

St. Matthew 13:23

“As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the Word and understand it.”



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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2026

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing* (ELW) No. 807

*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 *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW) No. 679

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Richly inspire us, O Lord, to consider and accomplish what You see is good. For we know that we cannot live without You, but that with You, we shall prevail. And so, 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

Isaiah 55:10-13

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13

¹Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion, and to You shall vows be performed.

²O You who hear prayer, to You shall all flesh come.

³When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions.

⁴Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple!

⁵By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

⁶the One who by His strength established the mountains, being girded with might;

⁷Who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,

⁸so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at Your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.]

⁹You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it.

¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

¹¹You crown the year with Your bounty; Your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

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

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

"Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

(ELW) No. 512

*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

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

(ELW) No. 774

*The Dismissal (response)

C: Thanks be to God.

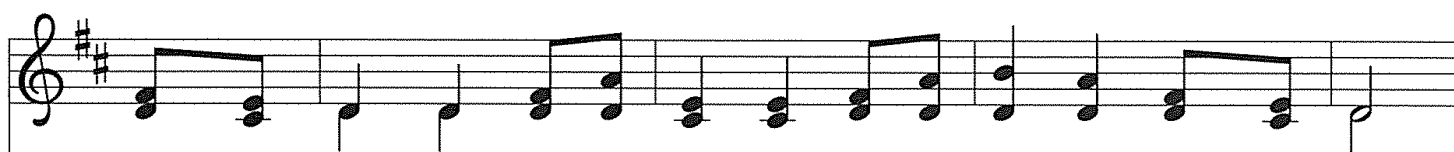
*Sending Hymn

Be the Love of Christ

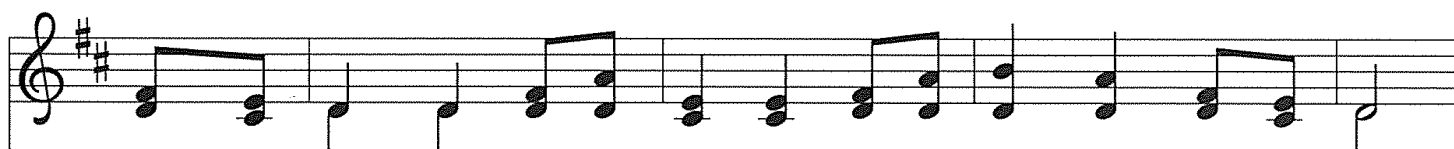
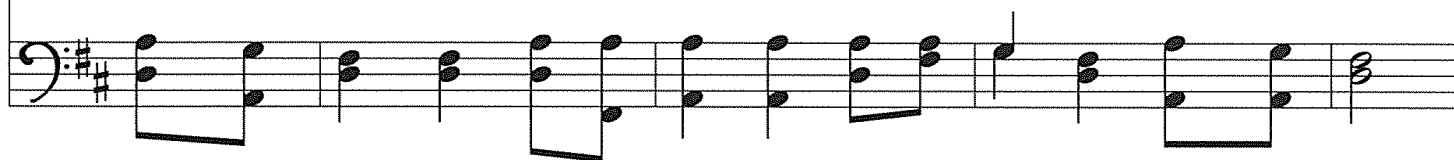
Postlude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

