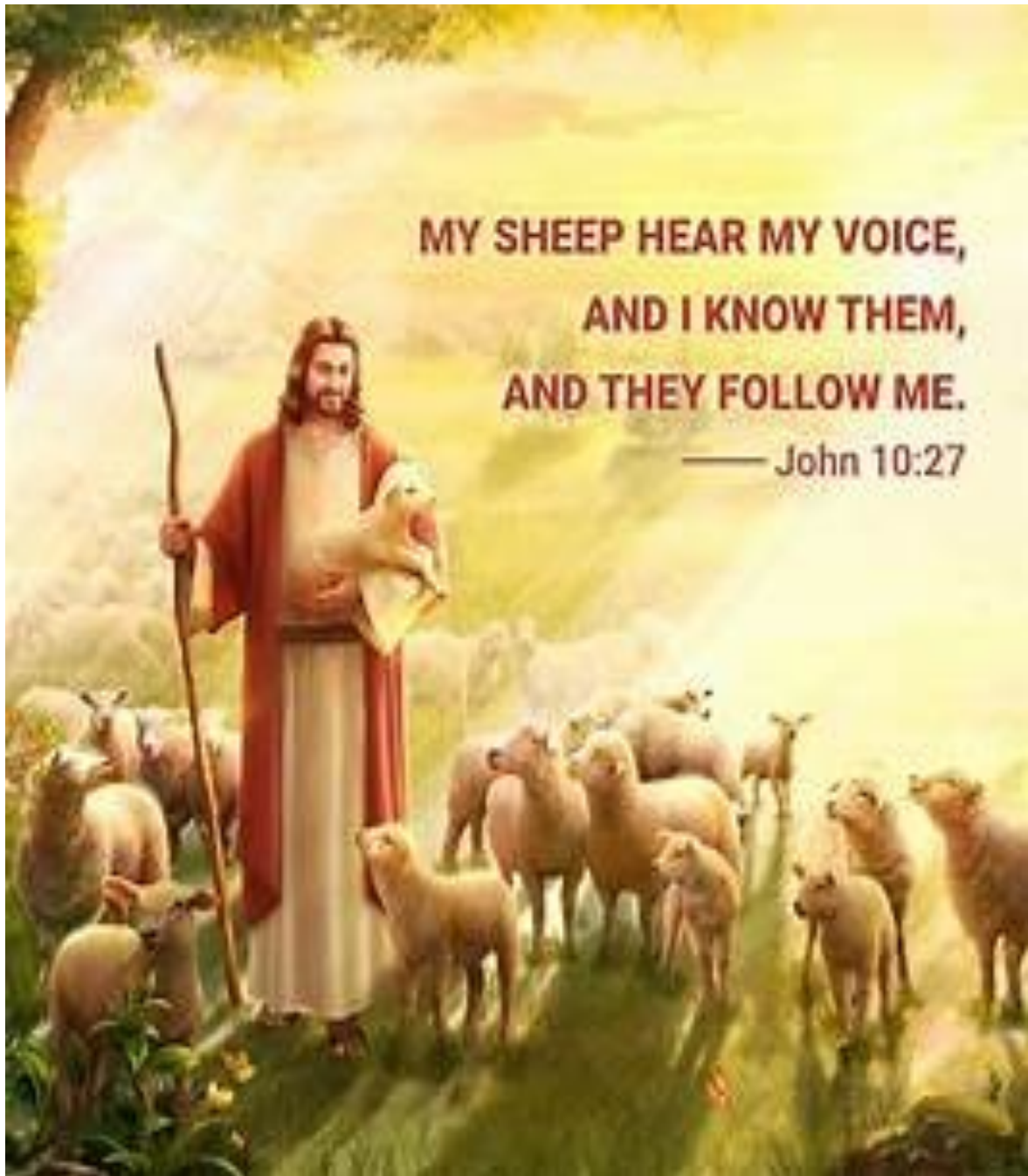


St. John 10:27



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

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 *Will You Come and Follow Me* (ELW) No. 798

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth, that they may return into the way of righteousness. Grant to all that are admitted into fellowship with Christ the power to avoid all things that are contrary to the faith and to follow You according to the will of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 20:17-35

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.

