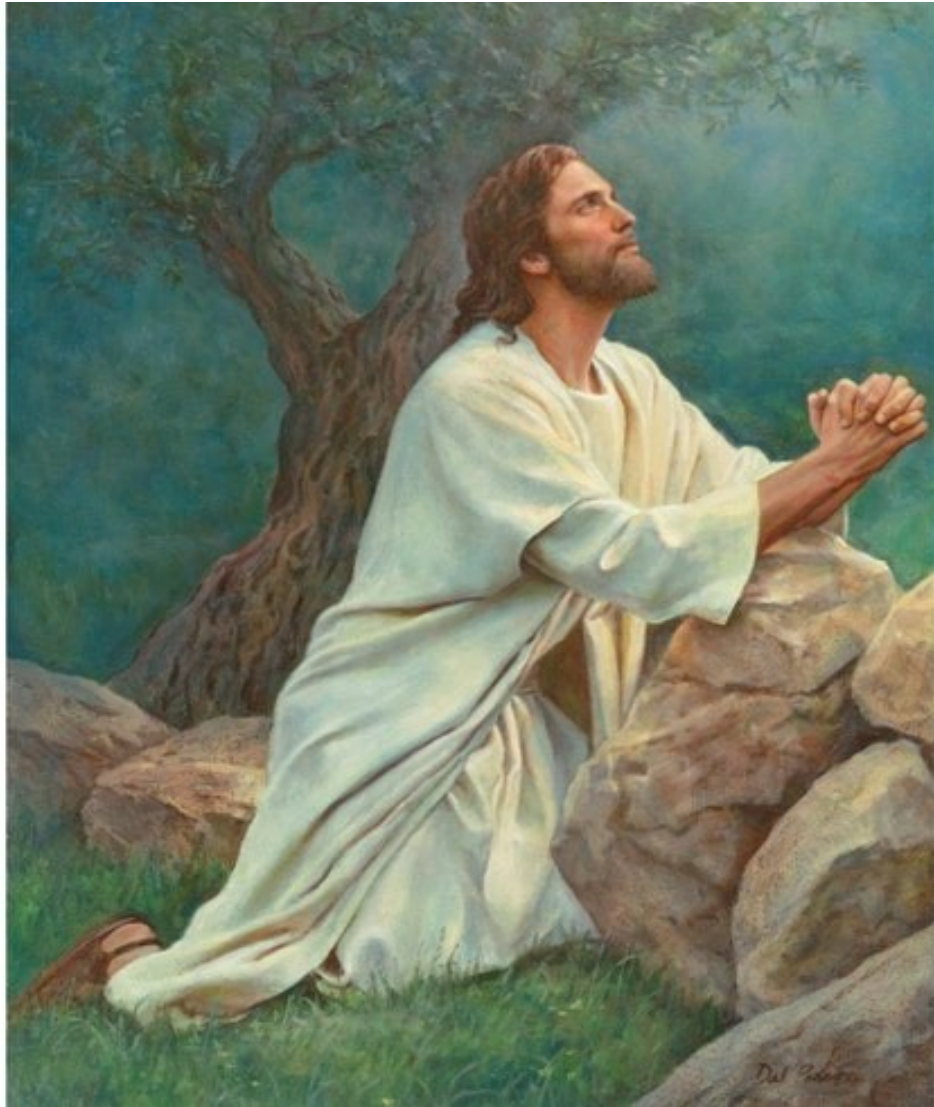


St. John 17:3

“And this is eternal life, that they know You,  
the only True God and Jesus Christ Whom You have  
sent.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2026

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn                      *The Church's One Foundation*                      (ELW) No. 654

\*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                      *Crown Him With Many Crowns*                      (ELW) No. 855

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: O King of Glory and Lord of countless angels, in triumph You ascended to the highest heaven. Abandon us not to be orphans, but keep Your Father's promise to send Your Spirit of truth. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 1:12-26

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 68:1-10

<sup>1</sup>God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!

