

St. Matthew 18:1b

“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”



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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026

Weekly Service 11:00 am

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* (ELW) No. 414

*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 *This Is The Feast* (ELW) page 140

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O Lord, always lead and follow us with Your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. 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 33:7-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 32:1-7

¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

²Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach Him.

⁷You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

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 18:1-20

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

In Christ There Is No East or West

(ELW) No. 650

*The Apostles' 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 Great Thanksgiving (ELW) page 144

*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.

Lamb of God (ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* (ELW) No. 488

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

*The Benediction *(sung response)*

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling* (ELW) No. 608

*The Dismissal *(response)*

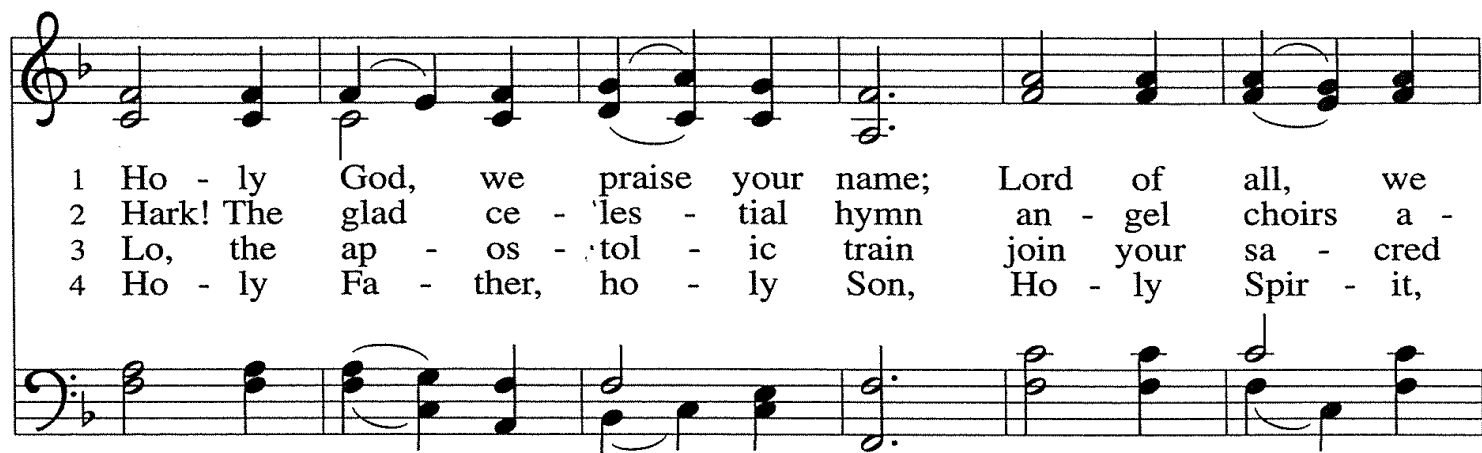
C: Thanks be to God.

