

St. Matthew 16:24

“Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone would come after Me, Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2026

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross* (ELW) No. 335

*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 *Now Thank We All Our God* (ELW) No. 839

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O Lord, mercifully continue to purify and defend Your Church. Since she cannot stand firmly without Your power, govern her always by Your grace; 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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 26

¹ Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

² Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

³ For Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in Your faithfulness.

⁴ I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

⁵ I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence and go around Your altar, O Lord,

⁷ proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all Your wondrous deeds.

⁸ O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

⁹ Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

¹⁰ in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

¹¹ But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

¹² My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

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 16:21-28

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

Beautiful Savior

(ELW) No. 838

*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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

(ELW) No. 836

*The Dismissal (response)

C: Thanks be to God.

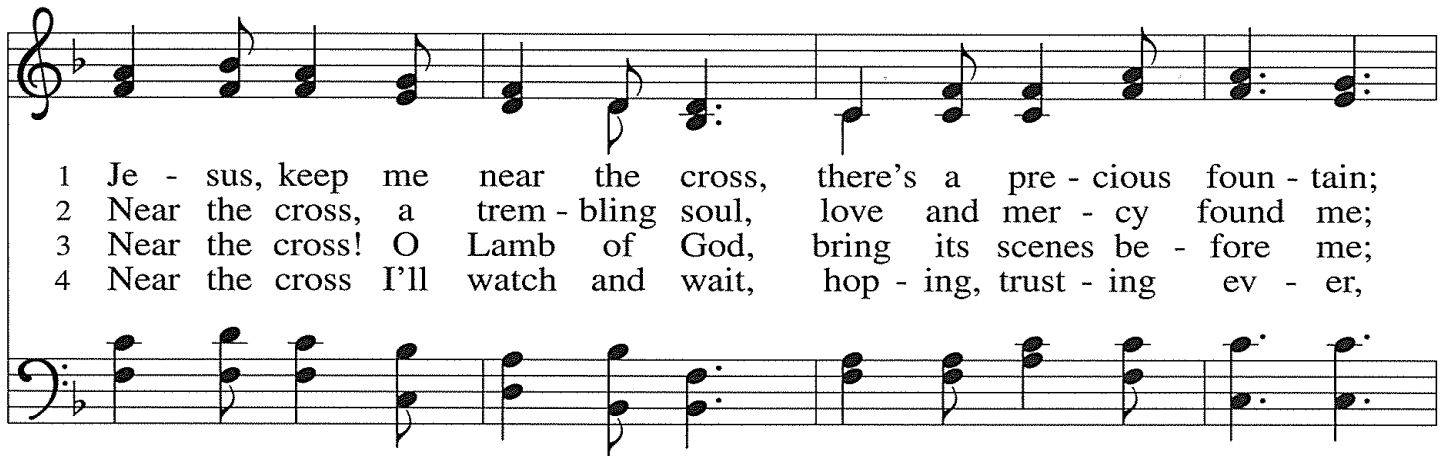
*Sending Hymn

Be the Love of Christ

Postlude

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

335

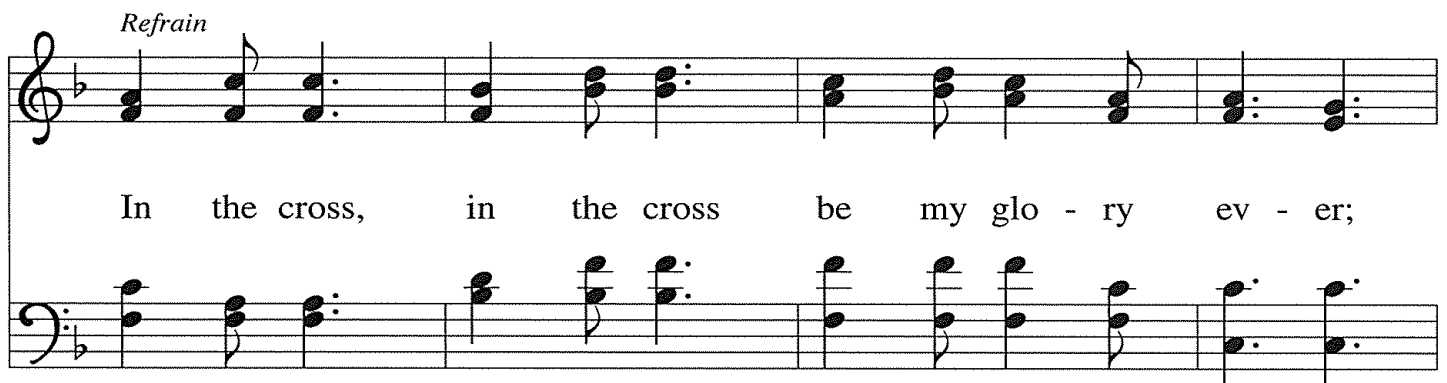


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



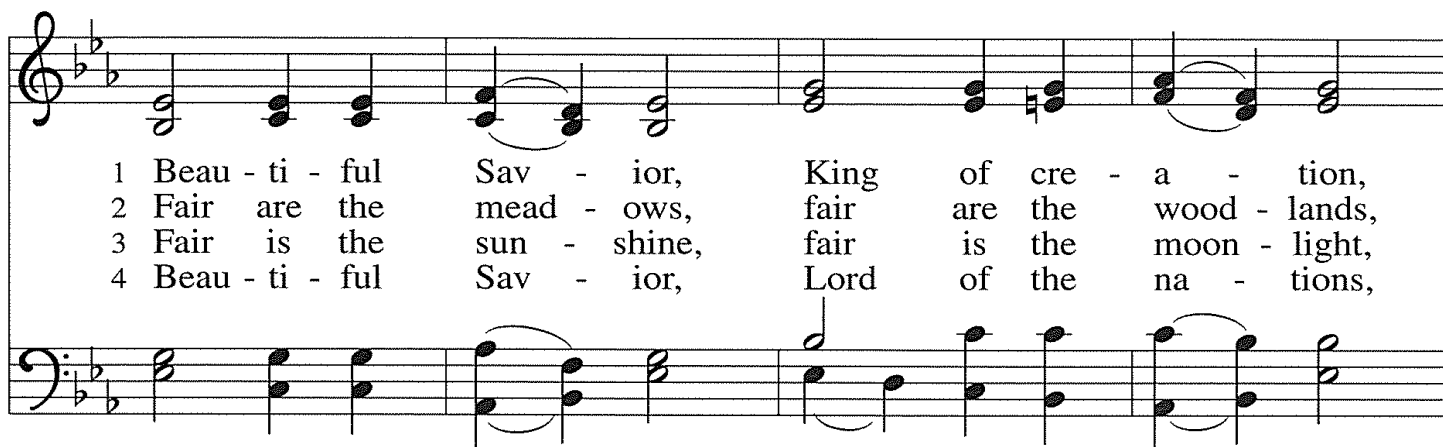
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