²He 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.

⁴Yea, 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.

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

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Allelula, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Allelula. Allelula.**

* The Gospel

John 10:22-30

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 leave for Sunday School

Sermon

Lay Leader Dennis Schmidt

*The Hymn of the Day

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

(ELW) No. 769

*The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

I Love To Tell The Story

(ELW) No. 661

*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.





1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



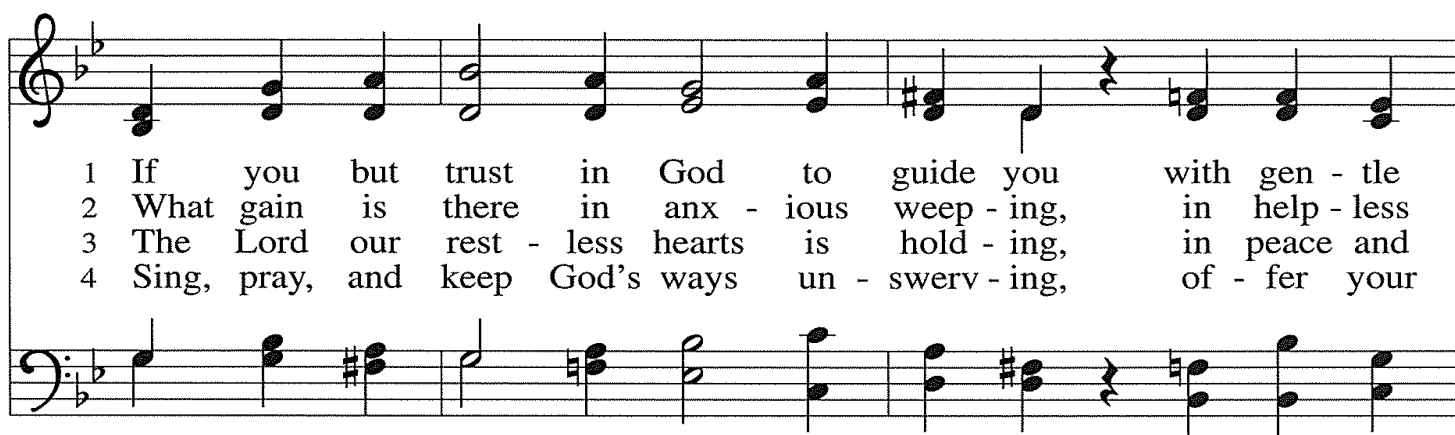
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



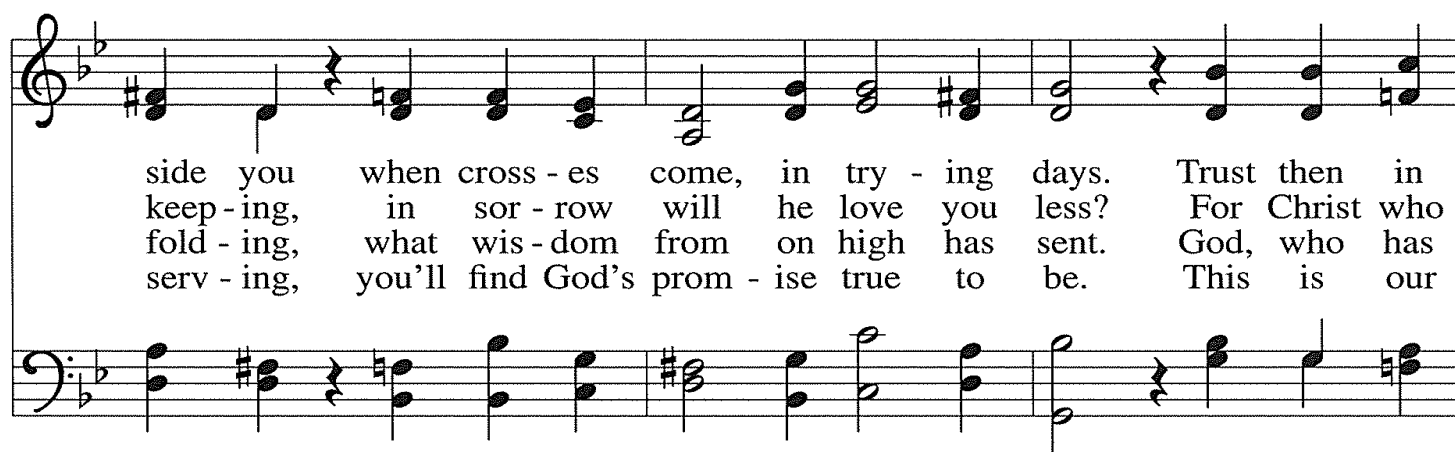
grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.