*Sending Hymn *Be the Love of Christ*

Postlude

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

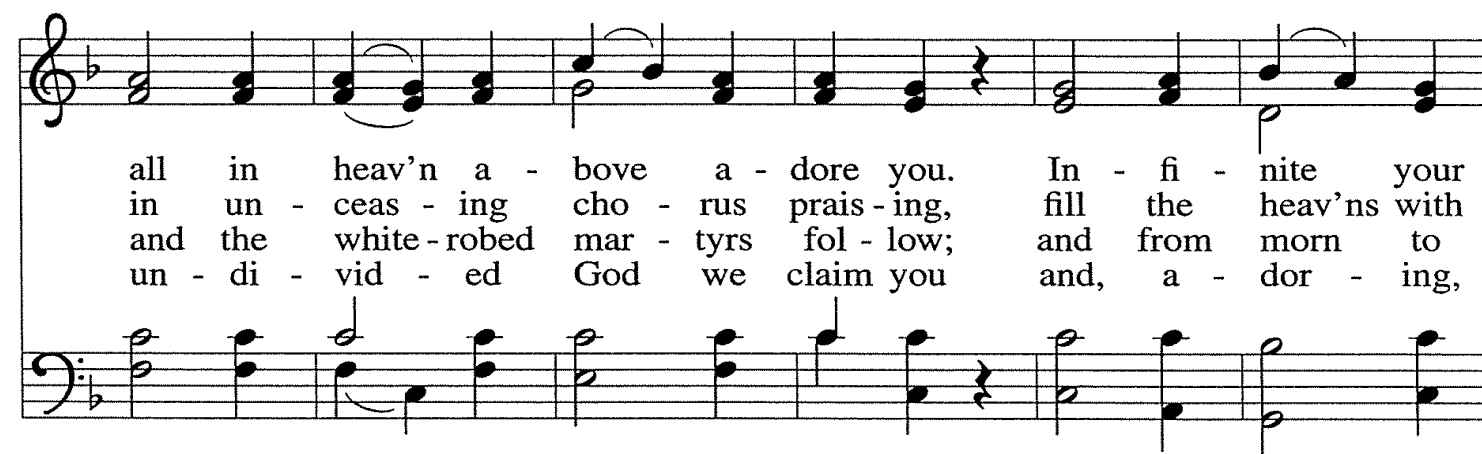
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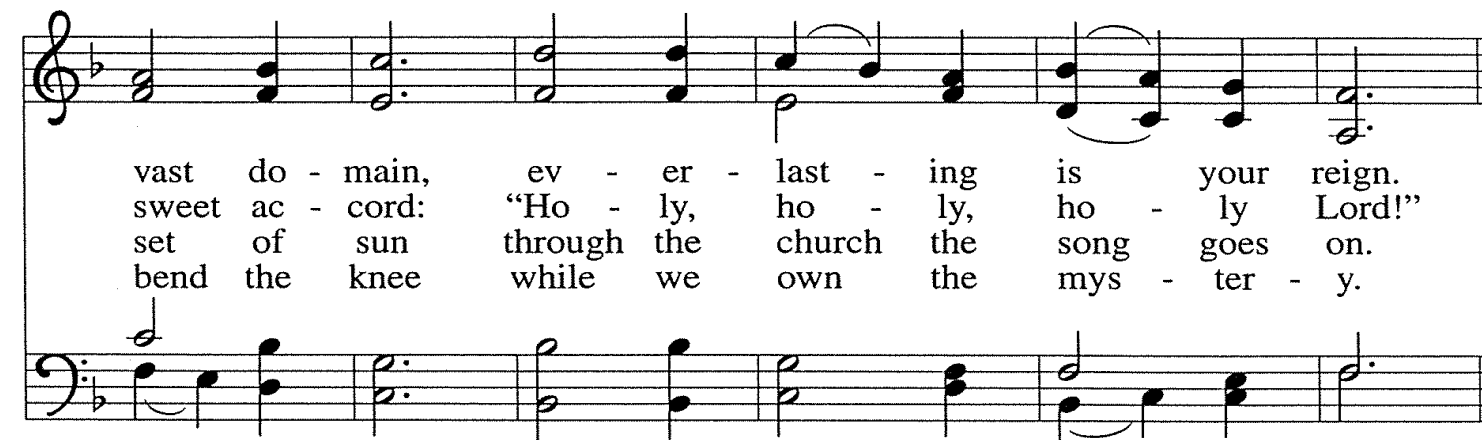
1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
 bow are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



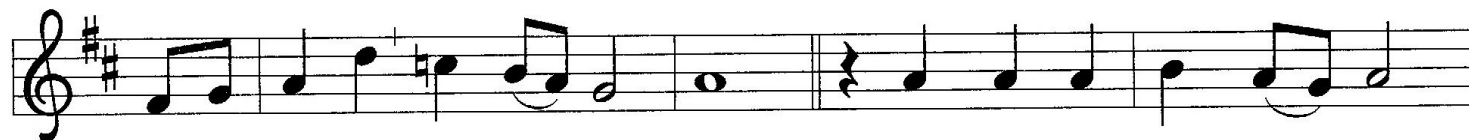
all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
 and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



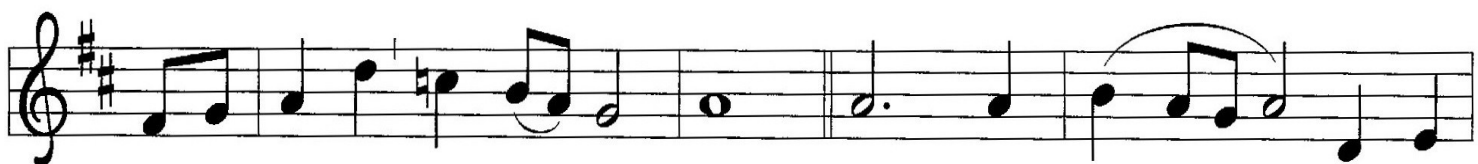
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



