

St. Matthew

“He said to them, “But who do you say that
I AM?”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Built on a Rock* (ELW) No. 652

*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 *How Firm a Foundation* (ELW) No. 796

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Care for Your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without Your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. 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

Isaiah 51:1-6

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 138

¹I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing Your praise;

²**I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word.**

³On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased.

⁴**All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O Lord, for they have heard the words of Your mouth,**

⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

⁶**For though the Lord is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me.

⁸**The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of Your hands.**

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-12:8

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 16:13-20

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

Healer of Our Every Ill

(ELW) No. 612

*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

Will You Come and Follow Me

(ELW) No. 798

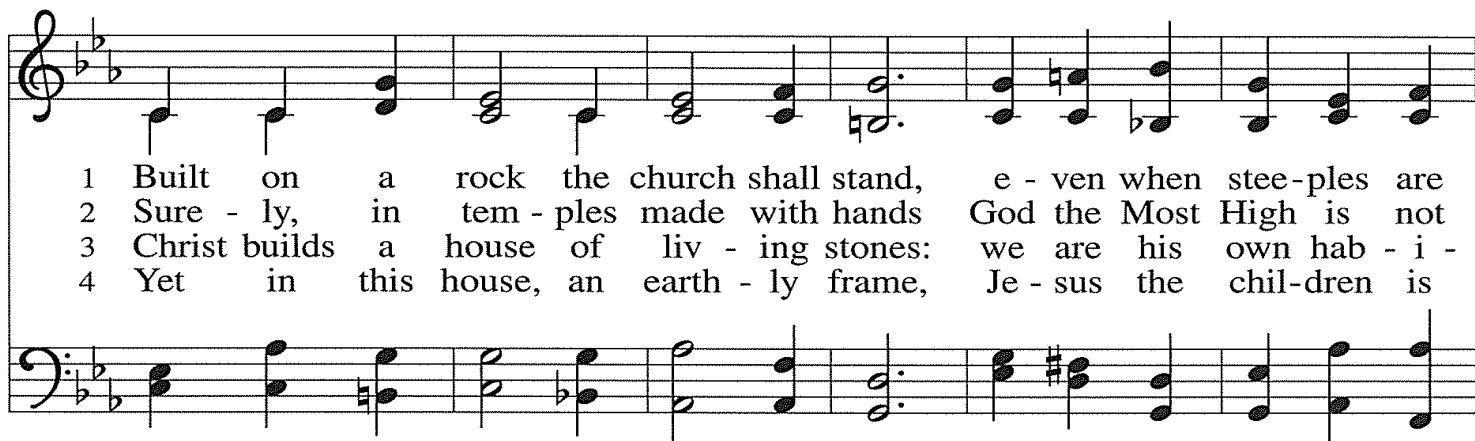
*The Dismissal (response)

C: Thanks be to God.