**<sup>2</sup>As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!**

<sup>3</sup>But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

**<sup>4</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up a song to Him who rides through the deserts; His name is the LORD; exult before Him!**

<sup>5</sup>Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in His holy habitation.

**<sup>6</sup>God settles the solitary in a home; He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.**

<sup>7</sup>O God, when You went out before Your people, when You marched through the wilderness,

**<sup>8</sup>the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup>Rain in abundance, O God, You shed abroad; You restored Your inheritance as it languished;

**<sup>10</sup>Your flock found a dwelling in it; in Your goodness, O God, You provided for the needy.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*Battle Hymn of the Republic*

Adult Choir

\*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 17:1-11

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Guest Lay Pastor, Neil Hoffman

\*The Hymn of the Day

*When Peace Like a River*

(ELW) No. 785

\*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

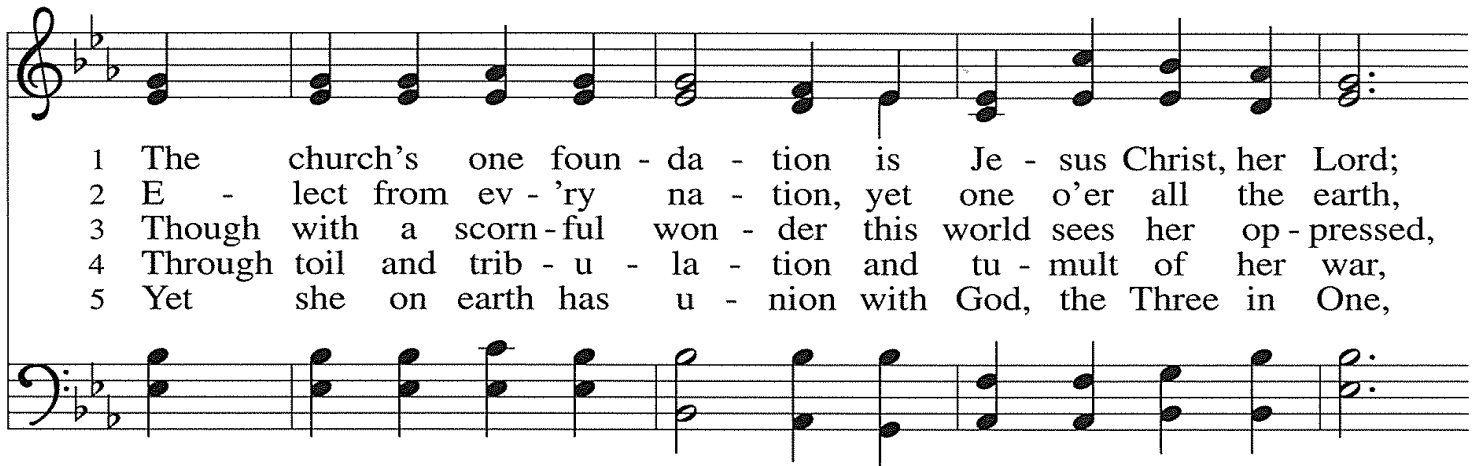
*God Bless Our Native Land*

(ELW) No. 891

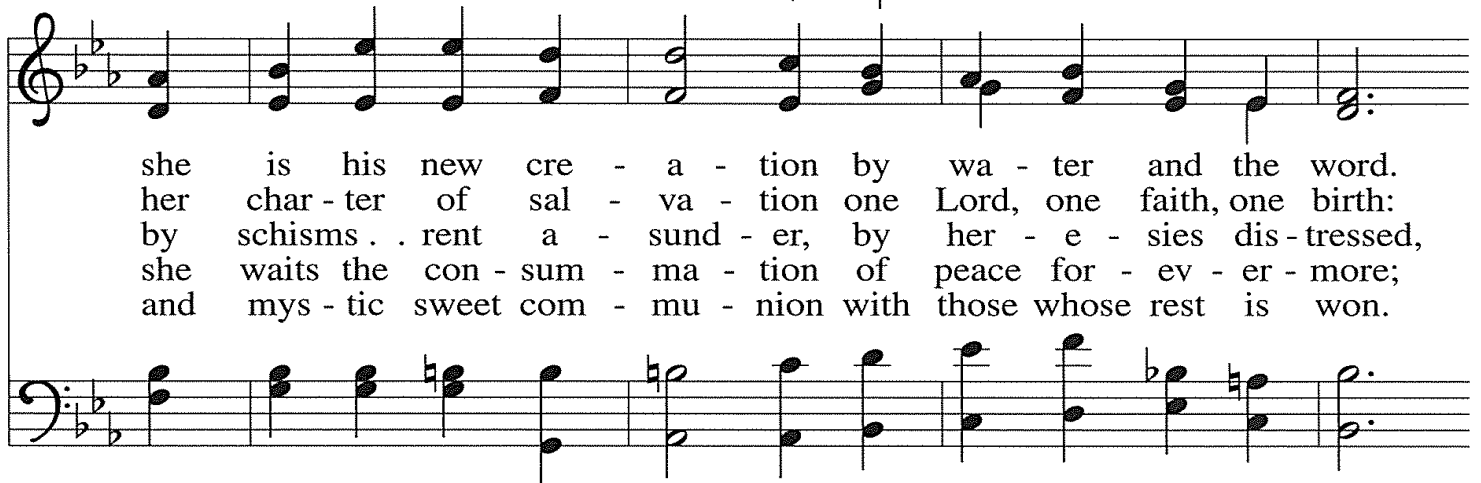
\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

