

John 3:16

*“For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only Son, that
whoever believes in Him should
not perish but have eternal life.”*

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 1, 2026

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* (ELW) No. 338

*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 Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies. Grant this, we pray, 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 12:1-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

³He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

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 3:1-17

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 *If You Will But Trust in God to Guide You*

(ELW) No. 769

*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

Shall We Gather at the River

(ELW) No. 423

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

(ELW) No. 759

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.



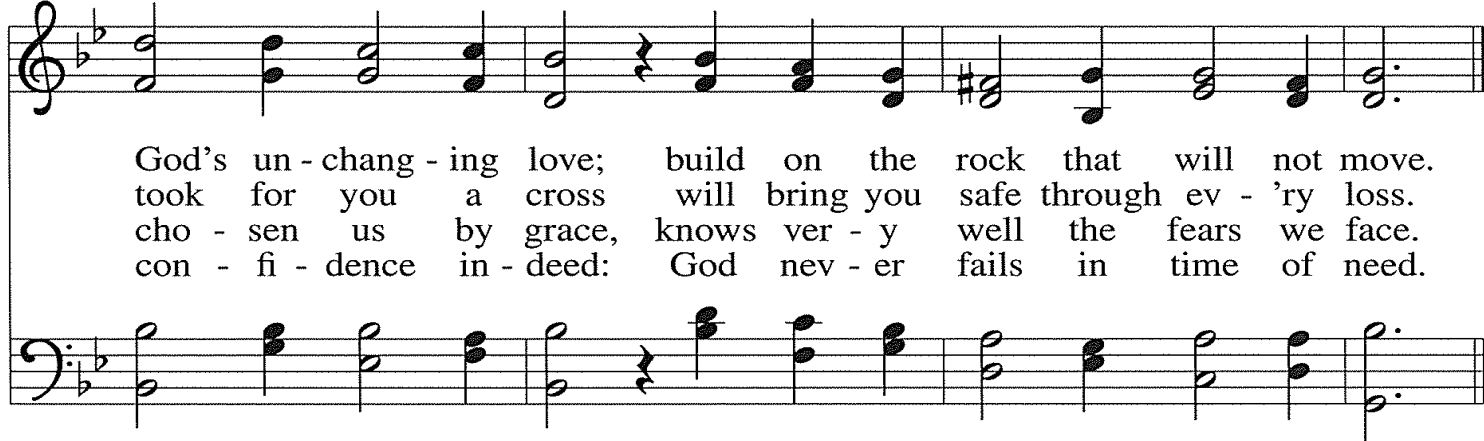
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



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 consists of a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