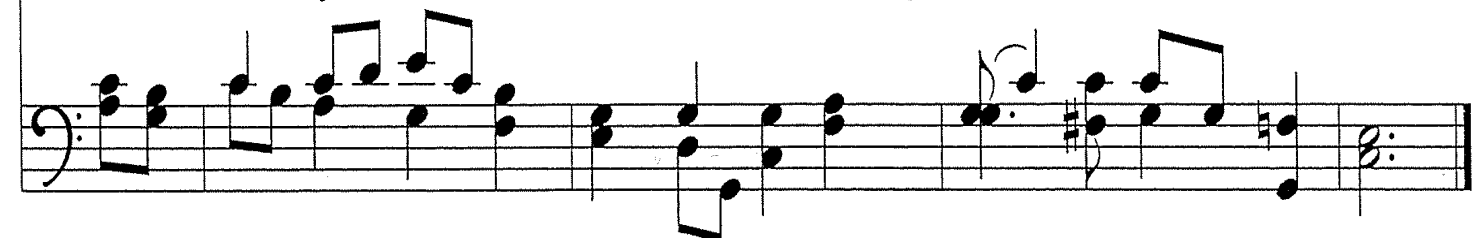
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.



The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

This system contains the first line of the hymn. It features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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

This system contains the second line of the hymn. The musical notation continues from the first system, maintaining the same key and tempo. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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

This system contains the third line of the hymn. The musical notation continues, with the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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

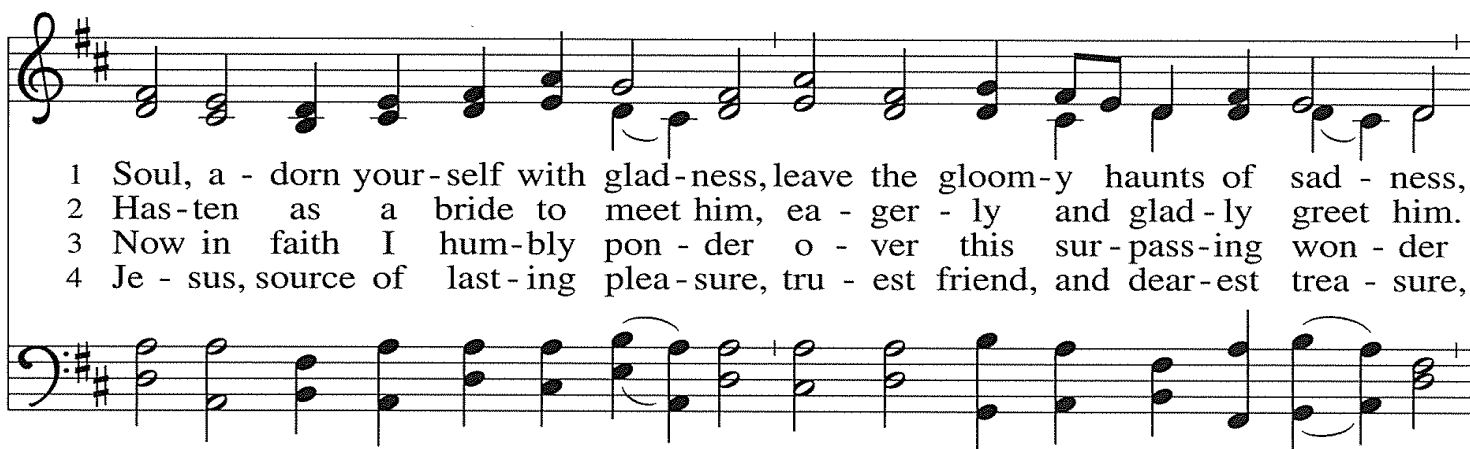
This system contains the fourth line of the hymn. The musical notation continues, with the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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