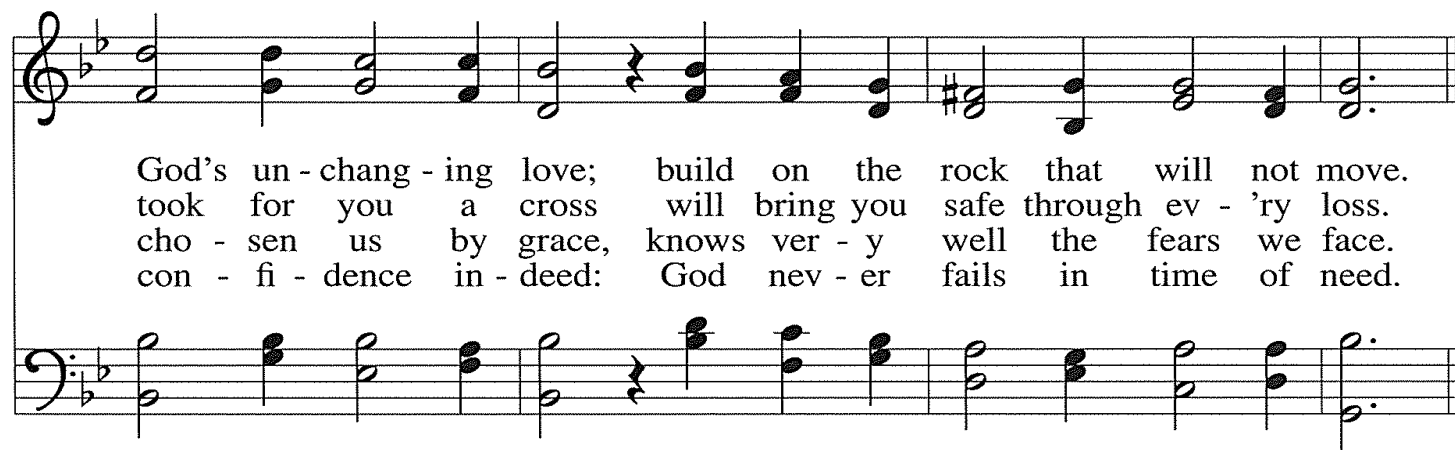
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



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.

The Communion

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

The first system of musical notation for 'The Communion'. It consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in a key of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -' are written below the treble staff.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -' are written below the treble staff.

