

St. Matthew 21b

“Then Jesus said to them, Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 2026

Worship Service 11:00 am

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Blessed Assurance* (ELW) No. 638

*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 *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* (ELW) page 775

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, our refuge and strength, since You Yourself are the author of our devotion, graciously consider the devout prayers of Your Church. May those things which we ask in faith effectively follow 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

Isaiah 45:1-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 96:1-9

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

²Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

³Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!

⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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 22:15-22

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

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

Children's Sermon

Rev. Grewe

(children leave for Sunday School)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

Now Thank We All Our God

(ELW) No. 839

*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 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

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

(ELW) No. 547

*The Dismissal (response)

C: Thanks be to God.

*Sending Hymn

Be the Love of Christ

Postlude



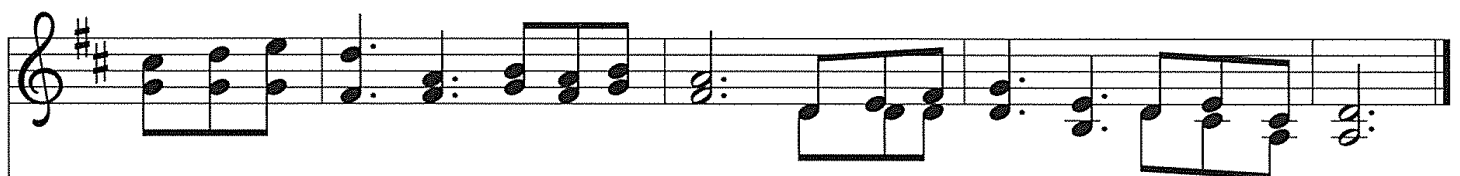
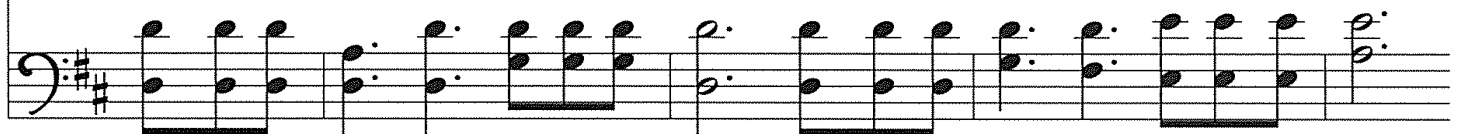
- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:

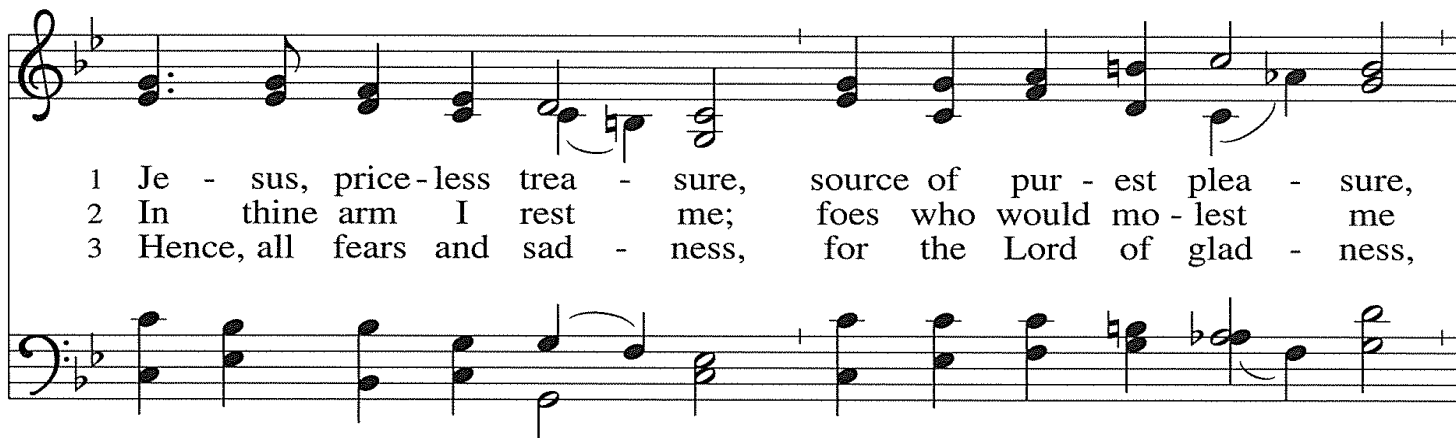


this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

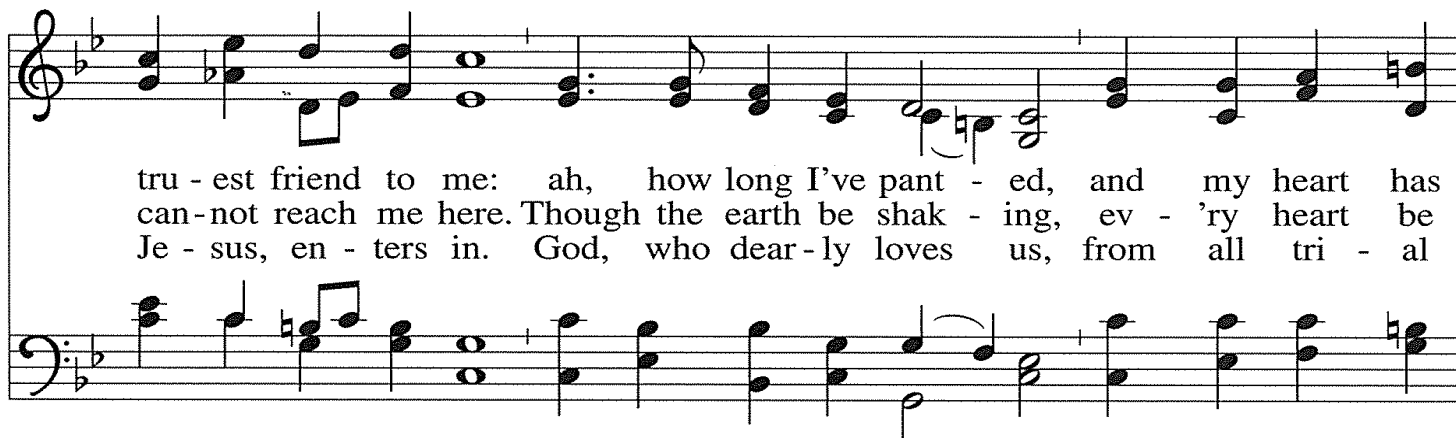


Jesus, Priceless Treasure

775



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
 3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



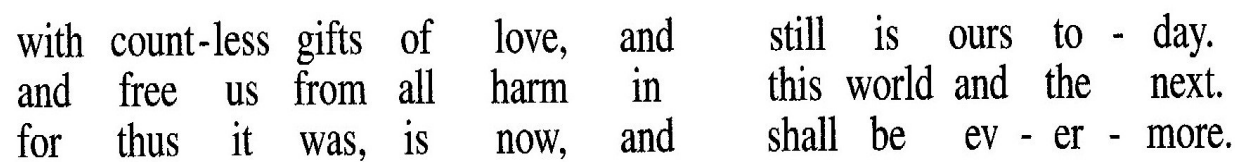
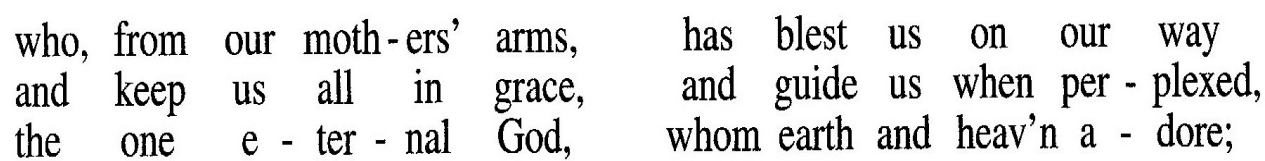
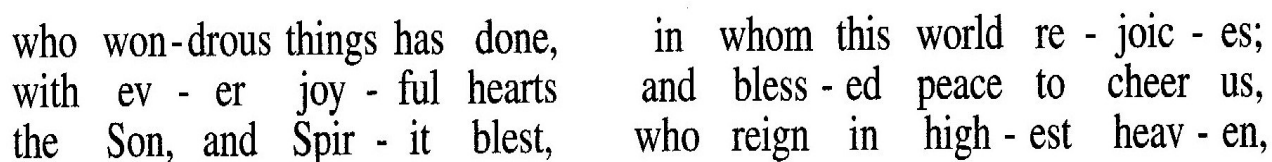
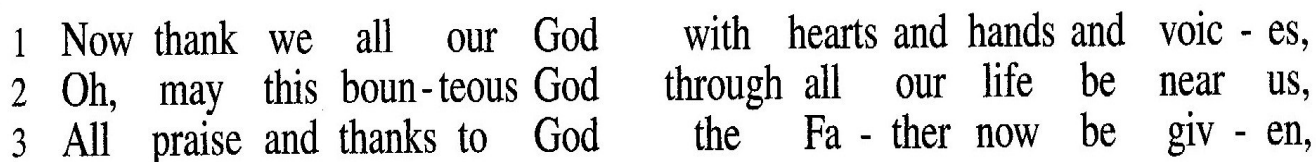
tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
 can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
 Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
 quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;
 saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be-side thee.
 yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!