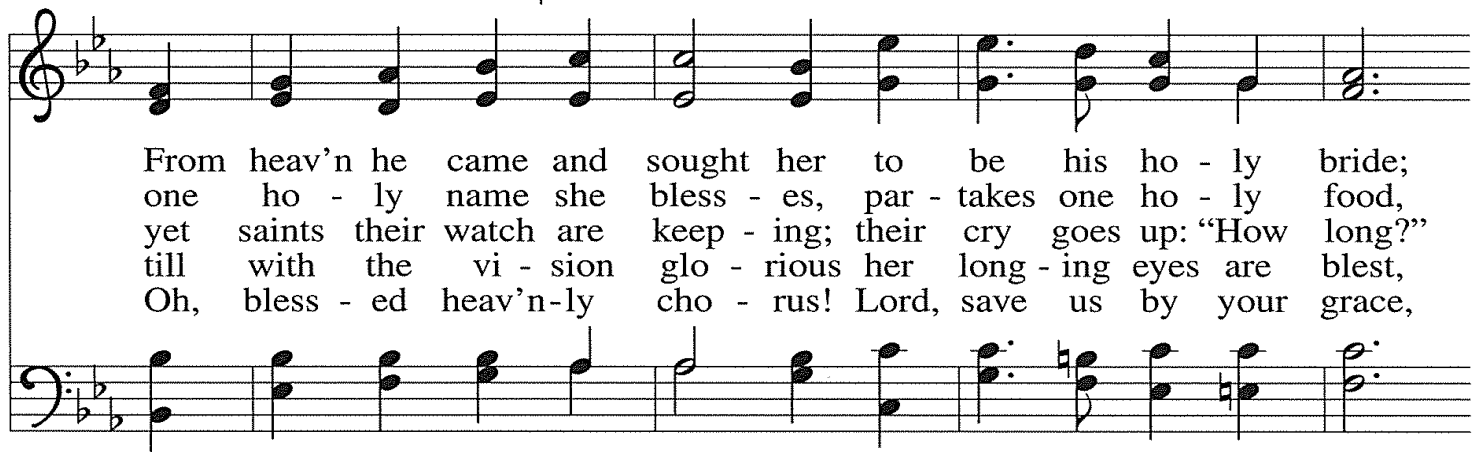
Postlude



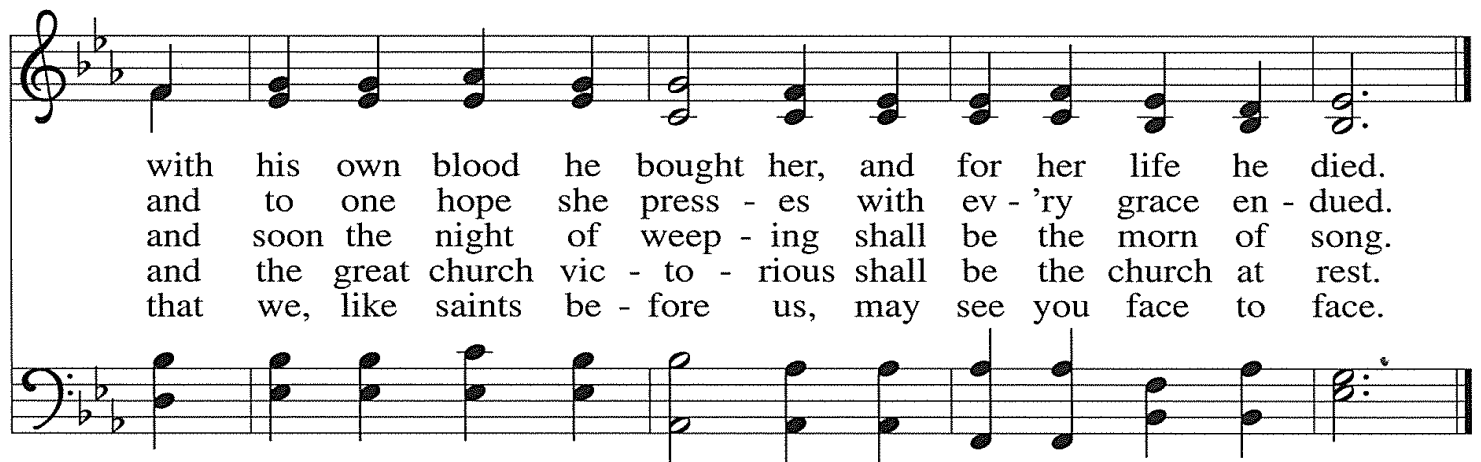
1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



