

GOD

vs

SATAN

Stills you

Rushes you

Reassures you

Frightens you

Leads you

Pushes you

Enlightens you

Confuses you

Forgives you

Condemns you

Calms you

Stresses you

Encourages you

Discourages you

Comforts you

Worries you

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 22, 2026

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn

In The Cross of Christ I Glory

(ELW) No. 324

*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: O Lord God, You would have us put no trust in anything we do. Mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

Genesis 3:1-21

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 32:1-7

¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

²Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach Him.

⁷You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

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

Matthew 4:1-11

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

Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

(ELW) No. 517

*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

What Wondrous Love Is This

(ELW) No. 666

*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:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Mark Black, Matthew Mazzotti, Lutheran Lay Worship Leaders

Retired: J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

The Candles on the Chancel are lit to the glory of God.

The Lay Reader is Lisa Maust.

Acolytes are the Julia Jeffcoat

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 2026 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 2026. 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 2026. Please sign up.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Isaac Christian, Lindsay Mankey, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Greg Mason, Ed Dupas, Pat Dupas, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Richard Hager, Judd Lacko, Sandy Mannsman, Ian, Isaiah, Aleashia, Sharon, Tammy, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Klaus & Mel, Bernadette, Bob and Anneleise Christian, Carl Group, Shari Kienzel, Susan Westott, Amber Falosk, Appolos Yocca, Brenda Tennant, Darlene Kosak, Gary Conti, June Gosnell, Sally Hazlett, Erin Reel, Stacy Carroll, R. J. Ramone, Debbie Beighley, Kenny and Josh, David, Eric, Budd Platts, Sue Palfrey, George Salvucci, Gary Freeland, Mark Black, Tom Weiers and John Lacko.

During the Season of Lent we enter into a time of solemnness. To reflect this in our Services, the Hymn of Praise is removed and the “Alleluia” is buried. Flowers are not used and this year they will be replaced by candles on the Chancel. Church decorations are also covered to add to the impact of the somber atmosphere within the church. Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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 Catechism class is on Tuesday at 11 am and 7 pm. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

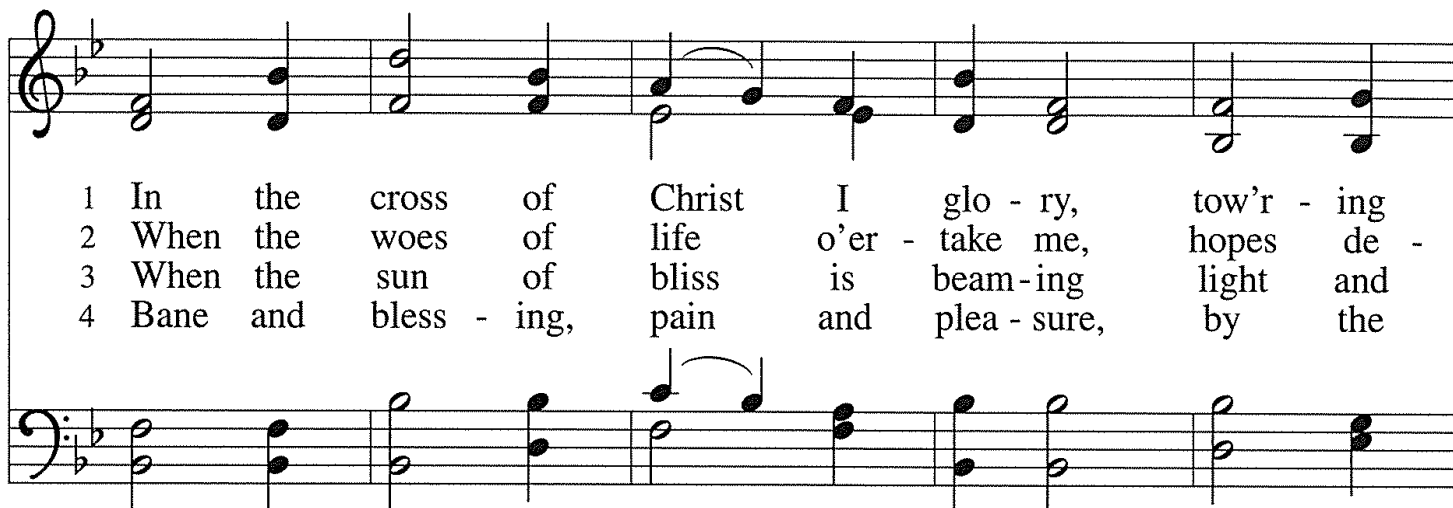
Adult Sunday School is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