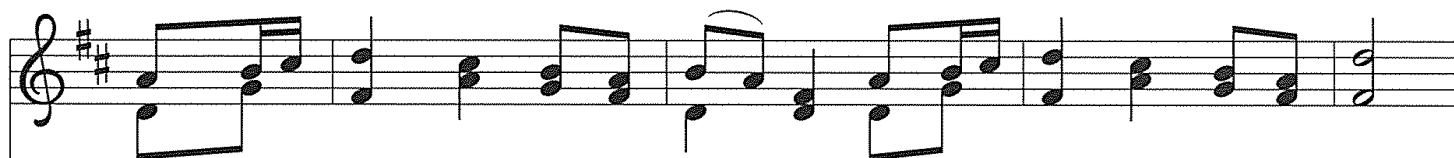
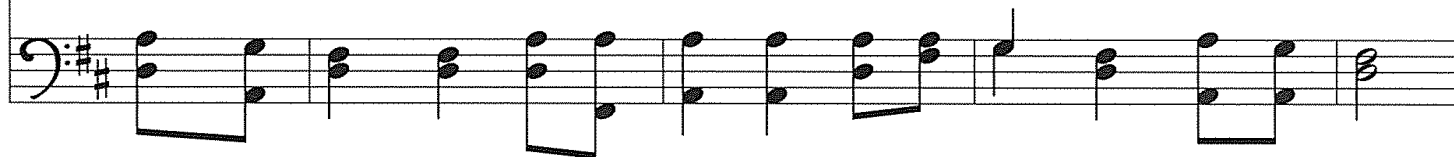
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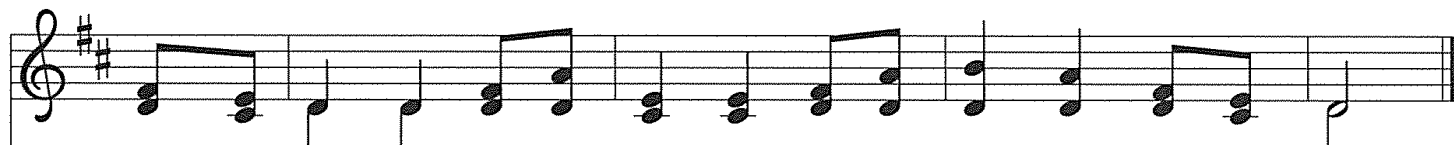
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



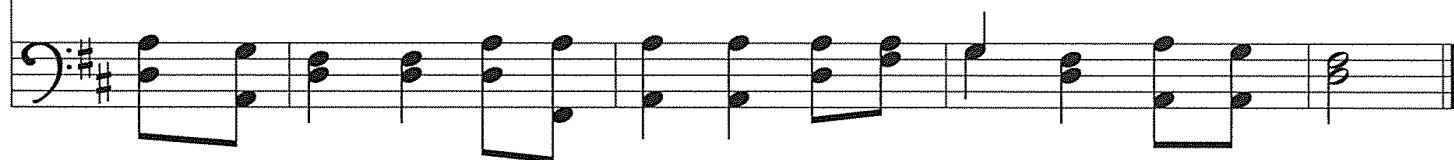
streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.

