

St. Luke 14:35

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O Lord, always lead and follow us with Your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. 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

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 1

¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

²**but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.**

³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not
wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴**The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the
righteous;

⁶**for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading

Philemon 1-21

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

Luke 14:25-35

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

Take My Hand and Lead Me

(ELW) No. 767

***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 Great Thanksgiving

(ELW) page 144

*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.

Lamb of God

(ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn

Now We Join in Celebration

(ELW) No. 462

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

Day by Day

(ELW) No. 790

*The Dismissal (*response*)

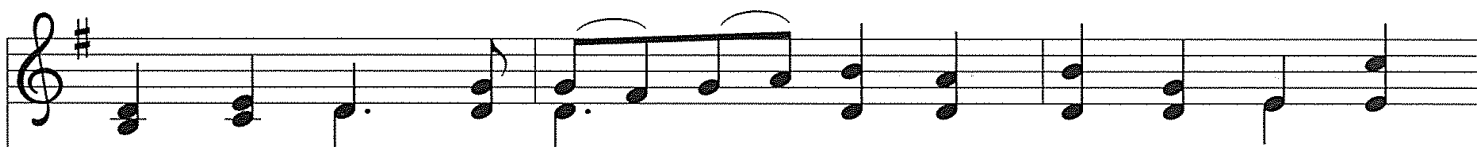
C: Thanks be to God.

*Sending Hymn

Be the Love of Christ

Postlude

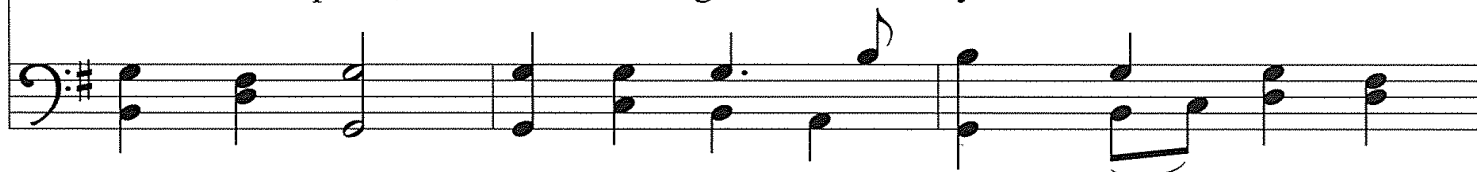
God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

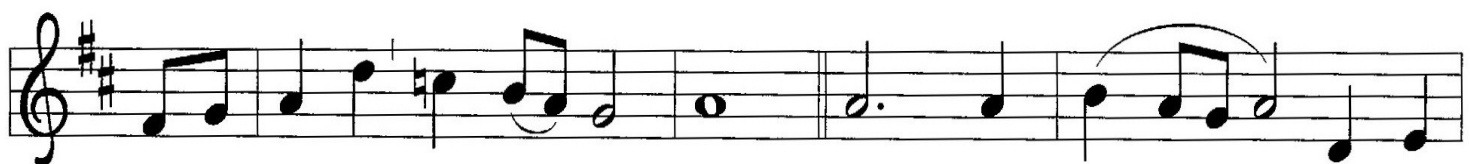


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,

di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
 for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
 I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,

With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
 Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
 then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!

so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
 for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
 So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

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 clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. 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. The melody continues from the first system. 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. The melody continues. 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

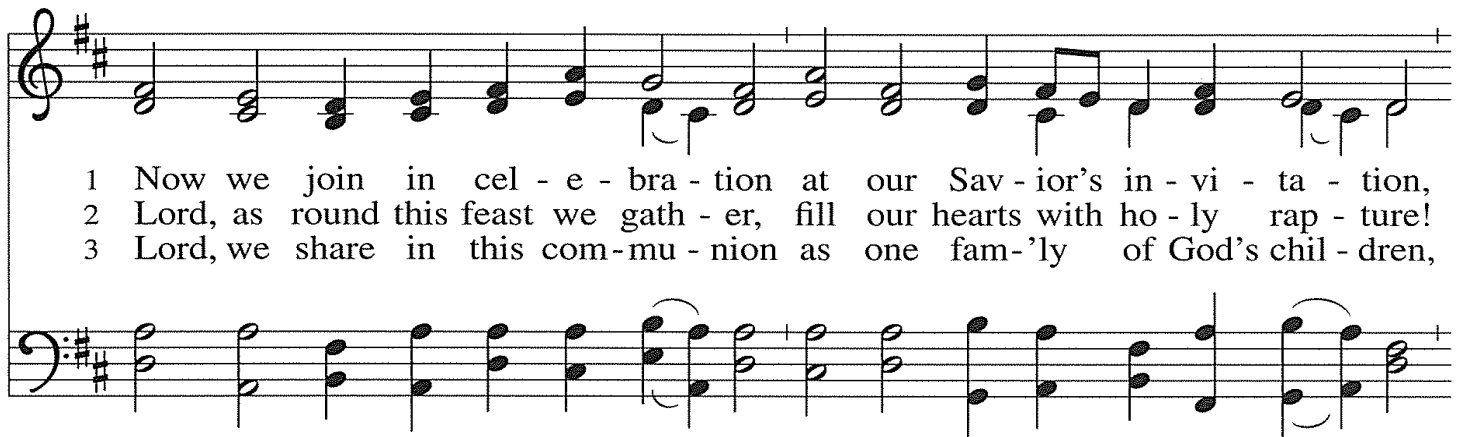
The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are: 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of'.