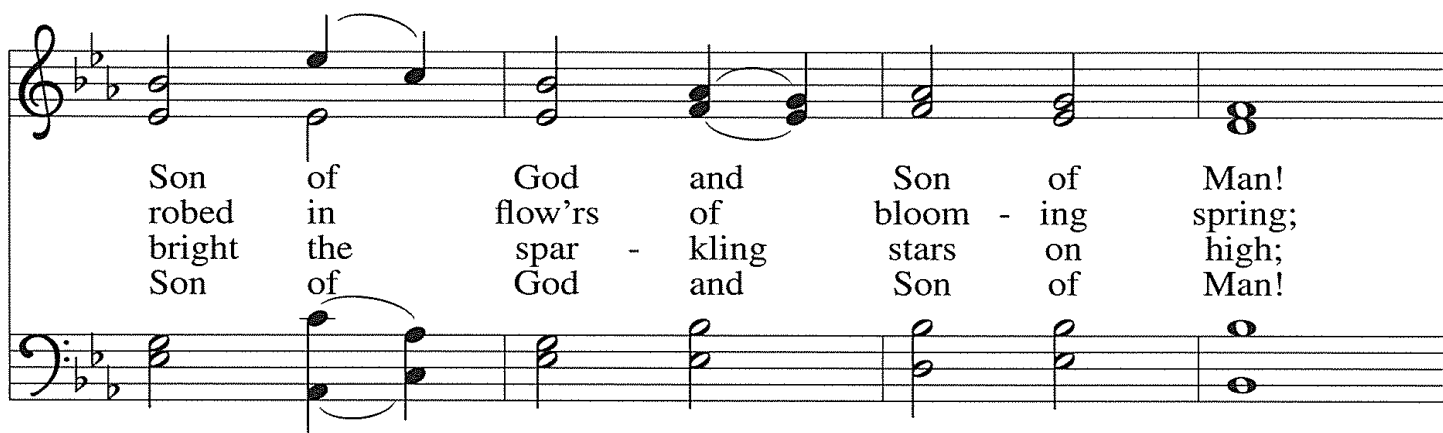
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Beautiful Savior