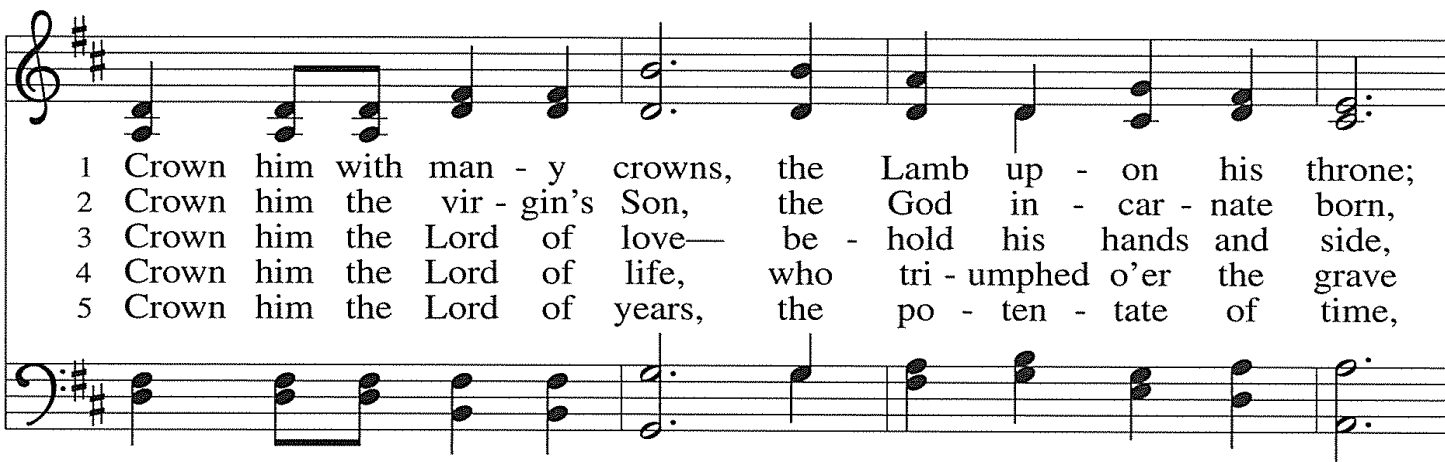
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