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

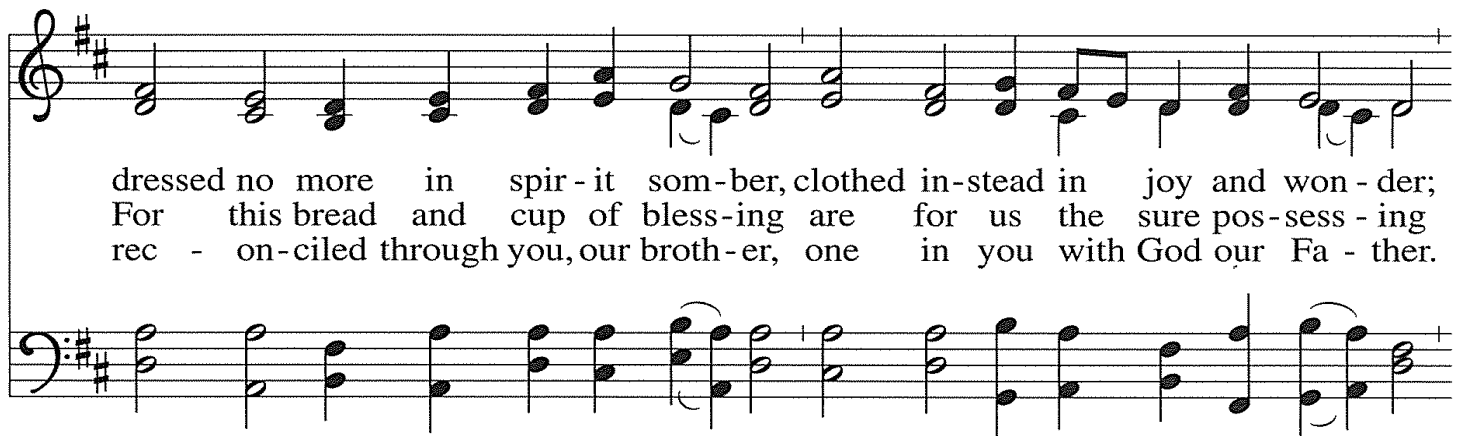
The fifth and final system of musical notation. The melody concludes with a fermata. The lyrics are: 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.'

Now We Join in Celebration

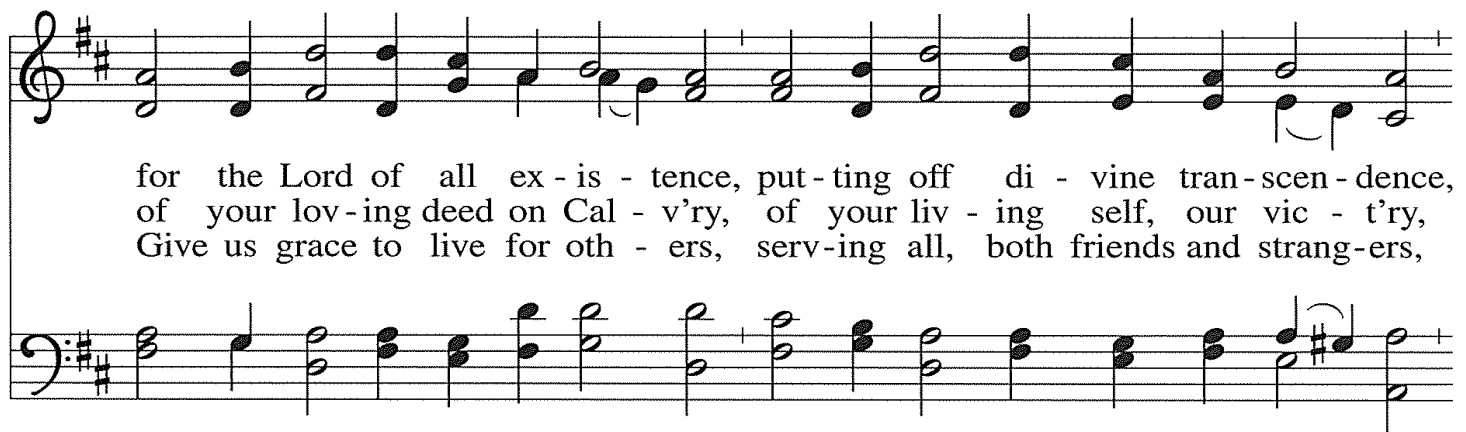
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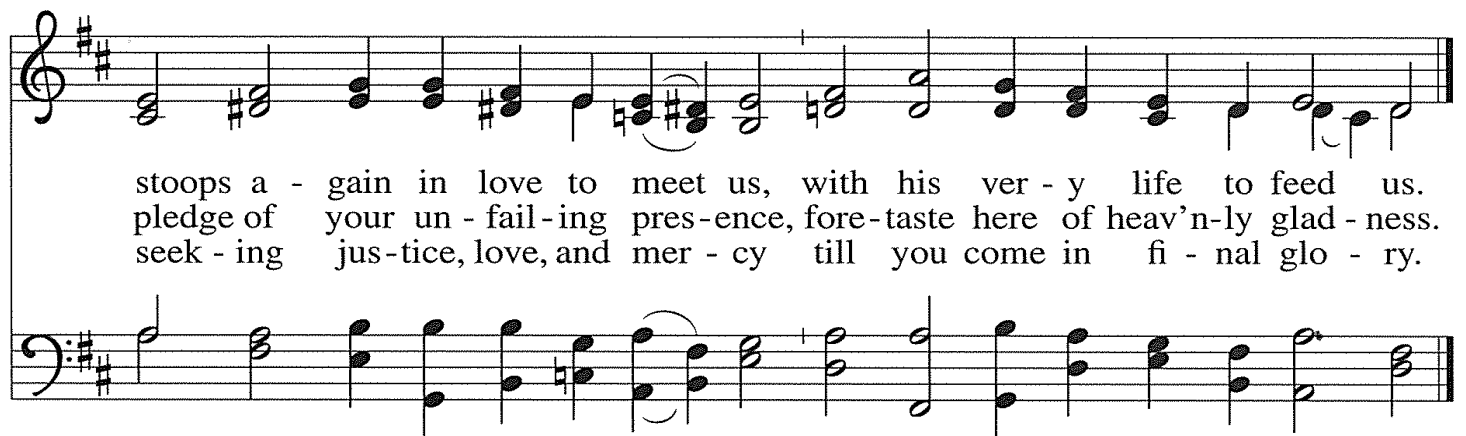
1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