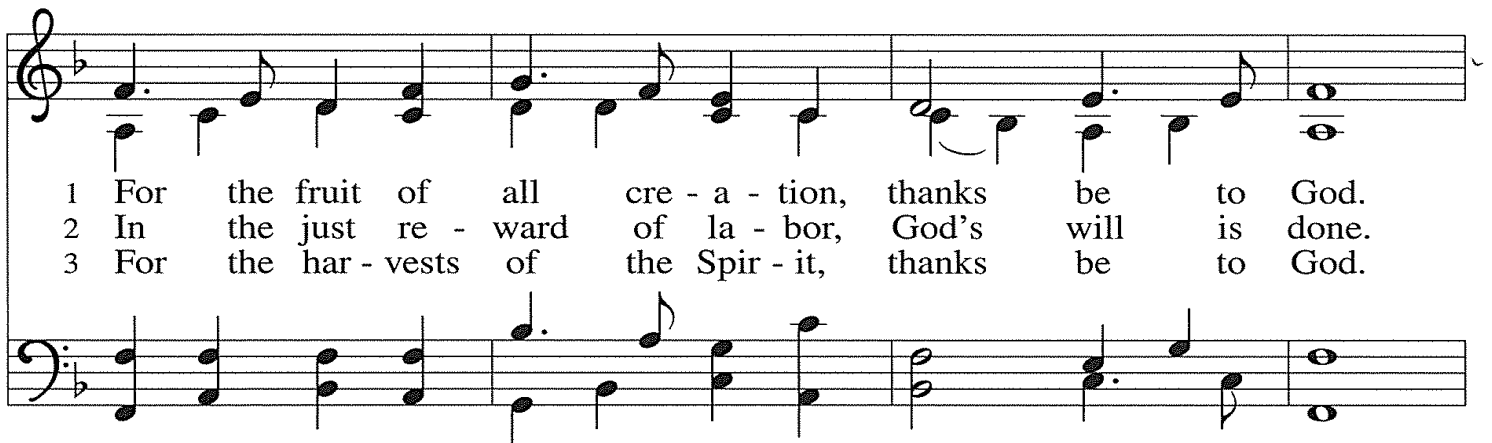


While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

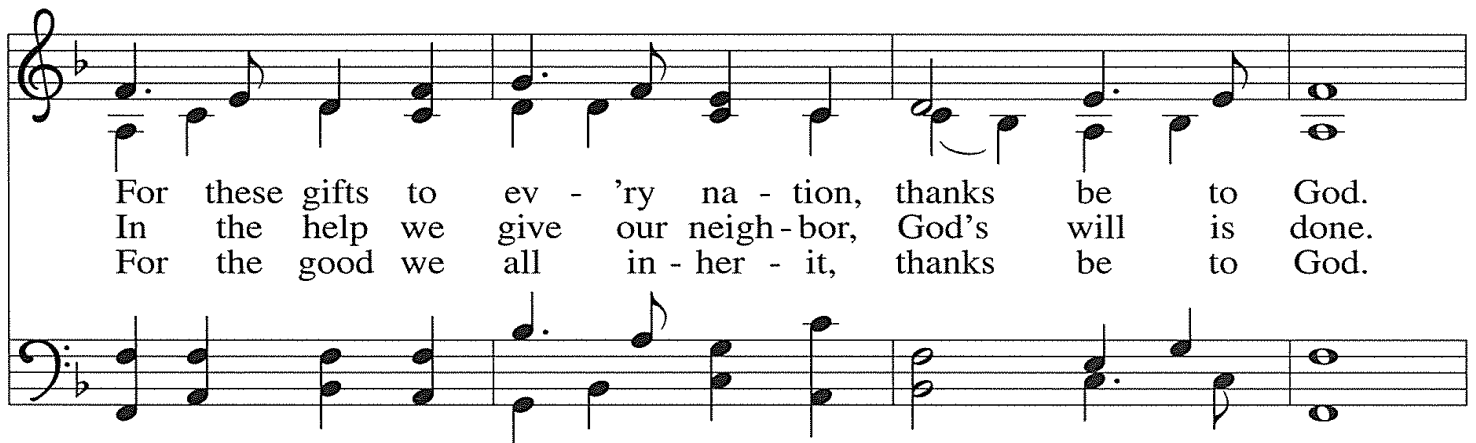


teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

