

St. John 3:19b

“The Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 2024

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (ELW) No. 742

*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.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Your grace, may mercifully be relieved; 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

Numbers 21:4-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 107:1-9

¹Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!

²Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble

³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

⁴Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in;

⁵hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

⁶Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress.

⁷He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

⁸Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man!

⁹For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul He fills with good things.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Lenten Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

*The Gospel

John 3:14-21

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Children's Sermon

Pastor Grewe

(children leave for Sunday School)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

Healer of Our Every Ill

(ELW) No. 612

*The Apostles' 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

Lift High the Cross

(ELW) No. 660

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

Online services posted weekly on website: www.flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

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.

The Lay Reader is Dennis Schmidt.

Acolytes are Lillah and Elijah Clark.

Counters today are C. Group and V. Group.

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 2024 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 2024. 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 2024. 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 Westott, 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, Becky Wood, Apollos Yocca, Alex Houck, Bridgette, Rhonda Hendrickson, Ron Erdmann, Belinda, Wilda Durbin, Stacy Carroll, Leann Vitteck, Isabella & family, James, Billie Sue Serbak, Lori Mauer, Jennifer Brown, Mark Black, Emma Solich, Kenny & Josh Carl, Cindi and John Moore, Sean Shearer, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, Gavazzi family, Janelle Henderson, Rex Gibson, Mike Phipps, Holly Davis and family, Pat Dupas, and Rich Luketich.

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)

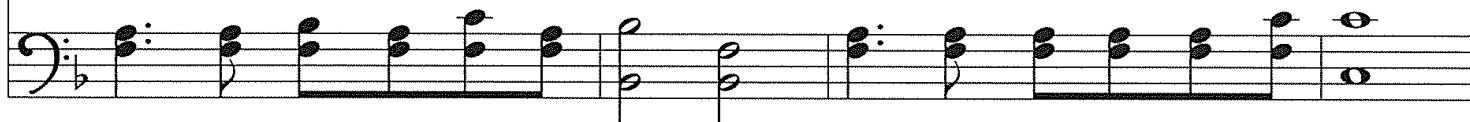
FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

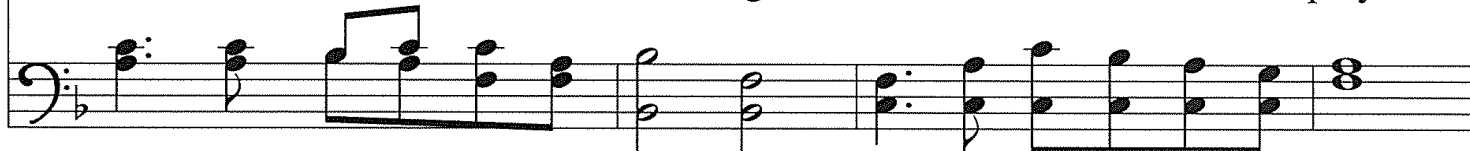
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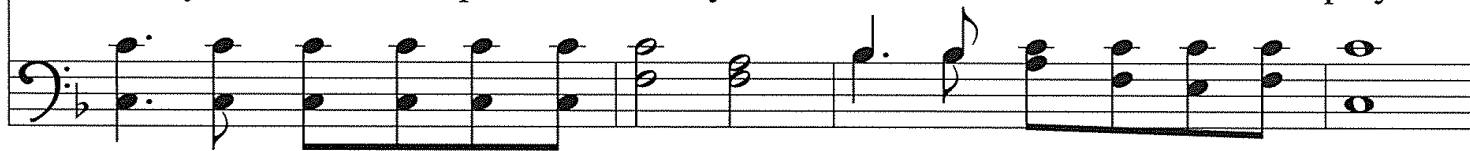
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.



Healer of Our Every Ill

612

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

The Communion

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

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G minor (two flats). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. 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 -

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -".

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

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly".

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

The fourth system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "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.

The fifth and final system of musical notation on this page continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it."

Lift High the Cross

660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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 6:30 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 Dennis Schmidt 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.

Listening for the Promise
Weekly Devotional
Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 10, 2024

“...that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

- John 3:15 –

“You put your right hand in, you put your right hand out, you put your right hand in, and you shake it all about, you do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around, that’s what it’s all about.” We all know the song; it is a favorite childhood game and is often danced at special events. Everyone stands in a circle and follows the instructions; the verse ends with everyone clapping while singing, “That’s what it’s all about!” The song continues with the other hand, and then other parts of the body.

It is a silly game, but the question at the end has become the focus of many philosophical discussions. What if the Hokey Pokey really is what it’s all about? This leads to the question, “What does Hokey Pokey mean?” After all, if that is what it is all about, we should understand what it means. There are many references for background information, but few agree on the origin of the song.

The question is not new. The great philosopher Jimmy Buffett asked in a song, “Maybe it’s all too simple for our brains to figure it out. What if the Hokey Pokey is all it really is about?” Research into the Hokey Pokey is humorous and interesting. Some think that it is a good thing, that an eternity in heaven doing the Hokey Pokey would be a joyous existence. Others think that it would be more like hell.

We want a reasoned answer for everything, beginning from a very early age. Every child is apt to drive adults crazy with the “phase of a million questions.” These questions are not always easy, but we can usually find an answer and teach a lesson. As we grow older, our questions become harder. We spend a lot of time discussing and debating the deep things of life and we often come up with very different answers. We disagree with our neighbors about so many things far more important than the Hokey Pokey. Sadly we make the questions of faith so difficult that we miss the truth of the Gospel.

Jimmy Buffett’s answer might be funny but the truth of life really is very simple and it has nothing to do with a silly dance. The answer to our deepest questions is Jesus Christ. He is really what it is ALL about.