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

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

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

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

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

The fifth system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

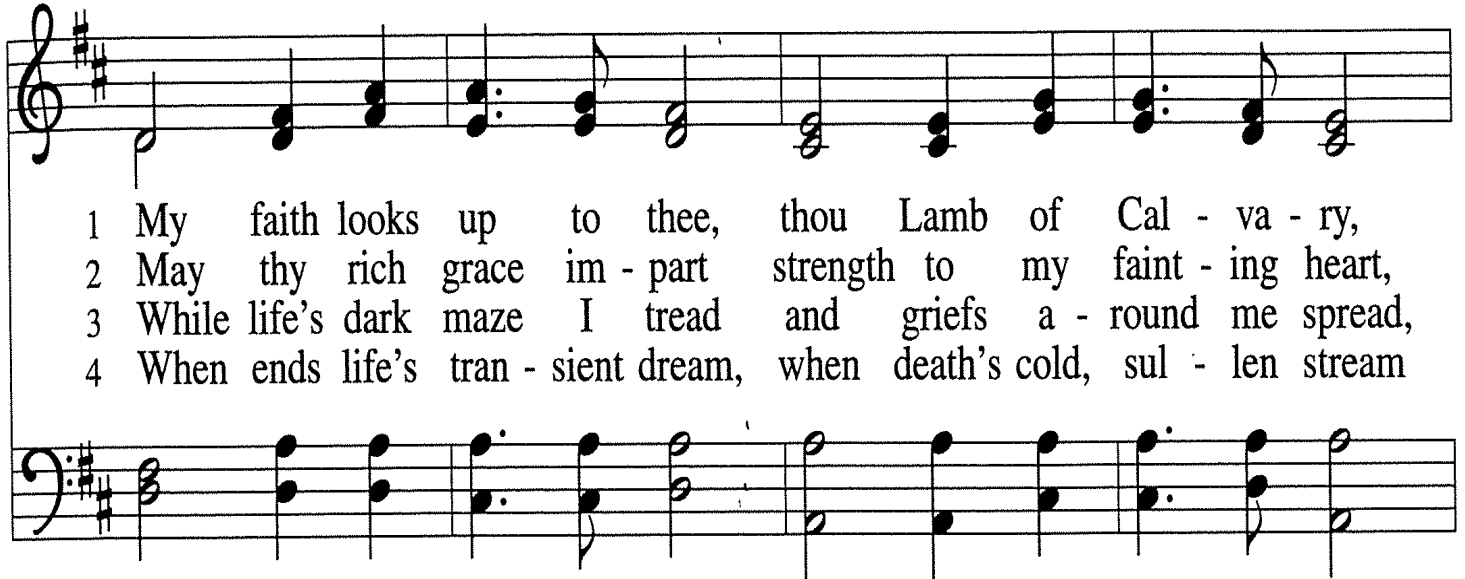


gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

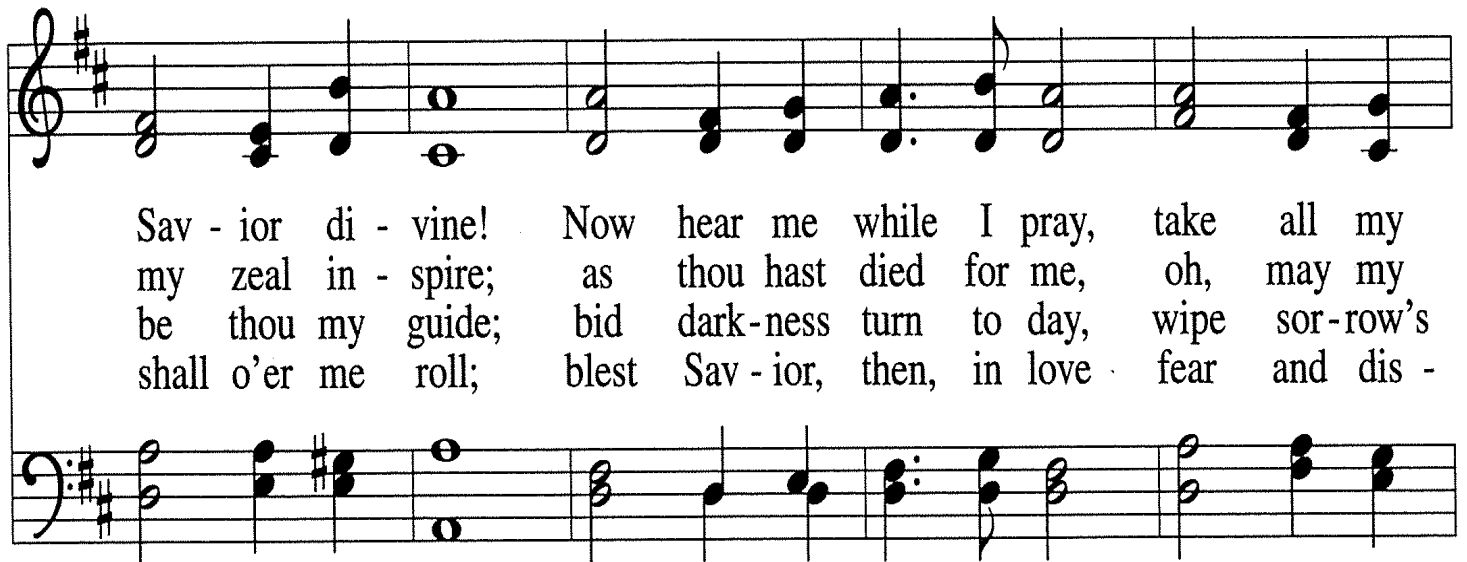


My Faith Looks Up to Thee

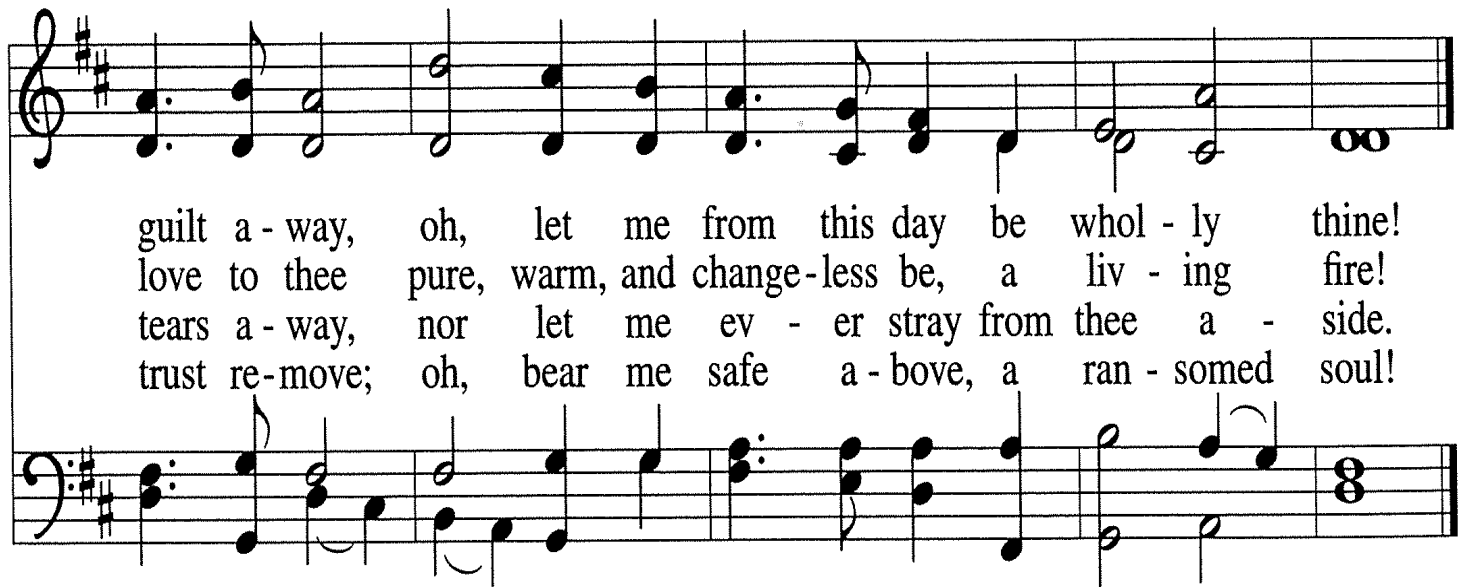
759



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

First Lutheran Church

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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 and in remembrance of our fathers, Carl Quedenfeld and Jack McDaniel, and stepfather Ken Weaver by Heather and Eric Quedenfeld.

The Lay Reader is Heather Quedenfeld.

Acolytes are Julia Jeffcoat.

Counters/Greeters today are R. Williams, and L. Sten.

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 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, John Lacko, Danielle S. and Tim F. (Jr.)

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 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. We hope that you will join us for fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

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.

Listening for the Promise
Weekly Devotional
Second Sunday in Lent – March 1, 2026

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."*

Psalms 121:1-2 -

I will lift up my eyes to the hills. Imagine you are travelling through ancient Israel. You and your fellow travelers stop to make camp because it will be dark soon. You're in a wilderness, like the Wild West of the U. S. Crime isn't foreign. Thieves roam the hills; wild animals wander nearby, ready to attack. No law enforcement exists, so you're left to fend for your loved ones and yourself on your own. It can be dangerous and frightening, even to the most experienced traveler.