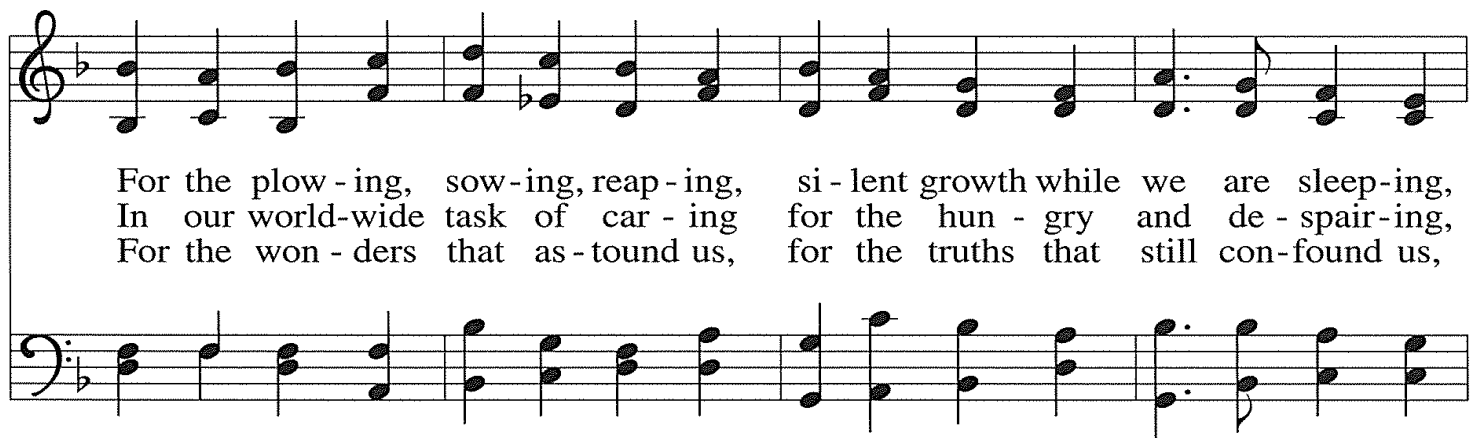




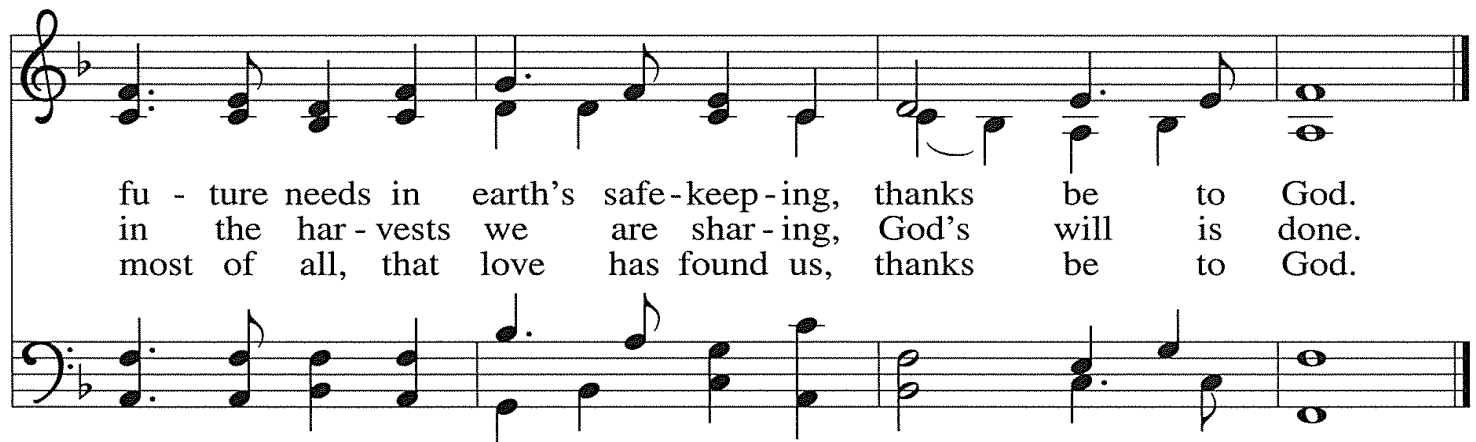
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

512



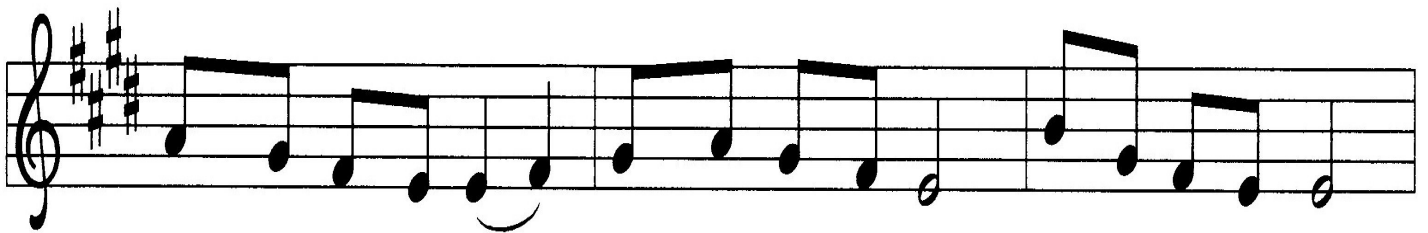
Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



