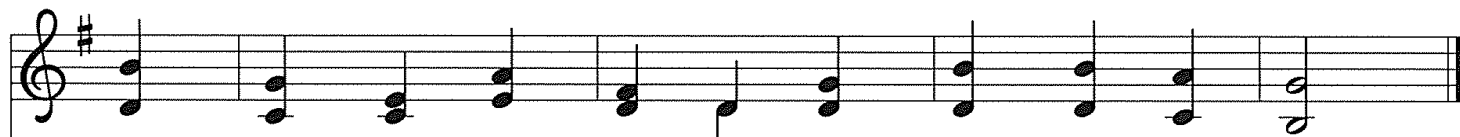
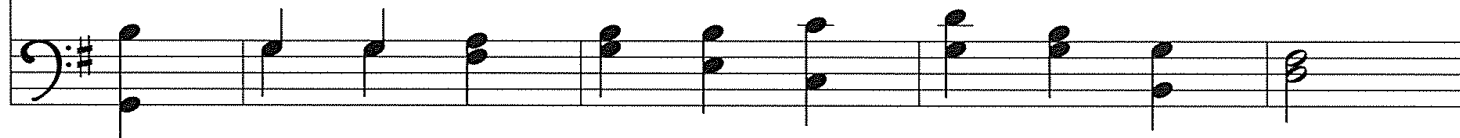
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!





Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music features a treble and bass clef with 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 accompaniment consists of block chords and simple rhythmic patterns.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are split across the two staves. The musical notation remains consistent with the first system.

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

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are split across the two staves. The musical notation remains consistent with the first system.

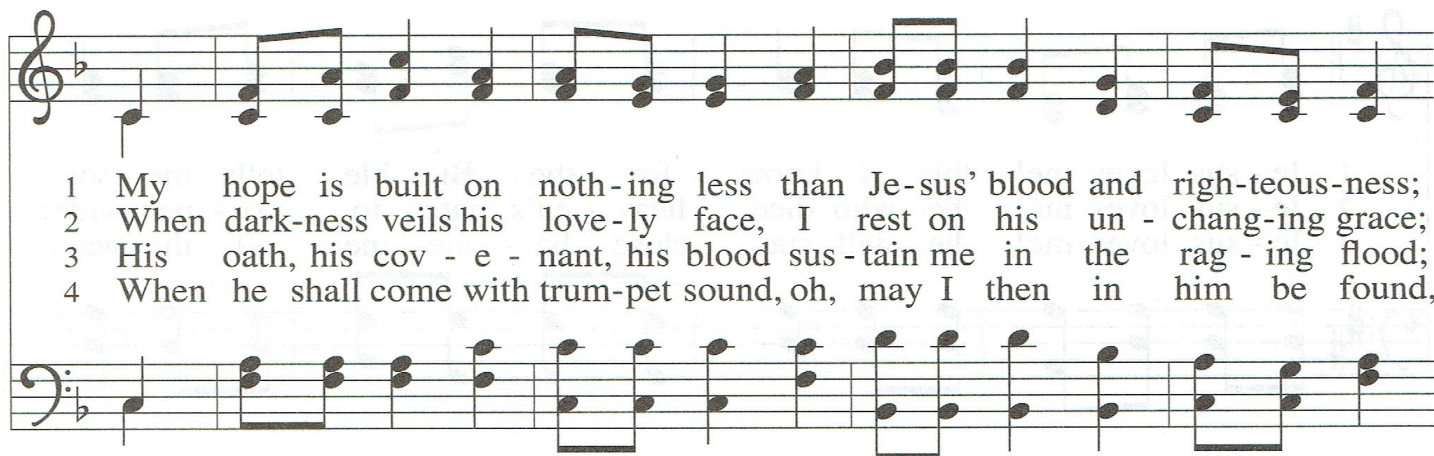
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are split across the two staves. The musical notation remains consistent with the first system.

