

## St. John 11:40

“Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the Glory of God.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2026

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn *There Is Balm in Gilead* (ELW) No. 614

\*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, look favorably upon Your family. Graciously rule our bodies lest we are enticed to love the world, and guard our spirits lest we fail to recognize Your love. 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

<sup>3</sup>If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>**But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

<sup>6</sup>**my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

<sup>8</sup>**And He will redeem Israel from all His iniquities.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

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

\* The Gospel

John 11:1-45 [46-53]

**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

Matthew Mazzotti, Lay Worship Leader

\*The Hymn of the Day

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

(ELW) No. 596

\*The Apostle's 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

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

(ELW) No. 803

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

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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

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**The Candles on the Chance!** are lit to the glory of God by In loving memory of Frank Black, in love and honor of Nathaniel and Wesley Black in the Army and in honor of Pastor Rob's upcoming birthday by Kathleen Black. A donation is made to the Restoration Fund.

**The Lay Reader** is John George.

**Acolytes are** Jacin and Trevor Flowers.

**Counters** today are R. McGoogan and D. Schmidt.

**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.

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**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, Sue Palfrey, George Salvucci, Gary Freeland, Tom Weiers, Danielle S., Tim F. (Jr.), Wyatt K., Aimee Schaffer, Grant Braun, Nikki Thon, Shelly, Don, and Rene.

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**During the Season of Lent we enter into a time of solemnity. 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.

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Sober House Living

724-228-2203

Turning Point at Washington

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**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.

# There Is a Balm in Gilead

614

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

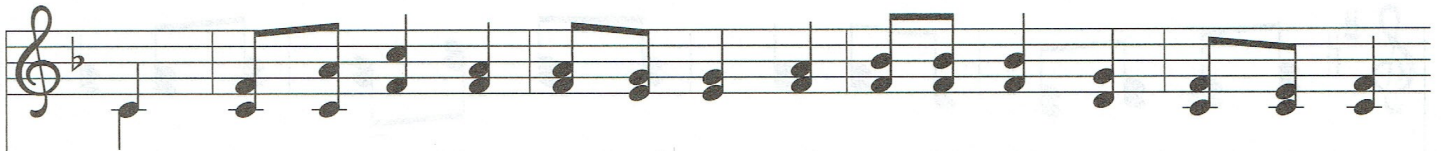
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

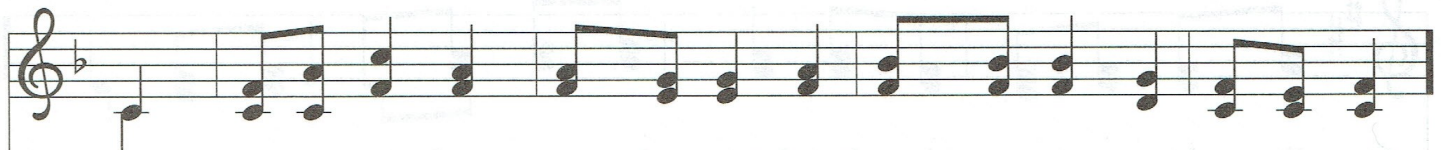
*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

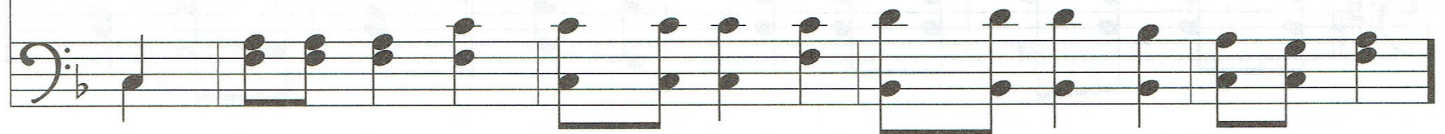
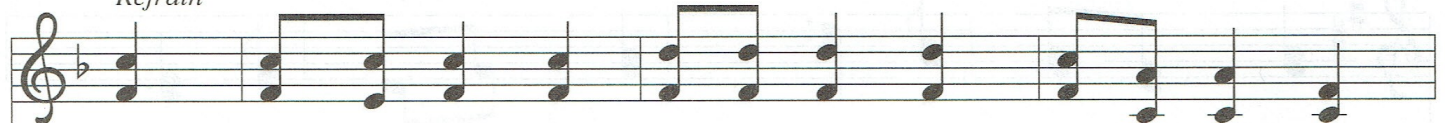
## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;  
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus-tain me in the rag - ing flood;  
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.



# 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 a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

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

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

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 printed below the treble staff.

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 printed below the treble staff.