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

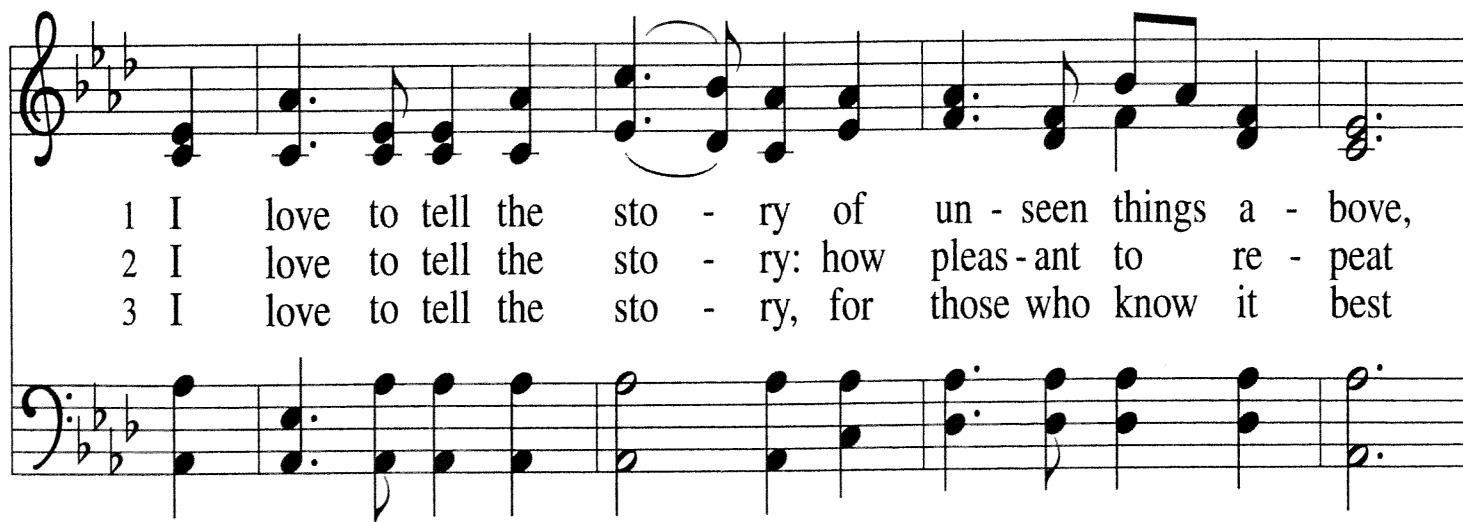
The third system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly' are written below the treble staff.

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

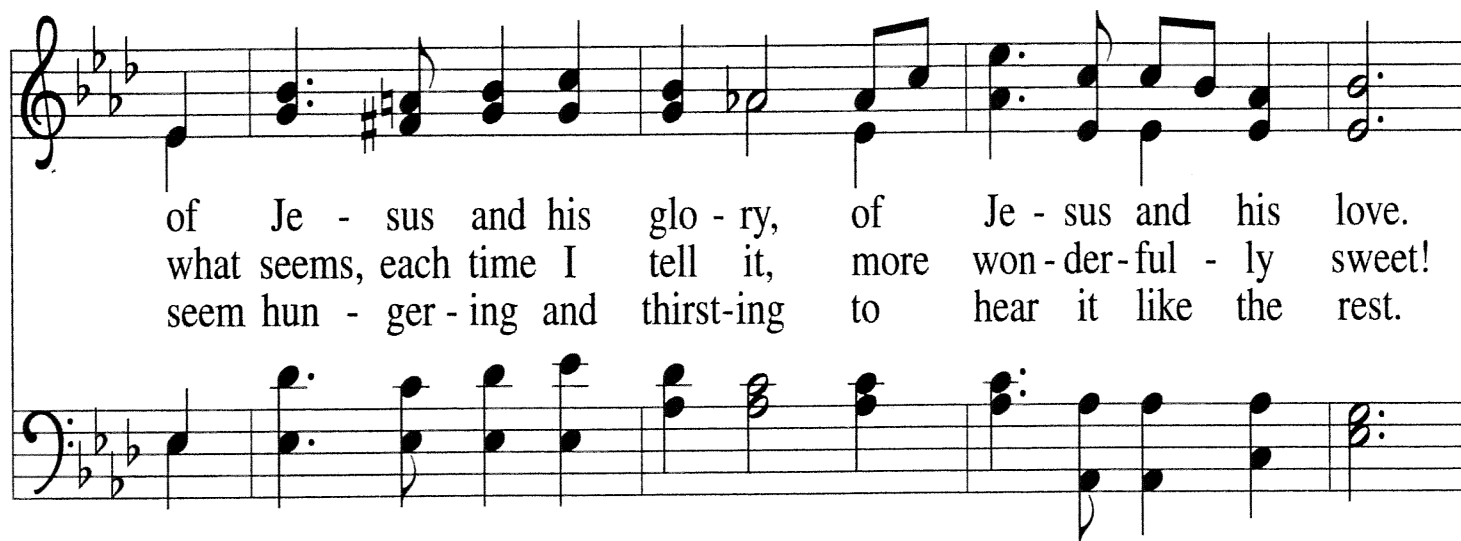
The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of' are written below the treble staff.