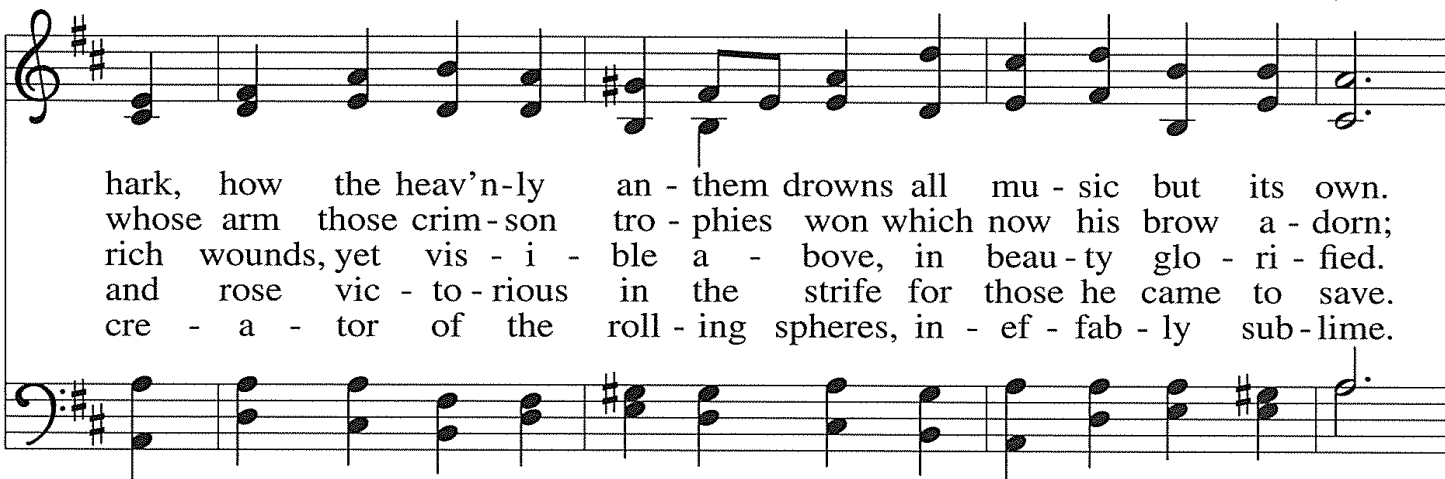
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