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

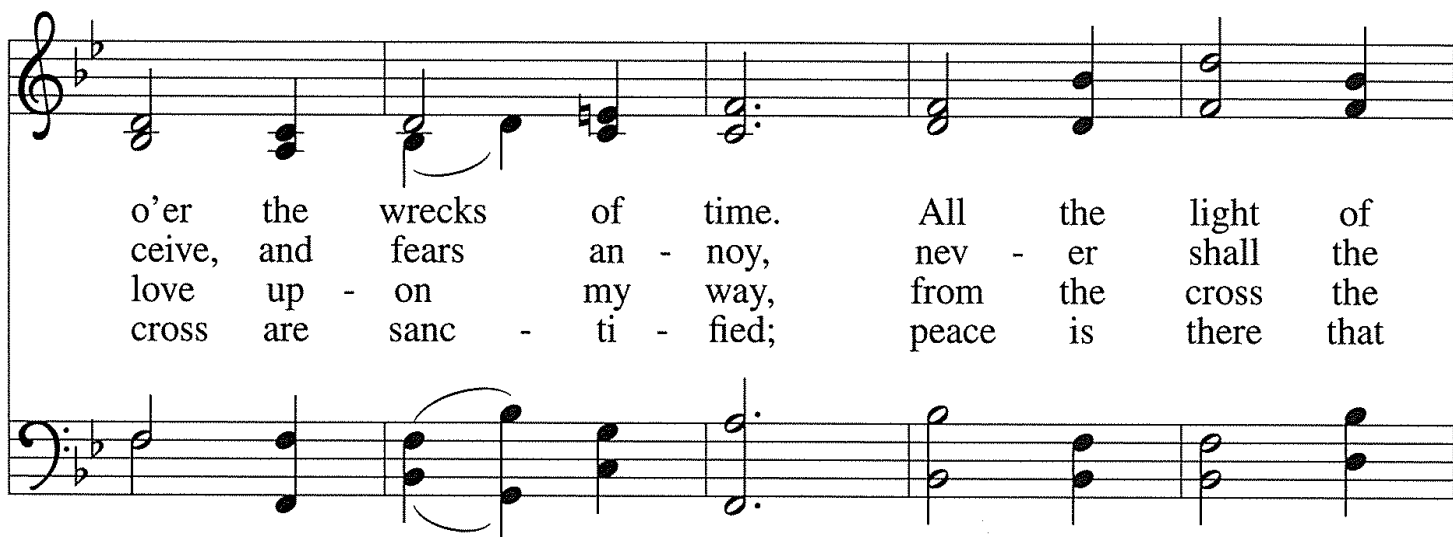
If you have an email address and would like to receive your tax statements, monthly newsletter and calendar and other information sent by the church, please send an email to secretary@flcwash.church with the subject as “Your Name email update”. For example Pastor would send his email with the subject line: Pastor Grewe email update. This way the church can reduce the cost of stamps. Also include in the body of the email any address or phone number changes.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