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

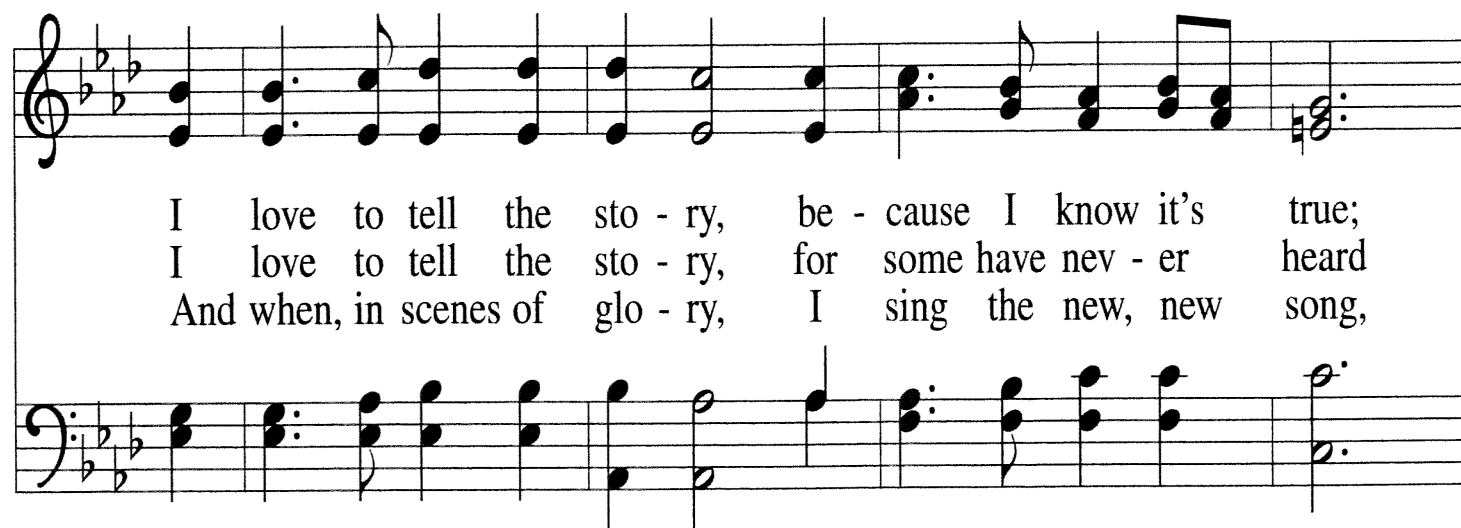
The fifth system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.' are written below the treble staff.



