

St. Matthew 22:14

“for many are called, but few are chosen”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 15, 2023

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Now We Join in Celebration* (ELW) No. 462

*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 *Take My Life that I May Be* (ELW) NO. 685

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O Lord, sustain Your Church with Your perpetual mercy. Without You, in our weakness we will surely fail. Therefore, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

³He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

⁴**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.**

⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

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 22:1-14

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

Be Thou My Vision

(ELW) No. 793

*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

(SBH) No. 27

*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

O Master Let Me Walk with You

(ELW) No. 818

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Now We Join in Celebration

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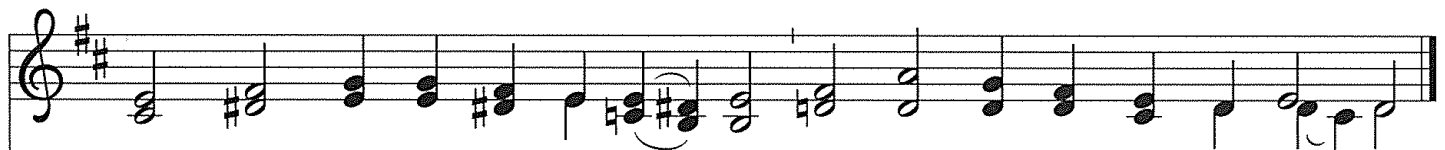
1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.



Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



- take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.



- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

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.

Please open the SBH hymnal for Create in Me a Clean Heart, SBH 27.

We will have it scanned to insert for next Sunday.

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

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1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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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 honor of Wesley Black's 17th birthday and in loving memory of my husband, Frank Black and my mother, Bessie Killen. A donation is made to the church by Kathleen Black.

The Lay Reader is Lisa Maust.

Acolytes are Jacin & Trevor Flowers.

Counters/Greeters today are K. Luketich 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.

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, Stacy Carroll, Emerson Dietrich, Ernest Oliver, and Leann Vitteck.

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. 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.

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 19th. 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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost—October 15, 2023

“For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” -Philippians 4:11b-13-

“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength” (Phil. 4:13). This has become one of the most well-known verses in Scripture. We see it on bumper stickers, coffee mugs, t-shirts, and more. It’s almost become a sort of motivational mantra for many, but its original meaning (as penned by St. Paul) is so much deeper.

At the time that Paul was writing this letter to Philippians, he was imprisoned. Paul was locked up for proclaiming the Gospel: that Jesus Christ suffered, died, and was buried, and on the third day, he rose from the grave for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation for all people. So as Paul was sitting in a prison cell, he wrote about being content. Contentment is something we all struggle with. It seems that we’re always wanting more. It’s a lesson that’s hard for adults to learn; it’s hard for kids when the world around them constantly says they won’t truly be happy unless they have the latest video game, iPhone, or toy. We adults fall into the same temptation. So how can we be content with what we have? How can the homeless family living in an encampment under a bridge be content? Paul knew what it was like to have an abundance; he also knew what it was like to be in need. And yet, he was content. Paul was imprisoned for simply preaching the Good News, and yet, he was content.

The key is in verse 13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. No matter what situation we may find ourselves in, we must not forget that we are not alone. Christ is with us, just as he promised to his disciples, “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20). It is Christ who gives us strength to take on whatever life hands us. When life is good and things feel in order, it may be easier to be content. However, we all know that life isn’t perfect. We’re certainly going to face trials of varying degrees. But Paul urges that even in the midst of some of the greatest trials we might face this side of heaven, we can still be content. We have every reason to be content because of all that God has provided us with through his son Jesus Christ.