*Sending Hymn

Be the Love of Christ

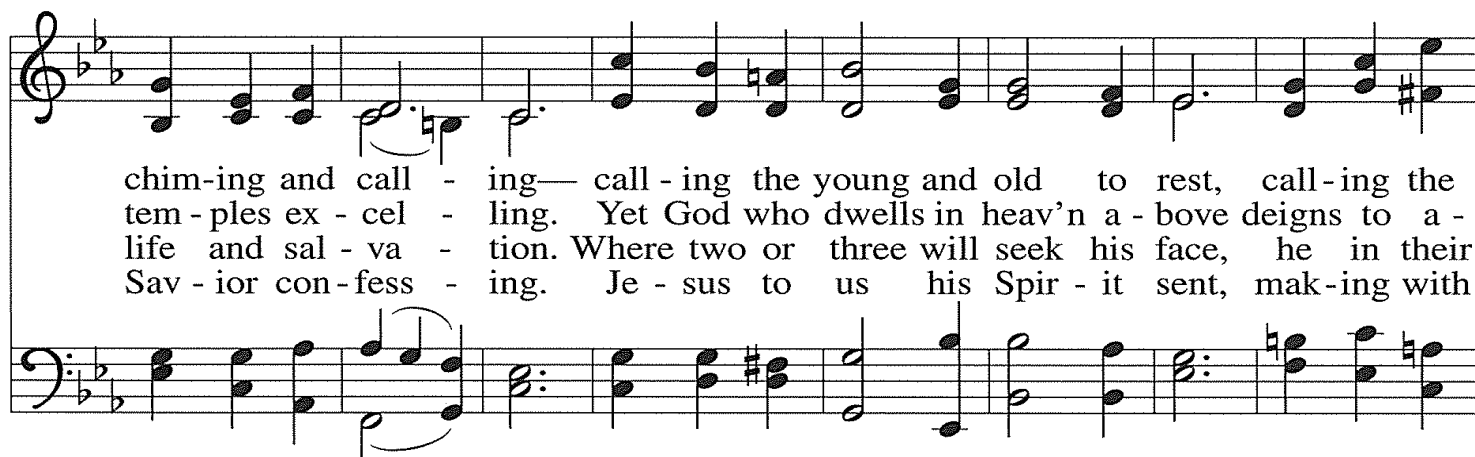
Postlude



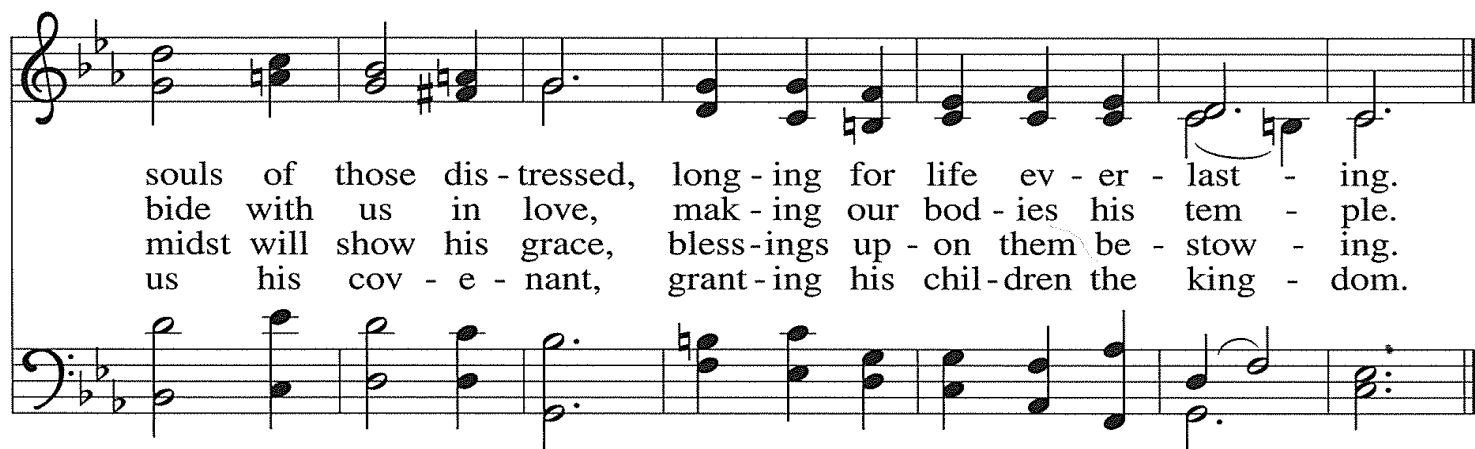
1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