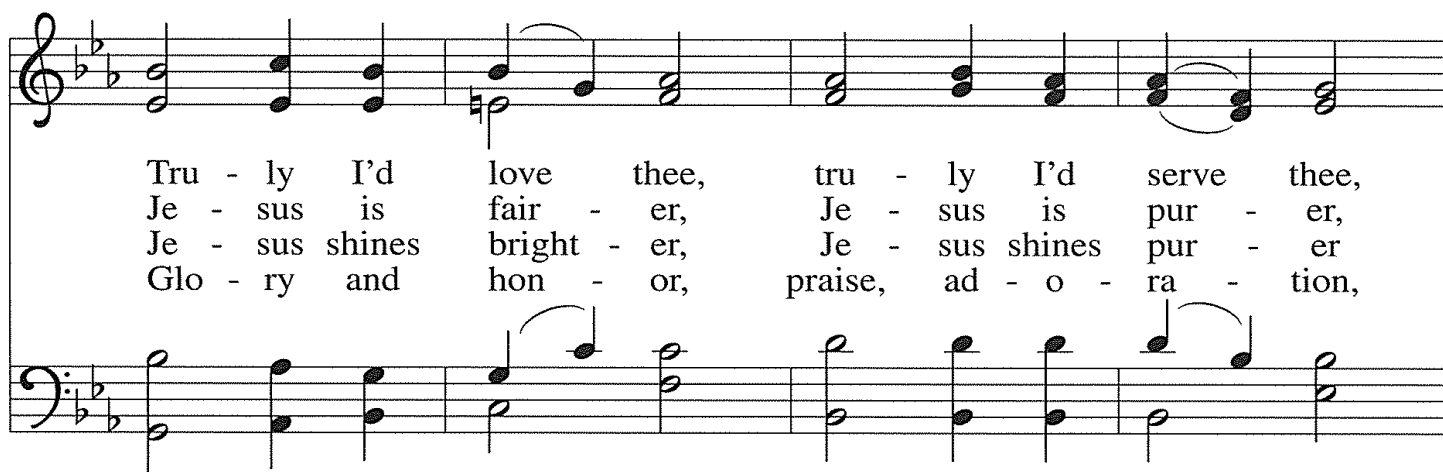
838



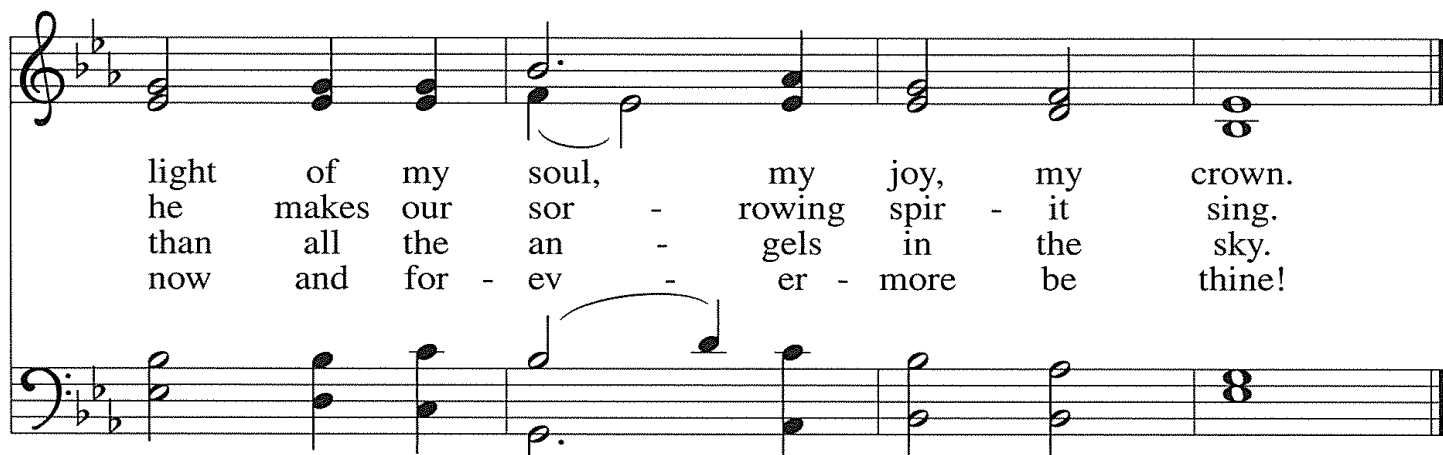
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

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 written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. 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 line continues in the bass staff. 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 line continues in the bass staff. 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

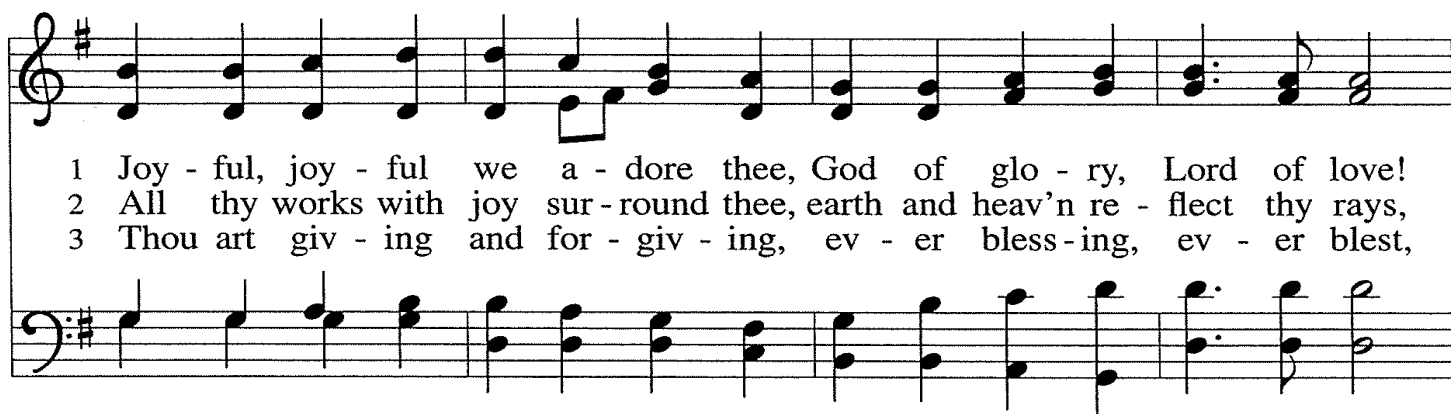
The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass line continues in the bass staff. The lyrics 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of' are written below the notes.