# Crown Him with Many Crowns

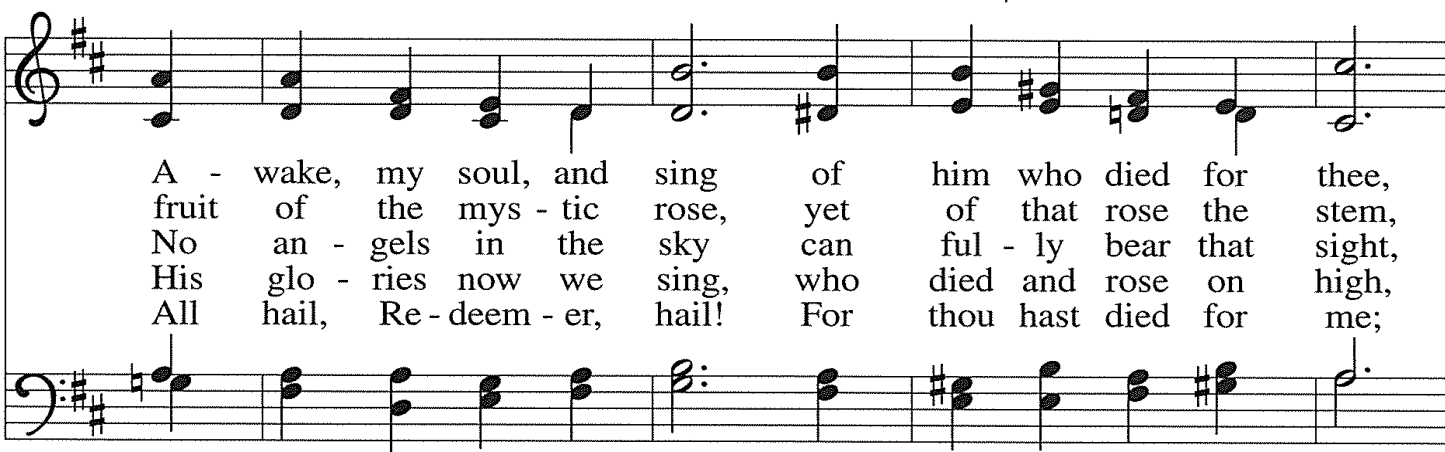
855



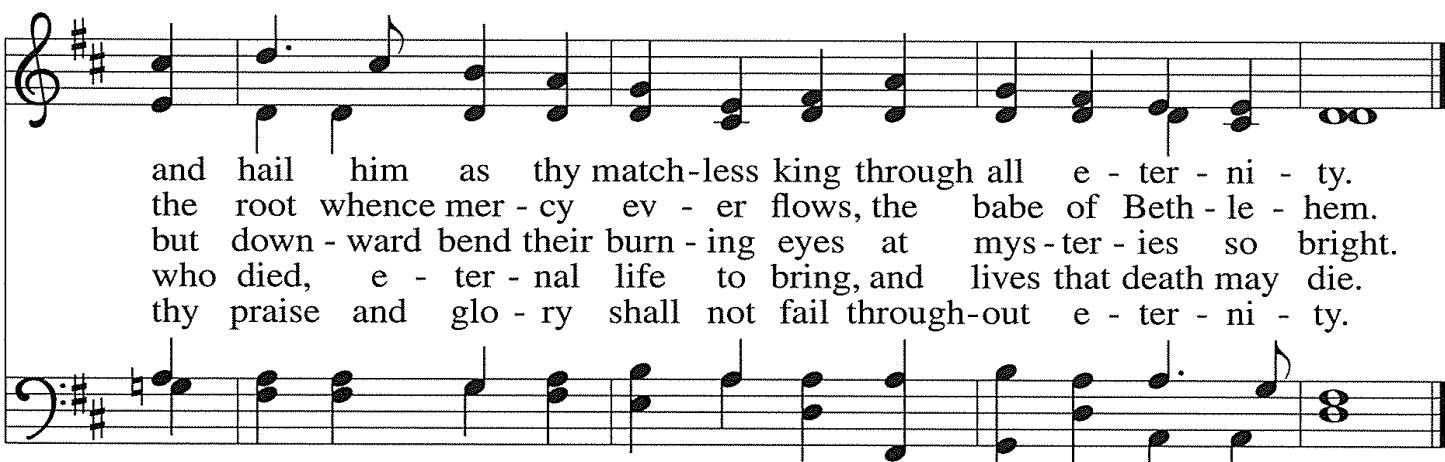
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