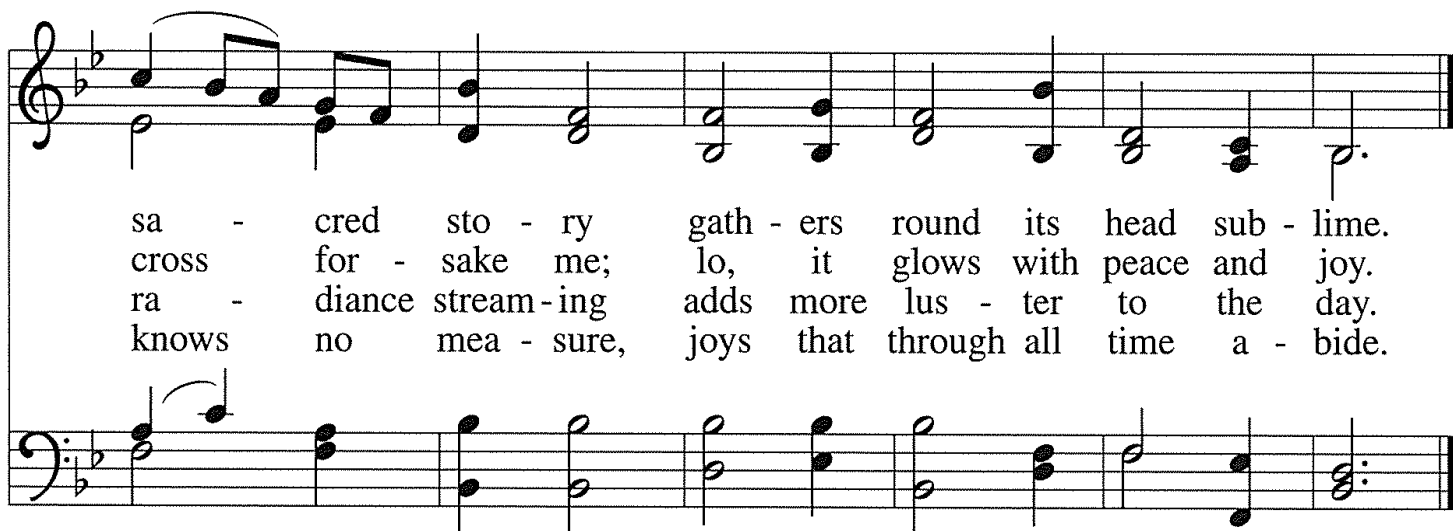
324



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



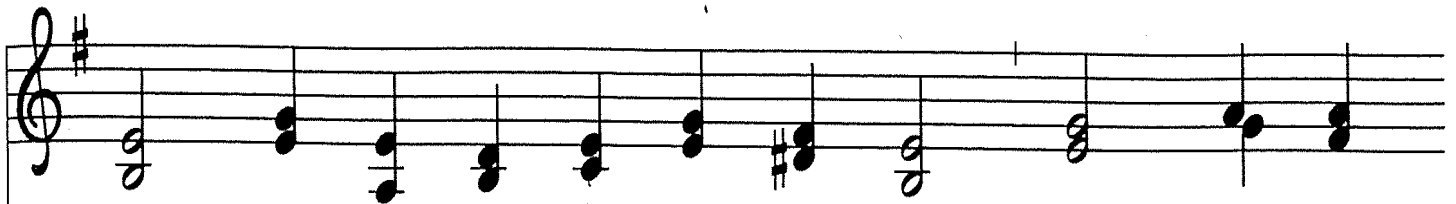
o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

517



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.



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 on this page. The melody concludes with a final cadence. The lyrics are 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.'



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.



Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

First Sunday in Lent— February 22, 2026

“¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.”

Romans 5:12-13, 15 -

During the summer of 1874, swarms of Rocky Mountain locusts invaded the Great Plains in the United States and Canada. Often referred to as the Locust Plague of 1874, or the Grasshopper Plague of 1874, the locusts swarmed over an estimated 2,000,000 square miles (5,200,000 km²) and caused millions of dollars' worth of damage. Residents described swarms so thick that they covered the sun for up to six hours.

Compared to previous infestations in the region, the 1874 plague was significantly more damaging. A record drought in the Midwest and Great Plains had arrived, which caused the grasshoppers (estimated at 120 billion to 12.5 trillion) to not only thrive but also to swarm when local vegetation was ruined. The arriving locusts would pile up to over a foot high and ate crops, trees, leaves, grass, wool off sheep, harnesses on horses, paint from wagons, even the handles on pitchforks.

The locusts would eat for several days from fields and trees and in some instances also ate food inside the farmers' homes before they moved on. Carpets and clothes were damaged by the locusts in the process. The locust excrement and carcasses polluted ponds and streams. Train tracks "slick with grasshopper guts" caused trains to lose traction, according to the book *It Happened in Nebraska*. The sight must have been ghastly, and it's difficult to imagine for those of us that did not experience the horror.

However, the Grasshopper Plague serves as a good metaphor for Paul's description of sin from Romans, chapter 5. Sin leads to more sin, which leads to more sin. It infests on the human race. It spreads quickly like a plague. It can start off slowly and quietly; it often does. But then, before you know it, sin is widespread and menacing, affecting both the guilty and innocent alike. Really, we are all guilty because we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. But the good news is Jesus Christ is the antidote to the plague of sin. Through his blood shed on the cross, we have been forgiven, and by His grace, we are set free from the plague of sin and given new life in Him.