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

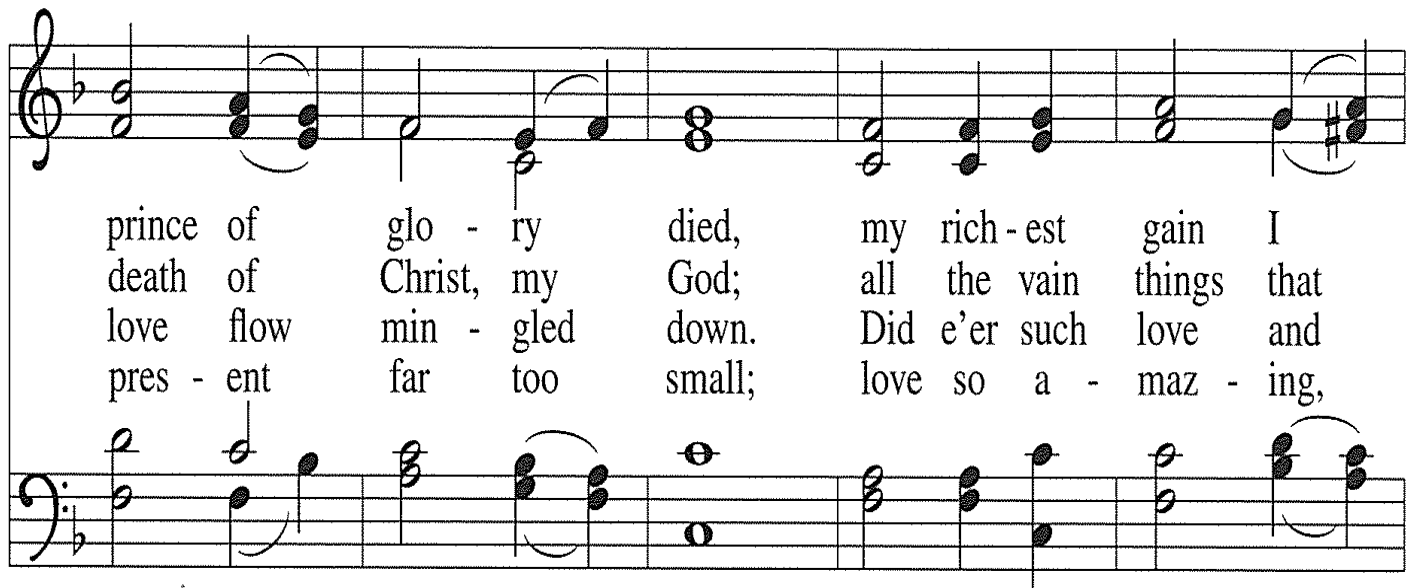
The fifth and final system of musical notation on the page concludes the piece. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

# When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

803



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

**LISTENING FOR THE PROMISE**  
**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 22, 2026**

*“<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.  
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,  
<sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.  
Do you believe this?’”*  
*John 11:25-26 -*

When Martin Luther's daughter Magdalena was fourteen years old, she had become very ill. As she laid on her bed, her time on earth was coming to a close. Luther prayed, “O God, I love her so. But nevertheless, thy will be done.” He turned to his daughter and said, “Magdalena, would you rather be with me, or would you rather go and be with your Father in heaven?” The girl replied, “Father, as God wills.” Luther held her in his arms as she passed away, and as they laid her to rest, he said, “Oh my dear Magdalenachen, you will rise and shine like the stars in the sun. How strange to be so sorrowful, and yet to know that all is at peace, that all is well.” It is this hope in the hour of death which the resurrection brings before us.

Anyone who has lost a loved one knows the sting of death. Death strives to suffocate us, and it seems to be lurking around every corner. We turn on the news and hear about death everyday: school shootings, fatal car accidents, conflicts and wars around the world, Christians persecuted in Nigeria, illness and cancer. With each news report, life appears to more and more fragile. It seems we are bound, and there is no escape.

Yet, we think we can somehow cheat death. We're convinced to try the latest supplements that promise to slow down aging. Serums and night creams are flying off the shelves as people strive to keep their fine lines and age spots at bay. Sadly, we can become so obsessed with avoiding death that we miss out on living the earthly life God has given us. Without God, we are bound by death, and we cannot free ourselves.

Lazarus died. His loved ones felt the pain of grief, including Jesus. Death cannot be avoided. But the good news is that God is **not** bound by death. God does his greatest work in death. Jesus is triumphant over death, and the raising of Lazarus foreshadows what is to come in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Death does not destroy us. It certainly takes its toll on us, that's true. But it is in facing death that we have hope. With death there is resurrection. St. Paul reminds us, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:3-4). We have life in Christ Jesus our Lord.