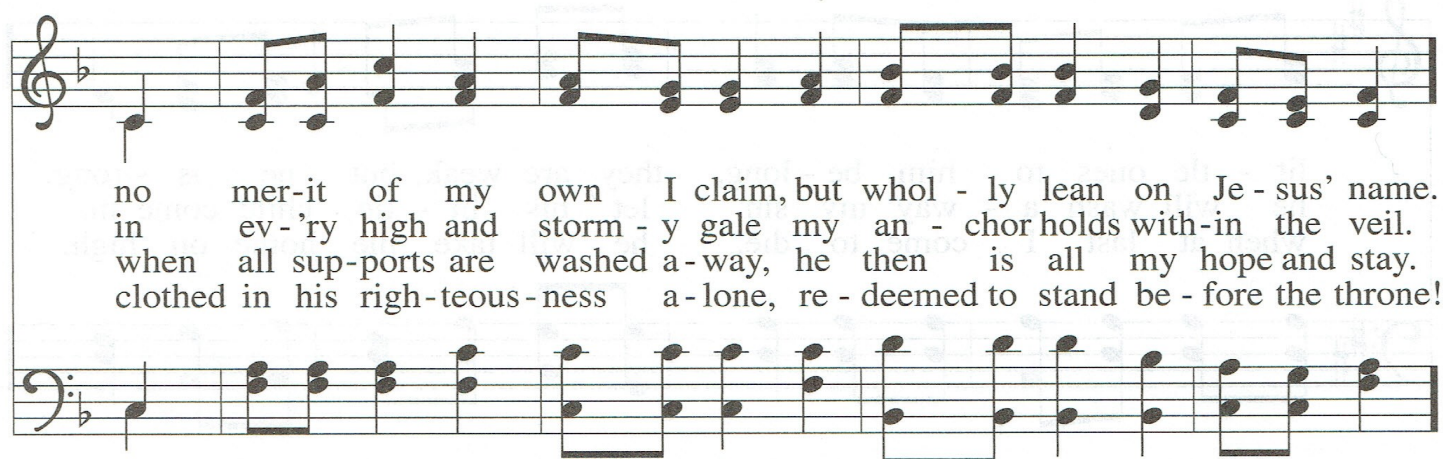
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are split across the two staves. The musical notation remains consistent with the first system, ending with a double bar line.

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

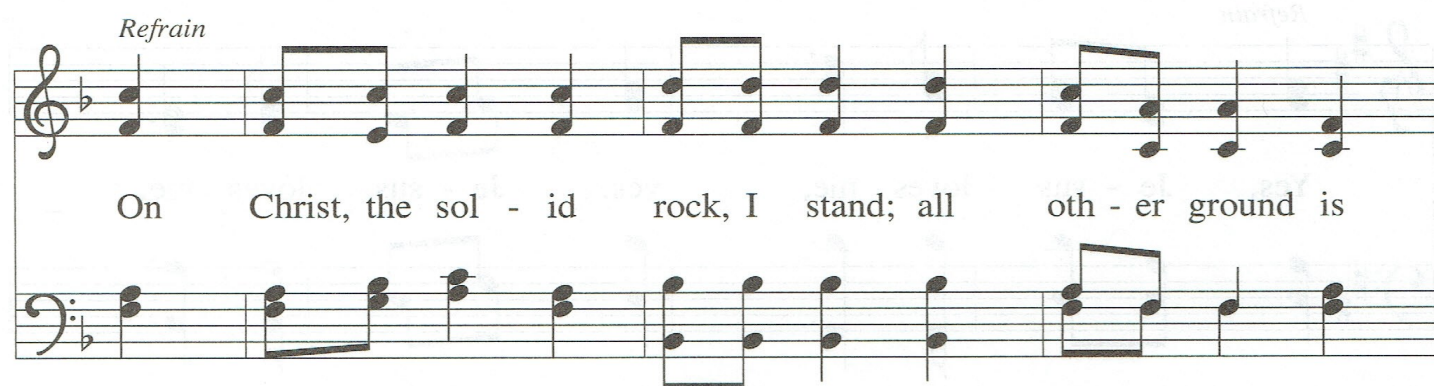


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;  
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;  
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in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

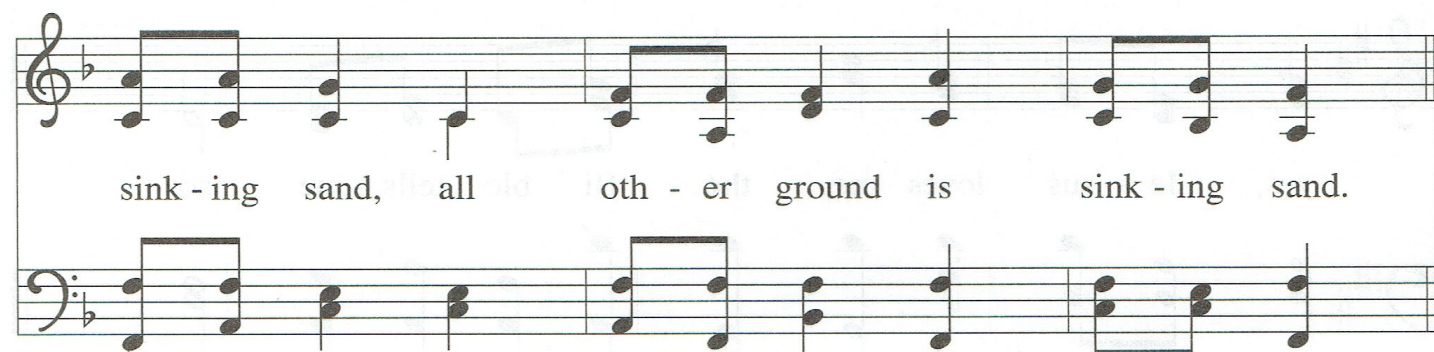


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*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.