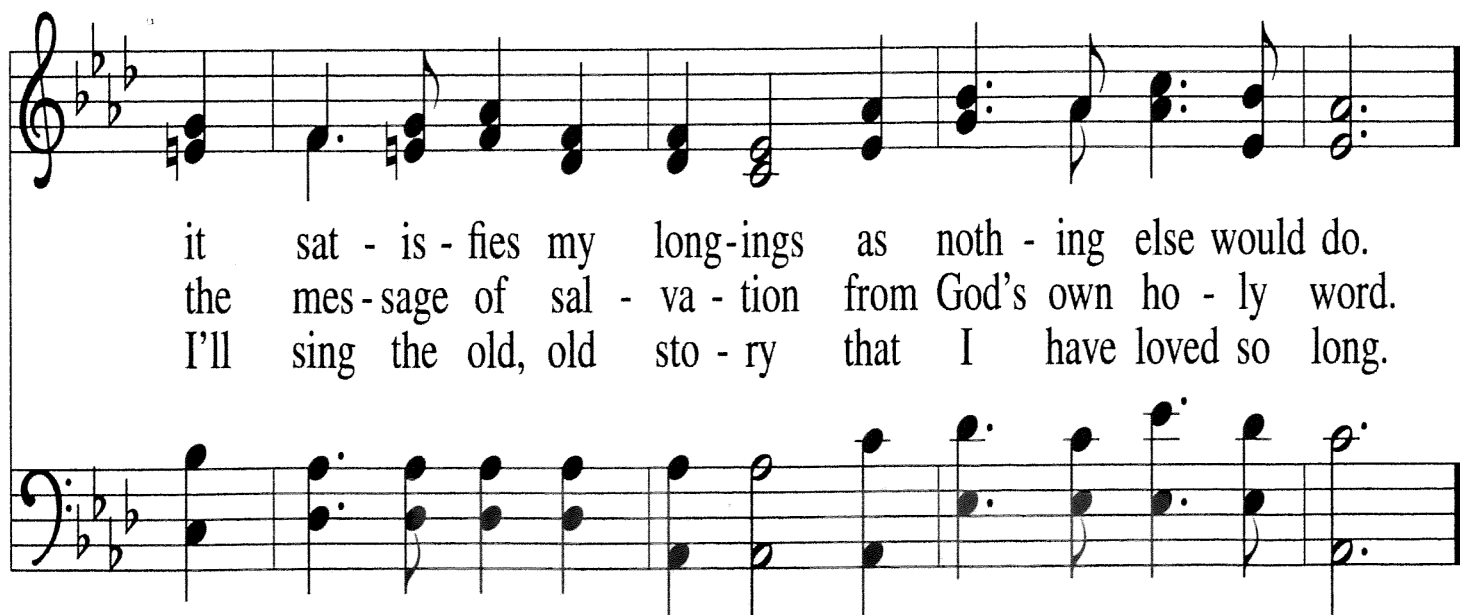
1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.