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.

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

First Lutheran Church

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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 and in observance of God's magnificent creation, autumn colors and cooling temperatures, we have made a donation to the restoration fund in lieu of real flowers. The Maust Family.

The Lay Reader is Kimberly Grewe.

Acolytes are Julia Jeffcoat.

Counters/Greeters today are S. Rea and K. Luketich.

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 nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

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, Linnese, Donna B., Karen John. Phyllis Daniels, Beckie Wood, Bridgette, Alex Houck, Stacy Carroll, Ron Erdmann & Belinda, James, Lori Mauer, 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, Elizabeth, Phyllis, Joe Kern, Lisa Wilds, Julia Jeffcoat, Richard Hager, Rob, John, Terri Newton, Holly Hiser, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westcott, Eric Group, Terry Jurkovsky, Karen Dawson, Judd Lacko, Cadence, Sandy Mannsman, Robyn Cameron, Ian, Isaiah, and Alecia, Nettie Walsh and her parents and family, Greg Mason, Kenny and Josh, and Linda, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Thomas, Lowell, Paula, Klaus and Mel Behrens, Kim, Alice Z. Lindsay Mankey, Apollos Yocca, Jackie, Mikao S, Joe McBride, Pastor Rob, Neil Bassi, Roger C., Rhonda, Anneliese, Carl Group, Raisa Rodsky, Ms. Karen and family, Myeir & Raven, and Barb Hoover, Kathleen, Sharita McIntosh and family and son Larry, and Dan and family.

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

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

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 7, 2025

“Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days...”

- Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a -

He is Your Life

Jesus was followed by large crowds; most of them believed, at least to a point. They believed that He could do great things and that He was a charismatic and credible speaker. He had authority they had never seen in any man. They followed until He told them what it meant to be a disciple, because His words were too harsh. He not only asked them to follow Him but demanded that they hate everything else including his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters and even his own life.

We are shocked by Jesus' command, because it seems contradictory to God's Law. We are to honor our mother and father. How can we both honor them and hate them? Jesus says this is the cost of following Him. He is not talking about hate the way we understand it, which is defined as an extreme revulsion, distaste, enmity, or antipathy for a person or thing. Jesus expects His disciples to set aside everything that stands in the way of serving God, the things that distract us from Him. It is a matter of priorities, placing God ahead of everything else, including ourselves.

Discipleship means putting Jesus first. The people in the crowds could leave at any moment. They believed but had not committed themselves to Him because He asked the impossible. We want to be free. How do you walk away from everything to bear a cross?

Jesus calls us to willingly give up the freedom we think we have and take up our cross to follow Him, even if it means the loss of everything we love in this world. We'll find, in the end, that by hating the world and turning to Him, that we'll have so much more love to give. It is the most difficult choice we'll ever have to make, but being a disciple will reap the greatest benefits in this life and the next because the God who is faithful to His promises is your life now and forever.