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 a bass staff, both in a key of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written 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 treble staff.

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 treble staff.

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 treble staff.

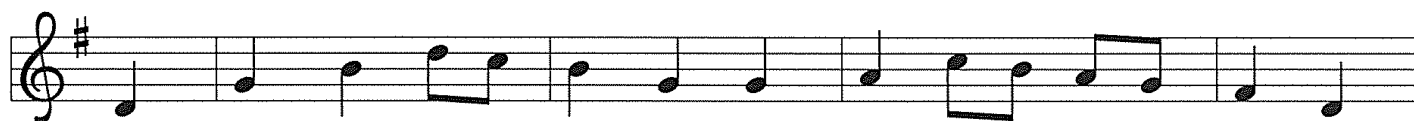
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

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 treble staff.

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 treble staff.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



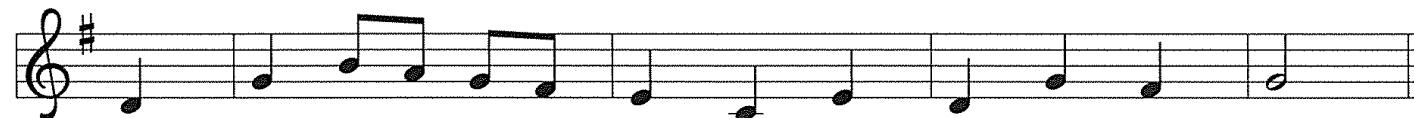
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

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 thanking all of our church family that have used their talents and time to make and keep our First Lutheran Church beautiful. A donation is made to the Restoration Fund by Olivia and Larry.

The Lay Reader is John George.

Acolytes are Matthew Mazzotti.

Counters/Greeters today are D. Schmidt and R. Williams.

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, Jaxon McNaught, Bernadette and Fred Devine, and Leann Vitteck, Oliver Chadwick, Danielle Sherman, Judi, and George Salvucci.

Sober House Living
724-228-2203
Turning Point at Washington

Catechism Class meets Tuesday at 11AM and 7 PM.

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 Game is October 20. West Washington will play at First Lutheran. Practice starts at 7:00, games start at 7:30. Hope to have several new members join our team.

**HAPPY MOMENTS, PRAISE GOD
DIFFICULT MEMENTS, SEEK GOD
QUIET MEMENTS, WORSHIP GOD
PAINFUL MOMENTS, TRUST GOD
EVERY MOMENT, THANK GOD**

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24) – October 18, 2026

¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Matthew 22:17-21 -

The Pharisees try to trap Jesus by asking him if it is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. This is a dilemma. If Jesus says "yes", the Pharisees will paint him as a Roman sympathizer, and Jesus will lose his status as a teacher of Israel. On the other hand, if Jesus says "no", the Romans might well arrest him for inciting a tax revolt. In response, Jesus avoids both of these false alternatives. Instead, he resolves the dilemma by implicitly distinguishing between God's absolute authority and Caesar's relative authority. It is within this implicit framework that Jesus tells the Pharisees to give Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to give God the things that are God's. In other words, he tells them to pay taxes to Caesar but to reserve worship for God alone.

Some people interpret this passage as implying that we should render "spiritual" things to God and "material" things to Caesar. On this view taxation is a purely secular matter, not a spiritual concern. But this interpretation is false. After all, "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein (Psalm 24:1)." Consequently, God owns Caesar himself and therefore owns all of Caesar's stuff. So, we can't say that taxation is of no concern to God.

I remember expressing my views on taxation at a clergy gathering once. I said that we should eliminate property and income taxes since they imply government ownership of our homes and our persons, respectively. In response, a pastor of a large evangelical church said, "But aren't we supposed to give Caesar that which is Caesar's?" Whether or not you agree with my views of taxation, I hope you find this pastor's superficiality and ignorance appalling. (This could also be clerical cowardice at work, trying to derail a needed but controversial discussion.)

In response to this pastor's bogus argument, we must first note the status of the voting citizen. In representative forms of government, voting citizens are both rulers and subjects. As subjects, they must pay their taxes, but as rulers, they have the right and the responsibility to advocate and vote for Biblically just policies of taxation. And this means that Christians should have vigorous and spirited discussions about the implications of Biblical law for taxation. After all, since God's law protects private property, taxation is a spiritual matter too!