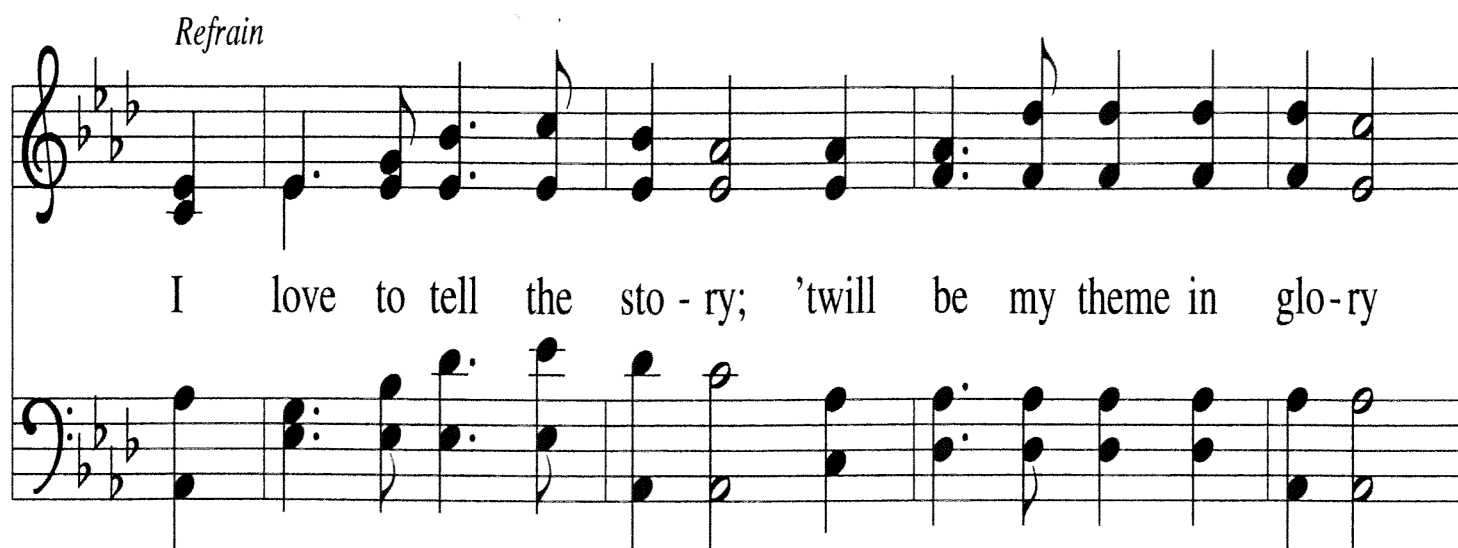


I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,




it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

Online services posted weekly on website:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Mark Black, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God for all of His many blessings, and also on this special day for all the mothers around the world. Also in remembrance of Geraldine M. Sten, Doris Barnhart, Helen Sten, Sara I. Young, Elma Young, and for blessings to our church and community, Kimberly and Pastor Rob. The flowers are given by the Sten and Young Families.

The Lay Reader is Kris Briggs.

Acolytes are Jacin and Trevor Flowers.

Counters/Greeters today are L. Sten and R. McGoogan.

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 for 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

The Flower Chart for 2025 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 2025. 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 2025. Please sign up.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Isaac Christian, Tyler, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Judy, Brooke, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Linnese, Donna B., Karen John. Phyllis Daniels, Beckie Wood, Bridgette, Alex Houck, Stacy Carroll, Ron Erdmann & Belinda, James, Lori Mauer, Budd Platts, John, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, the Gavazzi family, Janelle Henderson, Rex Gibson, Pat Dupas, Gwen Roberts, Tammy, Judi, Larry Downing, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Jennifer Sasek, Larry Zimmerman, Elizabeth, Phyllis, Joe Kern, Lisa Wilds, Julia Jeffcoat, Richard Hager, Rob, John, Terri Newton, Holly Hiser, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westcott, Eric Fritz, Terry Jurkovsky, Karen Dawson, Judd Lacko, Cadence, Sandy Mannsman, Robyn Cameron, Ian, Isaiah, and Alecia, Nettie Walsh and her parents and family, Greg Mason, Joanne Reck, Kenny and Josh, and Linda, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Thomas, Lowell, Matt S., Paula, Klaus and Mel Behrens, Kim, Alice Z. Lindsay Mankey, Apollos Yocca, Jackie, Diane Fisher, Mikao S, Joe McBride and Pastor Rob.

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.

Sober House Living

724-228-2203

Turning Point at Washington

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

Bell Choir rehearsal is Thursday at 7 pm. We would love for you to join us. Please see Kris Briggs if you are interested, kbrgs1@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Chess Club meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced.

Listening for the Promise
Weekly Devotional
Fourth Sunday of Easter— May 11, 2025

*“And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit,
not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit
testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.”*
Acts 20:22-23 -

We used to have an unofficial rule for the summer camp staff. We discouraged them from telling the kids exactly what the schedule for the day was. We didn't want the kids to get all geared up for a game of Bonkers and then have to deal with the near revolt if we had to change to a different game instead. Part of the purpose of this rule was to teach kids to live in the present, not always looking ahead to what comes next.

What we found was that this “rule” really frustrated the campers. All day long they would ask their counselors what was coming next. What's for lunch? What game are we playing to-night? Who is lifeguarding? What's for supper? And all day long counselors would answer, “Wait and see.”

Taking life as it comes, receiving what we are given is not our specialty. We like to prepare and plan and be ready. We like to have a good sense of what is coming next. And if what is coming next is something we don't like, we work hard to come up with ways to avoid it.

In Acts we see a very different approach from the Apostle Paul. He is going to be traveling to Jerusalem without a clear sense of what will happen once he gets there. He doesn't know what is coming his way. The only glimpse he gets into the future is that what is coming includes hardship. It includes things that will be unpleasant.

Uncertainty doesn't cause Paul to say, “Maybe I should just stay home.” It doesn't cause him to throw a tantrum demanding to know what is in store for him. Instead, Paul accepts that the future is, in many ways, uncertain, but he trusts that his future is in God's hands. He trusts that, come what may, God is watching over his journey. God holds his life in his care. God does the same for each of us. We don't know exactly where our lives will take us. We don't know exactly where God will call us to go. But wherever the Spirit sends us, we can go out with confidence that this Spirit goes with us. God is trustworthy. And whatever mission he has in store for each of us is a mission in his hands.