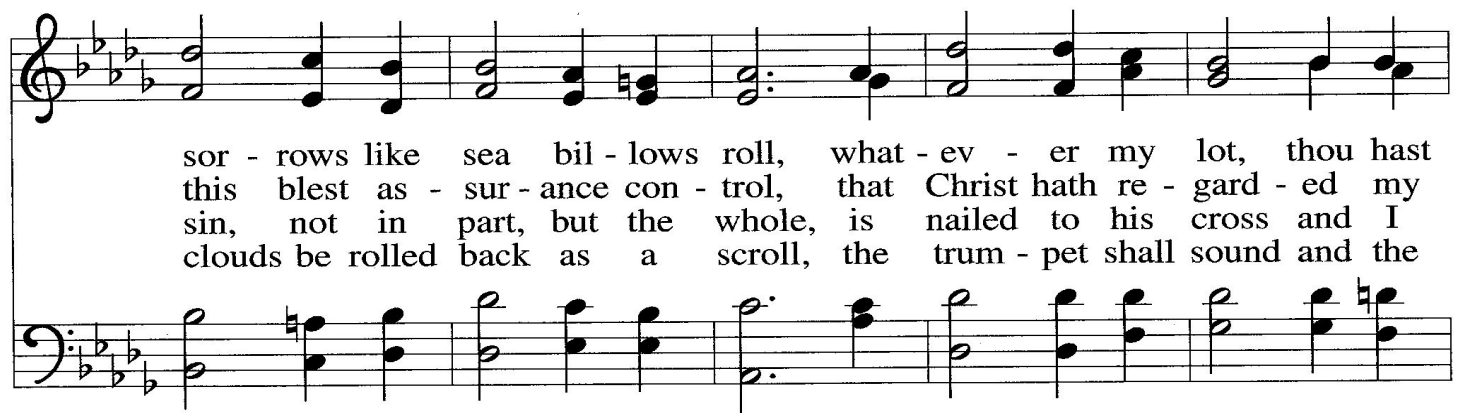
# When Peace like a River

*It Is Well with My Soul*

785



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul,

# 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 in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. 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 in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. 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 in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. 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.

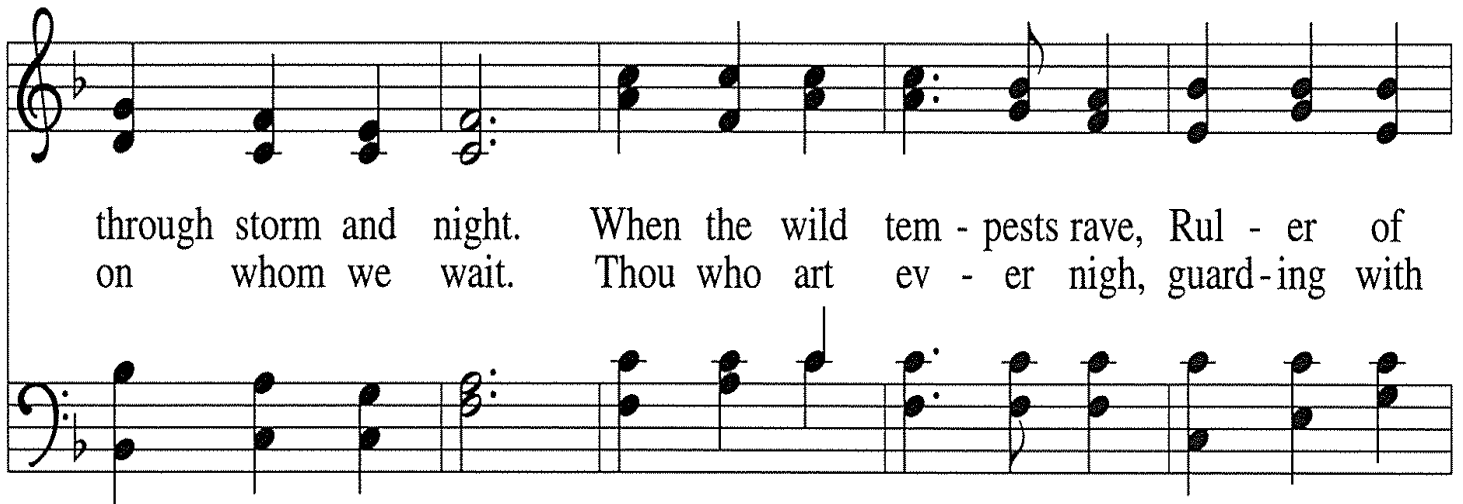
The fifth and final system of musical notation on this page. The melody concludes in the treble clef, and the bass line concludes in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.'