## **First Lutheran Church**

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: [secretary@flcwash.church](mailto:secretary@flcwash.church)

website: [www.flcwash.church](http://www.flcwash.church)

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

[revrob@flcwash.church](mailto:revrob@flcwash.church)

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 by the Lacko's, in memory of Jacob and Edna Nelson and Joseph and Mary Lacko, Also for the wedding anniversaries of Judd & Sally Lacko (57 years) and Jason & Melissa Carpenter (15 years). In honor of Denny Lacko and the glories of God.

**The Lay Reader** is Dennis Schmidt.

**Acolytes** are Lillah and Elijah Clark..

**Counters/Greeters** today are J. Black 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.

**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, Karen and John, Neil Bassi, Phyllis Daniels, Simon Thorp, Josh, Kimberly Grewe, Anneliese Christian, Becky Wood, Apollos Yocca, Alex Houck, Bridgette, Rhonda Hendrickson, Ron Erdmann, Belinda, Wilda Durbin, and Stacy Carroll.

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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Adult Catechism** class is on Tuesday at 11 and 7 pm. We are discussing the book we read over the summer. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

**Adult Sunday School** is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

**Confirmation Class** is Monday from 6-8 pm.

**Bell Choir** rehearsal is Monday at 7 pm. We would love for you to join us. Please see Kris Briggs if you are interested, [kkbrgs1@gmail.com](mailto:kkbrgs1@gmail.com). All are welcome.

Our **Dartball team** is looking for more members. Practices are Tuesdays at 7 pm. No experience is needed. Come join us for fun and fellowship. We hope to see you soon. Please contact the church office for information.

**Chess Club** meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced. We hope that you will join us for fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

We will be having our **Apple / Oktoberfest** on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> after the service. The church will provide brats, hotdogs, buns and beer ( the root kind!). Please bring your favorite apple or German dish to share. Please join us for fun, fellowship and (root)beer. We hope to see you there!!! Prost! (Cheers!)

**Sarris Candy** order forms are now available. You can pick up an order form in the church office. You can also place your order on-line using our Group ID # 10-3189. If you choose to place your order on-line, your order will be shipped directly to you. Orders are due by Sunday, November 19, 2023. If you turn in your order form, candy will be delivered on Sunday, December 10, 2023. Here is your chance to satisfy your sweet tooth and help with our Roof and Window Repair! Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church and turn in all of your fundraiser money separately. If you have any questions, please see Vicki Group. Thank you for your continued support.

**Calling all Toffee Lovers!** We have your chance to satisfy your sweet tooth with our Toffee House Fundraiser. Proceeds go to Roof and Window repair. Orders are due by November 5, 2023 and will be delivered on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church. Please do not combine this payment with other fundraiser payments. Forms can be picked up in the church office. If you have any questions, please see Vicki Group.

**Our Annual Wreath Sale is in full swing.** Orders are due by November 5, 2023 and decorations will be available for pick up on November 25, 2023. Checks payable to First Lutheran Church. Please do not combine the fundraiser payments. If you have any questions, please see Vicki Group.



## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost—October 8, 2023**

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

- Philippians 3:14 -

In recent years, I have found myself drawn to the words of Helen H. Lemmel's hymn “Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus.” Lemmel wrote the hymn in 1922, and she based the words on a poem called “Focussed: A Story and a Song” written by Lilius Trotter, a Christian missionary in London and Algeria, Africa. Lilius Trotter was a gifted artist, but she felt a call to proclaim the Gospel to those who had not yet heard the Good News. She began her ministry by going into the dark streets of London late at night, striving to reach and rescue the prostitutes. Eventually, she felt she needed to expand her efforts into Africa. When she was turned down by missionary agencies, she chose to go into North Africa on her own. Even though Trotter had an amazing opportunity to become a famous artist, she gave it up for the sake of preaching Christ crucified to the lost. While she was in Africa, she wrote the poem that served as the inspiration for Helen Lemmel's hymn.

In our current state of affairs (in North America as well as around the globe), it can be hard to “press on toward the goal” as Paul stated in his letter to the Philippians. But we must not forget that the “call” does not come from within us; it comes from God in Christ Jesus. At times pressing on toward the goal can feel daunting and overwhelming. Maybe that's because we're so heavily focused on the past: our past mistakes, our past broken relationships, etc. We're focused on the wrong things. If, however, we are focused on our Savior, we can press on toward the goal, no matter how overwhelming or daunting it might appear. God gives us the strength and ability to press on forward toward him, keeping our gaze on him and him alone. Jesus is much like a coach at the finish line, calling out to us, encouraging us, and empowering us to focus on him. When our gaze is upon his wonderful face, the things of this life and past grow dim.

Trotter wrote the following words at the conclusion of her poem:

Turn full your soul's vision to Jesus, and look and look at Him, and a strange dimness will come over all that is apart from Him, and the Divine “attract” (i.e. attraction) by which God's saints are made, even in this 20th century, will lay hold of you. For “He is worthy” to have all there is to be had in the heart that He has died to win.”

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace. -Helen H. Lemmel