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

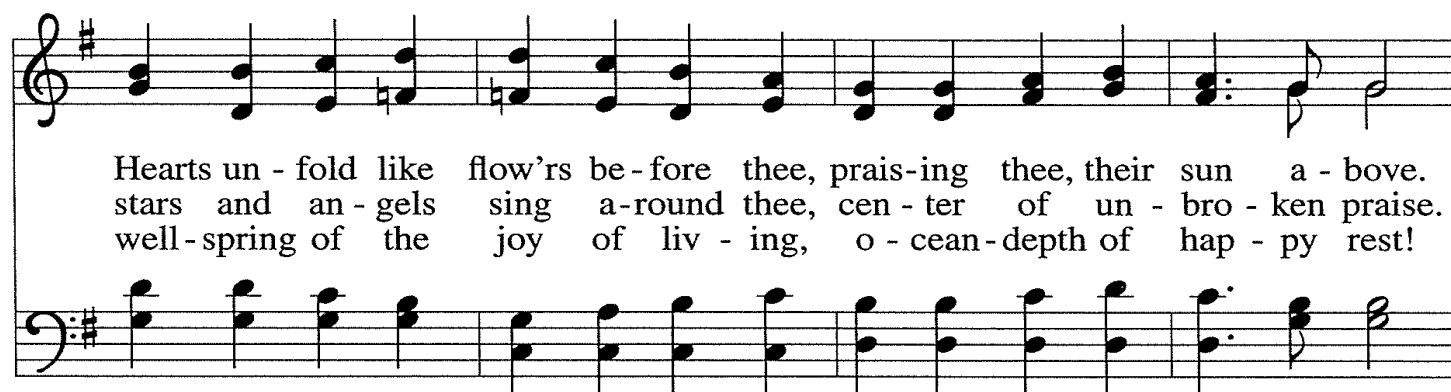
The fifth system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass line continues in the bass staff. The lyrics 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.' are written below the notes.