# God Bless Our Native Land

891



1 God bless our na - tive land; firm may it ev - er stand  
2 So shall our prayers a - rise to God a - bove the skies,



through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of  
on whom we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, guard - ing with



wind and wave, do thou our coun - try save by thy great might.  
watch - ful eye, to thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

## **First Lutheran Church**

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: [secretary@flcwash.church](mailto:secretary@flcwash.church)

Online services posted weekly on website:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

[revrob@flcwash.church](mailto: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 Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God in remembrance of David Caddies, husband, father, and grandfather. Donation was made to the restoration fund by Sarah Caddies.

**The Lay Reader** is Ron McGoogan.

**Acolytes** are

**Counters/Greeters** 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 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.

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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, Sandi Kern, Jacin Flowers, Jennifer, Rudy, Kris, James Kedar, David Bernthaler, Sandra R., Adam Wiltrout, USN, Nashaun Sutton, Holly H., Matthew, Taylor Freeman, and Cathy Schuett-Weaver.

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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**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.

## **Sergeant Major Neil Hoffman served in US Army 1970-2008**

Army National Guard in Pittsburgh and later C Company 1-103<sup>rd</sup> Armor In Somerset. 1973-1996. Operations Sergeant Major of C Company 1-103<sup>rd</sup> 1996-2006; Operations Sergeant Major for 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team 2006-2008. Since retirement he became a soldier in the Army of the Lord serving at Milford Church and Lay speaker in various churches.

Major deployments: Non-Commission Officer in charge of Joint Military Affairs 28<sup>th</sup> ID for Stabilization Force 12 Bosnia 2002-2003; Operations SGM 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 103<sup>rd</sup> Armor in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III at FOB III at FOB Summerall Bayji Iraq 2004-2005.

Awarded - Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters and is a Distinguished Knight of the Order of St. George Silver Medallion.

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventh Sunday of Easter—May 17, 2026

*“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace,  
who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ,  
will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”*

*- 1 Peter 5:10 -*

### **Suffering Leads to Glory with Him**

Jesus was gone. The disciples were alone. They knew things, but did they know enough? How were they supposed to continue Jesus' work? How were they supposed to do the miracles, speak the words, teach the lessons that would change people's lives? They lost their teacher. They left their families, and in many cases couldn't return because their families had rejected Jesus. The world was opposed to everything they had come to believe. It still opposes our faith today and threatens us, too. We wonder how we will ever be capable of doing what God calls us to do.

The truth is that we are not capable, but there is hope because God promised that He would provide everything we need. He will restore, support, strengthen, and establish us. He is indeed the God of all grace, and He has called us to this life. He has invited us to share in His eternal glory that is found in Jesus Christ our Lord. This might mean suffering, but that, too is a gift because in it we share the glory of Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we have all we need to live in faith and serve God, including other believers who will join us in the work.

We know Jesus Christ because of the testimony of those who came before us and future generations will know Him because we will share our faith with them. We are bound together by the power of the Holy Spirit, made one by God's Word through God's grace, continuing the work of Jesus Christ together despite the opposition that threatens our lives.

This is a reason for us to celebrate. We have reason to dance in the streets. We have reason to praise God with joy, to delight in His presence because we are His forever. He has won the victory. He has defeated our enemies. He has made all things right and we are called to tell the story of His innumerable deeds, His faithfulness, and His power, until we join in His eternal glory as He has promised to those who believe.