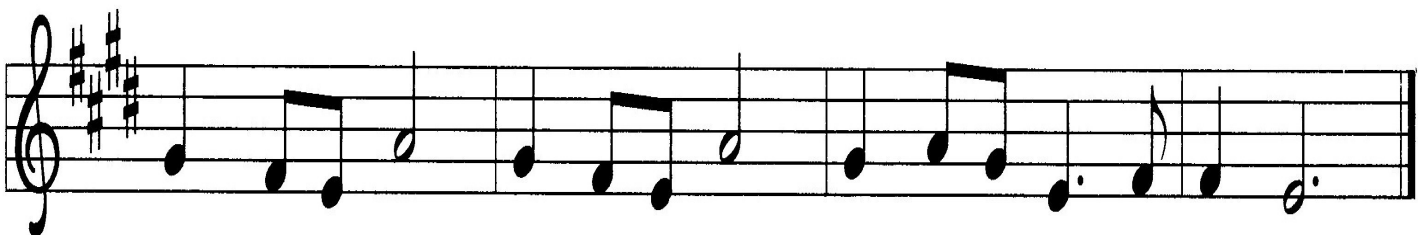
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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 and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -' are written below the notes.

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

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -' are written below the notes.

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

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly' are written below the notes.

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

The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of' are written below the notes.

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

The fifth system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.' are written below the notes.

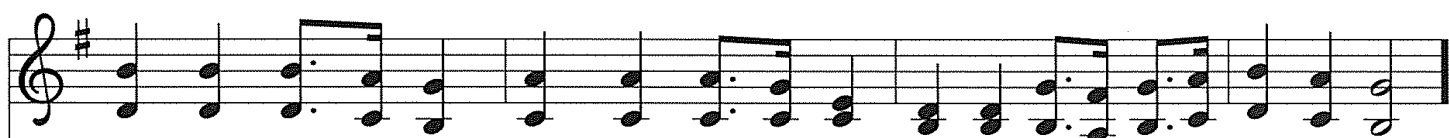
What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

774



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

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, Mark Black, Matthew Mazzotti, Lutheran Lay Worship Leaders

Retired: J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God and in remembrance of Edna Quinn, mother/mother-in-law of John and Joan Sakerka, and Bonnie and Bo Woods. A donation to the restoration fund will be made in her memory.

The Lay Reader is Lisa Maust.

Acolytes are Elijah Clark

Counters/Greeters today are R. McGoogan 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:

Greg Mason, Ed Dupas, Pat Dupas, Carol Cancelmi, Sandy Hebrank, Richard & Lisa Hager, Anneleise Christian, Rick & Amande, RJ, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westcott, Jerry Garrison, Apollos Yocca, Cathie Schuett-Weaver, Grant Baun, Nikki Thon, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, R.J., and James.

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

LISTENING FOR THE PROMISE

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10) – July 12, 2026

"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."

- Romans 8:16-17 -

Every October we remember and celebrate the Lutheran Reformation. We acknowledge and celebrate Martin Luther's key insight that we are "Liberated by God's grace!" These words go to the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the basis of the Lutheran Reformation – Christians gain salvation only by the grace of God. We call this justification by faith alone.

In studying the origins of our Lutheran heritage, it is clear that faith and love are both divinely essential in the Christian life, but faith alone justifies. Once we have been justified by faith, we enter the active life in works of love toward our neighbor and our faith communities.

We read in Romans that as children of God, we are "heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ." This clearly reveals that we are to be in community with one another. It is through the fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ that we can grow together in faith and love.

When we actively participate in our community of faith, we gain so much more collectively. We were made to be in fellowship with other Christians! As we plan and enjoy these summer months, let us remember the words in Hebrews 10:25, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another." Being part of an active community of faith is the Church here on earth.

As we celebrate the Reformation, let us remember that Luther declared the Holy Spirit, "Has a unique community in the world, which is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit reveals and proclaims, through which he illuminates and inflames hearts so that they grasp and accept it, cling to it, and persevere in it."

Take a moment to let this all sink in. What a heritage of faith we share and that we are all children of God! How awesome is that? Amen.