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

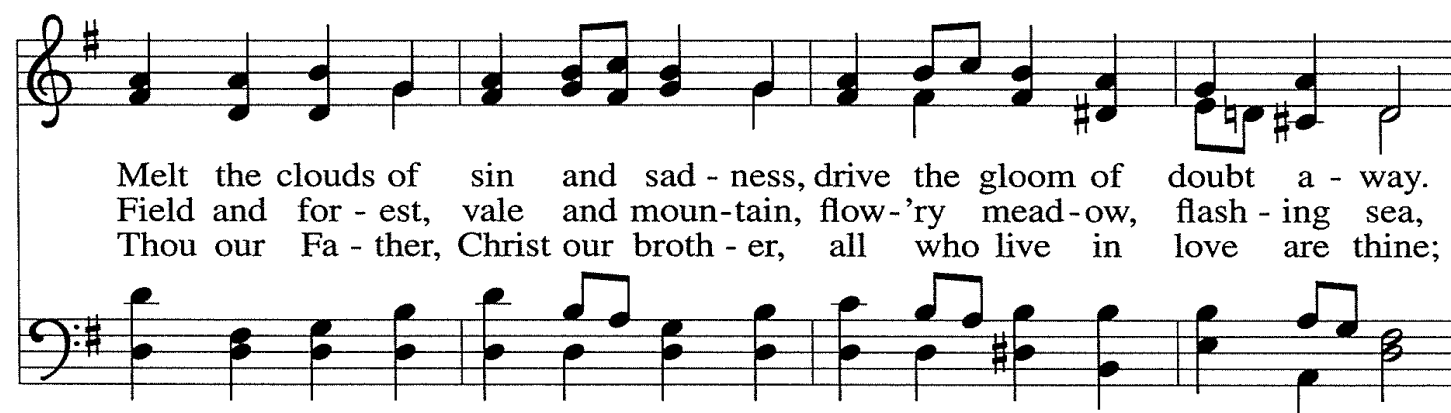
836



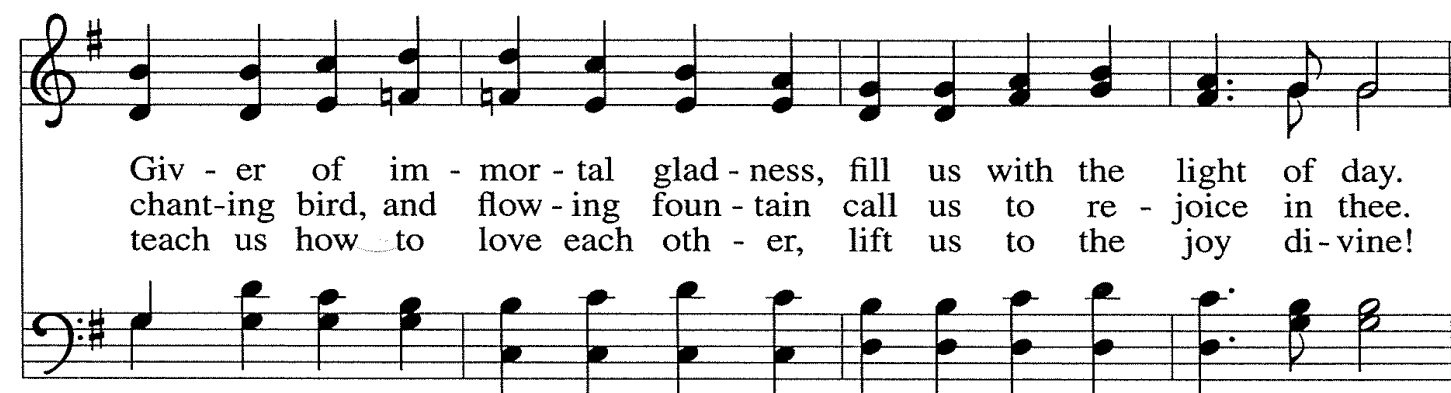
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

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 Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God by Joe and Judy Sarver in memory of their loving parents Joe and Betty Sarver, Laird and Jane Boddorf and with blessings of their family and 3 grandchildren Wesley, Callie, and Declan. A donation will be made to the church building fund in lieu of fresh flowers.

The Lay Reader is

Acolytes are Elijah Clark.

Counters/Greeters today are S. Rea and R. McGoogan.

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, Don Hazlett, Ken C., Pr. Bill White, Peter & Natalie, and Jaxon McNaught.

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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17) – August 30, 2026

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’”

Matthew 16:24-25–

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is well-known among many Lutherans. He was a German-Lutheran pastor and theologian, who died at the hands of Nazis in Germany during World War II. Before his death, Bonhoeffer wrote his work “Cost of Discipleship.” He writes how Christians today have taken advantage of God’s grace, referring to it as “cheap grace.” He says, “Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

God’s grace came at an expensive price: the life his only son Jesus Christ. So often we lose sight of the great cost our God paid on our behalf. So often we want to water down God’s grace, making it more palatable. Discipleship, following Jesus, is not easy. It is a life of sacrifice, and Jesus doesn’t try to pretend that it’s going to be easy for us. His words are plain and simple: deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me.

We are tempted to tell ourselves that it’s ok to miss worship because God will understand; he will forgive us. We want to sweep our sin under the rug and pretend it’s not there. What’s the harm, really? The harm is huge! When we treat God’s amazing gift of grace so frivolously, not only do we diminish the depth of God’s love for us, but we also avoid any form of repentance. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness of our sins. And so ultimately, we have put ourselves in a dangerous position.

God has called us to follow him in every way. We are called to act out of love and compassion for our neighbor. We are called to forgive one another as God forgives us through the sacrifice of Jesus. We are called to make sacrifices in order to make God a priority in our lives. In the moment it might seem difficult, but as Dietrich Bonhoeffer also says, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow Him, but cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

Sola Worship Resource — Weekly Devotional © 2022, Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com), written by Theresa Jacobson. Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