But as you look up toward the hills, you're reminded that you're not alone. The rolling hills surround you, like a loving parent gathers you into his or her arms. The hills remind you that God is there, guarding you, loving you. Where does your help come from? It comes from Him! The One who made heaven and earth.

Day in and day out, year after year, each of us is faced with the wilderness of this world. Maybe it's the loss of a loved one. Maybe we're dealing with the hatred of others. Maybe it's our own fault, and we've sinned against another, making life difficult for ourselves and others. Maybe we or a loved one is suffering from difficult health conditions. The circumstances of this life on earth can cause us to lose hope. We find ourselves wondering if life will ever be worth living again, if life will have any value or joy.

"Don't give up!" It's easier said than done. But having faith in Jesus makes a huge difference in how we can endure such circumstances. True, we won't be without pain. The world is full of sin, so pain free is impossible this side of heaven. However, living in faith means we do have hope. We don't have to be afraid because we can trust Jesus and his promises. We can remember that Jesus gave his life for us on one of those hills: the hill of Calvary. And the story doesn't end there. Three days later, God raised his son from the grave to overcome sin, death, and the devil himself.

So, I encourage you to lift your eyes to the hills and remember that God conquered all through death and resurrection of his only son Jesus Christ. And in doing so, God has made us victors in Christ. He has put everything right in Christ. "The LORD is your keeper... The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore" (Psalm 121:5a, 7-8).