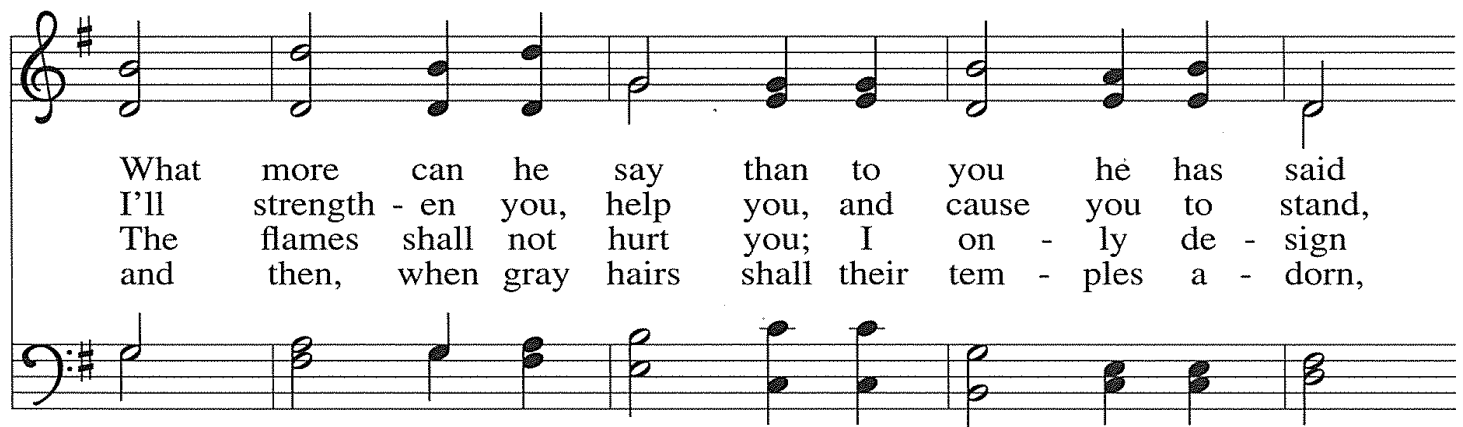
- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
“I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen.”



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Healer of Our Every Ill

612

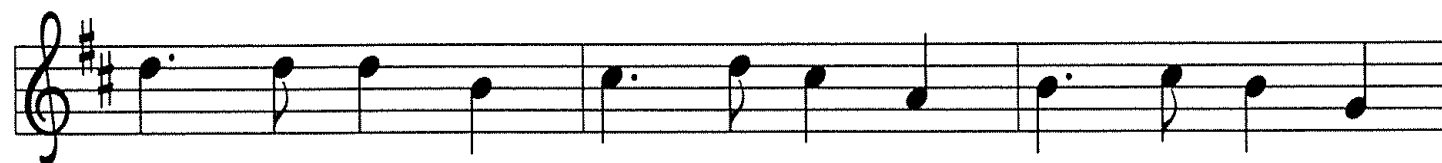
Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

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

Will You Come and Follow Me



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

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.

The Lay Reader is Dennis Schmidt.

Acolytes are

Counters/Greeters today are J. Black and K. Luketich.

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, Apollos Yocca, Cathie Schuett-Weaver, Grant Baun, Nikki Thon, Amy Verderber, RJ and James, Dennis S., Mike Miller, Joanne Marker, and Don Hazlett.

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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16) – August 23, 2026

“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Romans 12:3-5 –

There's a memorable quote by Margaret Thatcher in which she observes, “Power is like being a lady... if you have to tell people you are, you aren't.” This quote cuts to the heart of when people think too highly of themselves. Know anyone like this? It's natural for people to pride themselves on when they've accomplished something they're proud of, but what does Paul say in Romans 12:3? “For by the grace given to me, I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”

Paul goes on to make a comparison in verses 4-5 to the human body saying, “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” Each function of the human body works together, big or small, just as we should do as members of the body of Christ.

Our sense of purpose in this world also comes from what God has given us. As Christians, we are called accordingly to serve the Lord and “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.” (Romans 12:6) God's gifts are for building up his church. Therefore, it makes sense that we all have different gifts. There is no room for arrogance in the body of Christ; everything we have comes from God, so we cannot be boastful of our gifts and talents. Anything at all that we accomplish, big or small, is because of him and not of our own doing.

Dear Lord, thank you for the many gifts you have bestowed upon us. Help us to value one another's gifts and work together as one body in Christ and to seek ways to serve others with what you have given us. Amen.