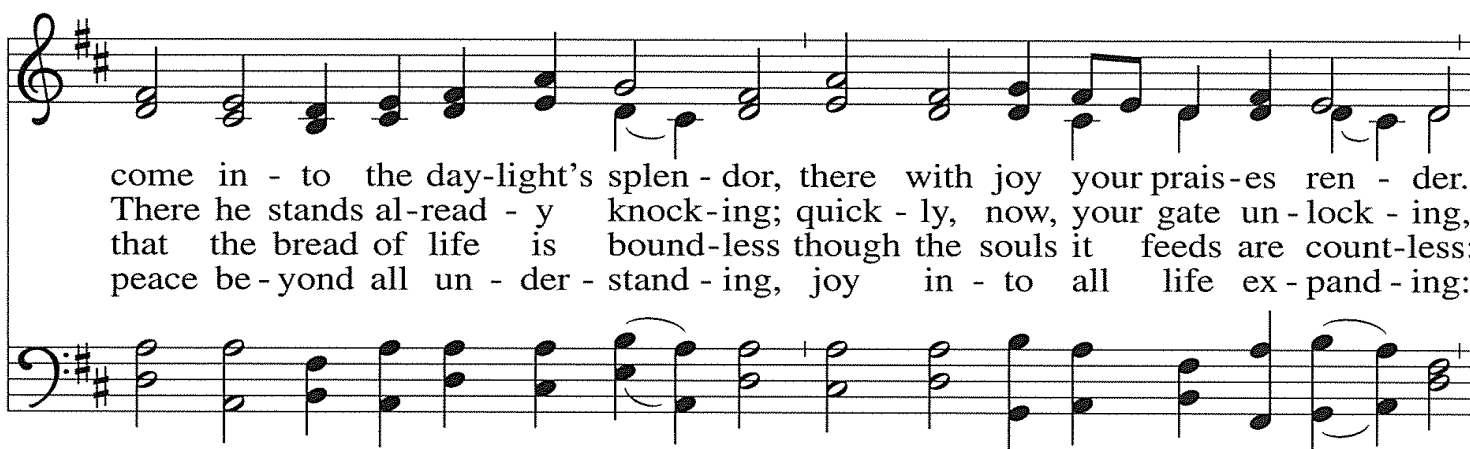
This system contains the fifth and final line of the hymn. The musical notation concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

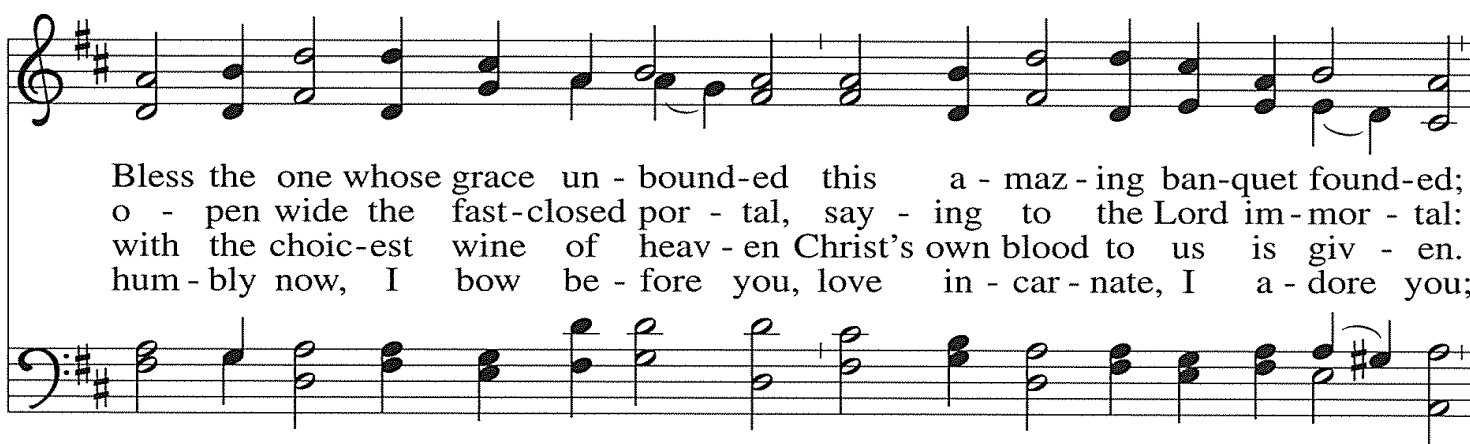
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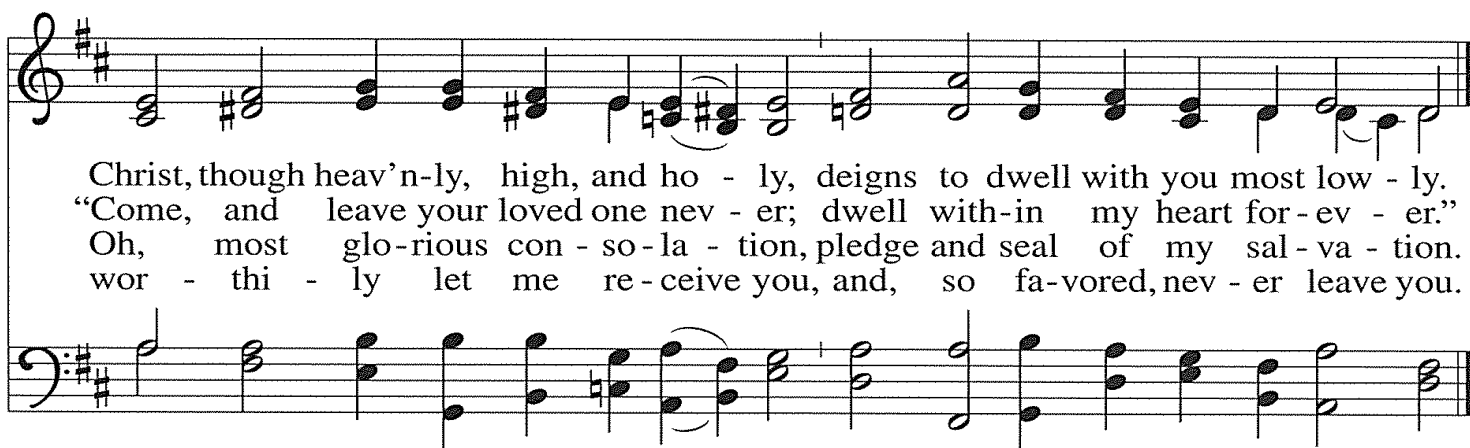
1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad - ness,
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.
 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur-pass-ing won - der
 4 Je - sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru - est friend, and dear-est trea - sure,



