

St. Matthew 25:13



“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day or the hour”

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 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 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* (ELW) NO. 597

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty, eternal God, show mercy to your children who humbly pray, that we who have no confidence in our worth may not be judged but tenderly received. 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

Amos 5:18-24

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

**²Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether
dismayed; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.**

³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn
back, because they are ashamed.

**⁴Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
let those who love Your salvation say forever,
"Great is the LORD!"**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me speedily, O God.

**⁶You are my helper and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not tarry.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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 25:1-13

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

*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

Now Thank We All Our God

(ELW) No. 839

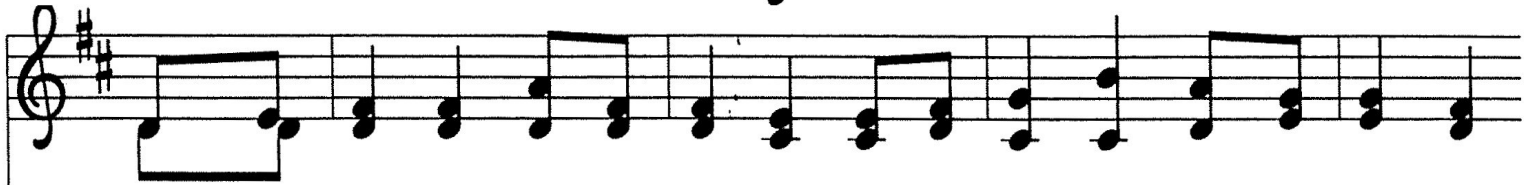
*The Dismissal (*response*)

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.



My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

597

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

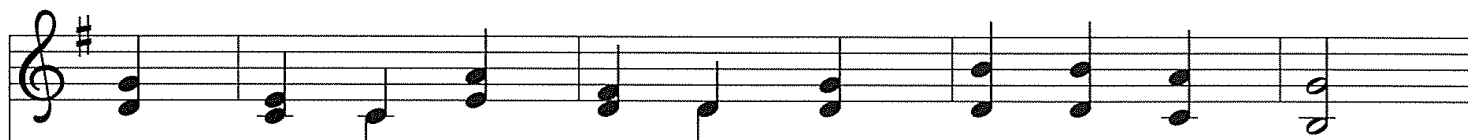
own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

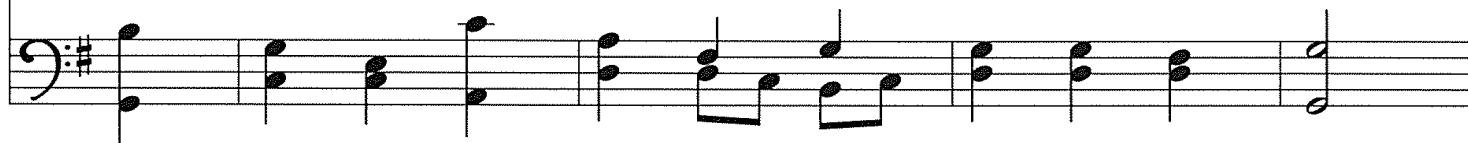
On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

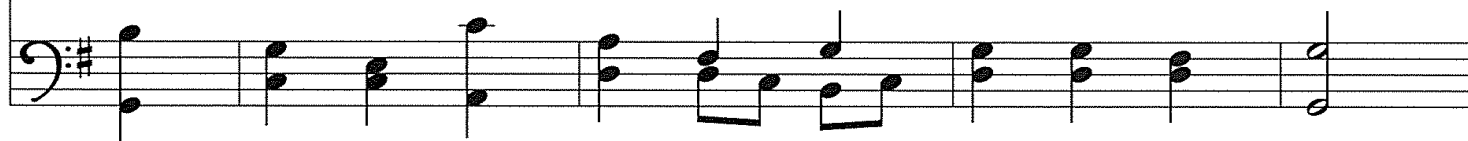
834



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!



The Communion

III

CREATE in me a clean ' heart O ' God:

* and re ' new a right ' spirit with ' in me.

Cast me not a ' way from thy ' presence:

* and take not thy ' Holy ' Spirit ' from me.

Restore unto me the joy of ' thy sal ' vation:

* and up ' hold me with ' thy free ' Spirit.

Or,

From a Melody by J. A. FREYLINGHAUSEN

Adapted, HAROLD W. GILBERT

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 thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

First Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God in honor of mom's 80th birthday by Ron McGoogan. A donation is made to the church.

The Lay Reader is Ron McGoogan.

Acolytes are Tanner and Trevor Flowers.

Counters/Greeters today are H. Quedenfeld and R. Williams.

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, Leann Vitteck, Isabella & family, James, Billie Sue Serbak, Lori Mauer, Betty DeGiovanni.

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

Semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held today following Worship Service.

Thank Offering Sunday is next Sunday, November 19. We will be celebrating our annual Thankoffering Service on Sunday, November 19th. Our guest speaker will be Melody Hooks from Life Choices.

Please be sure to use the special envelope in your box labelled **THANK OFFERING**—as that one will not go toward the regular church funds/expenses. Keep in mind all donations are appreciated no matter the size.

We are grateful for your generous offerings in the previous years.

As in the past, we will be collecting non-perishable food items. The food will be placed around the cornucopia and during the service Pastor will bless the food for donation.

We will also have ladies for ushers/greeters that day. If you would like to participate, please reach out to Cristina Serbak at 412-997-5396.

We are accepting gift cards for the FLC gift card sleigh fundraiser. Tickets are available now through Kimberly.

Hope for Ethiopia funds are low, please donate.

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 next 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.

Toffee Orders will be delivered on Sunday, November 19th.

Annual Wreath Sale. Orders will be available for pick up at the handicap door on November 25.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost—November 12, 2023

“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.” -1 Thessalonians 4:13-

St. Paul writes to the Thessalonians to set the record straight regarding the End Times. Paul writes out of care and concern for the Thessalonian people. He comforts them concerning matters of death and grief. Paul assures the Thessalonians that those who have died in Christ will be among the first to experience the resurrection and the risen Christ. When Christ comes again, we will all be reunited and together once again. This is what gives us Christians living hope.

That said, this doesn't mean that the Christian never grieves. In fact, Jesus sets the example for us as he grieved over the loss of his dear friend Lazarus (see Jn. 11:33-36). We grieve over the death of loved ones, but we don't grieve like those who don't have hope. Indeed, death separates us from our loved ones. Death stings. Death causes great pain. Despite that, we have victory over death through Jesus' death and resurrection.

From a young age, I experienced grief. The first loss of a loved one I had experienced happened when I was about eight years old. The woman who died was in her nineties- she lived a full life, and she was a devout Christian woman. My parents ached as they saw their daughter grieving, but for them, they were able to give me comfort and hope because our hope is in the Lord and in him alone.

For these brand-new Christians in Thessalonica, they needed someone to remind them of the power of Jesus' death and resurrection. Paul proclaims to them once again the life-saving power of Christ and his victory over sin, death, and the resurrection. May we, too, seek to share the truth of the Gospel in the same way.

Prayer: Gracious God and Father, we give you thanks for the gift of your son Jesus Christ, who died to save us from sin, death, and the devil. Strengthen our hope in him that, even as we grieve the loss of loved ones, we might not lose sight of your promise life eternal. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.