come in - to the day-light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.
 There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un-lock - ing,
 that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less;
 peace be-yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex-pand - ing:



Bless the one whose grace un - bound-ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;
 o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im-mor - tal:
 with the choic-est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.
 hum-bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;



Christ, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for-ev - er."
 Oh, most glo-rious con - so-la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 wor - thi - ly let me re-ceive you, and, so fa-vored, nev - er leave you.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

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 Chance! are given to the glory of God by the Quedenfeld's.

The Lay Reader is Pastor Grewe.

Acolytes are Julia Jeffcoat.

Counters/Greeters today are H. Quedenfeld and L. Coleman.

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.

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

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.

Dart Ball Season starts September 8th. We play at Washington Alliance. Practice starts at 7:00, games start at 7:30. Hope to have several new members join our team. This Sunday is coffee hour. Come down for coffee and throw at the Dart Ball and see if it's something that you might be interested in playing.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 18) – September 6, 2026

*“So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven
that one of these little ones should perish.”*

Matthew 18:14 -

We are witnesses. That is our calling as disciples of Jesus. One of our vocational callings is to lead people to Jesus. Sadly, the opposite may also be true. How often have we led people away from Jesus because of our own sins. Jesus warned about those who would inhibit a person's relationship with Jesus. “...but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.” (vs. 6).

One of the temptations we face is that of self-righteousness. The question of greatness is one of self-interest. Behind the question is that of looking for rewards or achievements where we might “win” the prize of greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Greatness in the kingdom is centered in a holy, childlike trust in God.

Seeking greatness is not the only temptation we face in this life. When someone sins against us the human temptation is to react in like manner. The world's message is to not only get even, but to make sure everyone knows about the great sin that has been committed against you. We post on social media the sin perpetrated against us. We seek to rally people to our side. Sometimes we just want people to see how “evil” those who have a different opinion are than us.

This is not the way it is to be for followers of Jesus. We are taught to forgive. Jesus taught us to pray, forgive us our trespasses **as we forgive those who trespass against us!** Jesus further modeled this from the cross as he prayed “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34).

We best witness to Jesus when we seek the one who has gone astray with the intention of reconciliation. We best witness to Jesus when we speak directly to the offender. Jesus continues the process of what happens if the offender does not listen. The aim of the process is not to vilify the one who offended, but by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, lead them back to Christ.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, lead us to forgive those who sinned against us, following the example of Jesus who abundantly forgives us. Amen.