

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Reformation Sunday – October 25, 2026

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

John 8:34-38 -

Jesus here addresses the bondage of sin and our liberation from it. He says that the one who practices sin is a slave to sin and that such a slave is in danger of being thrown out of God's house. Yet, as the Son of God, Jesus remains in God's house, for he is the rightful heir. Thus, if the Son sets a slave free, he will remain in God's house as a freeman alongside God's Son. We are therefore saved by the Son, and thus by grace, not race. Physical descent from Abraham offers no escape from the bondage of sin which is the universal problem of all humanity.

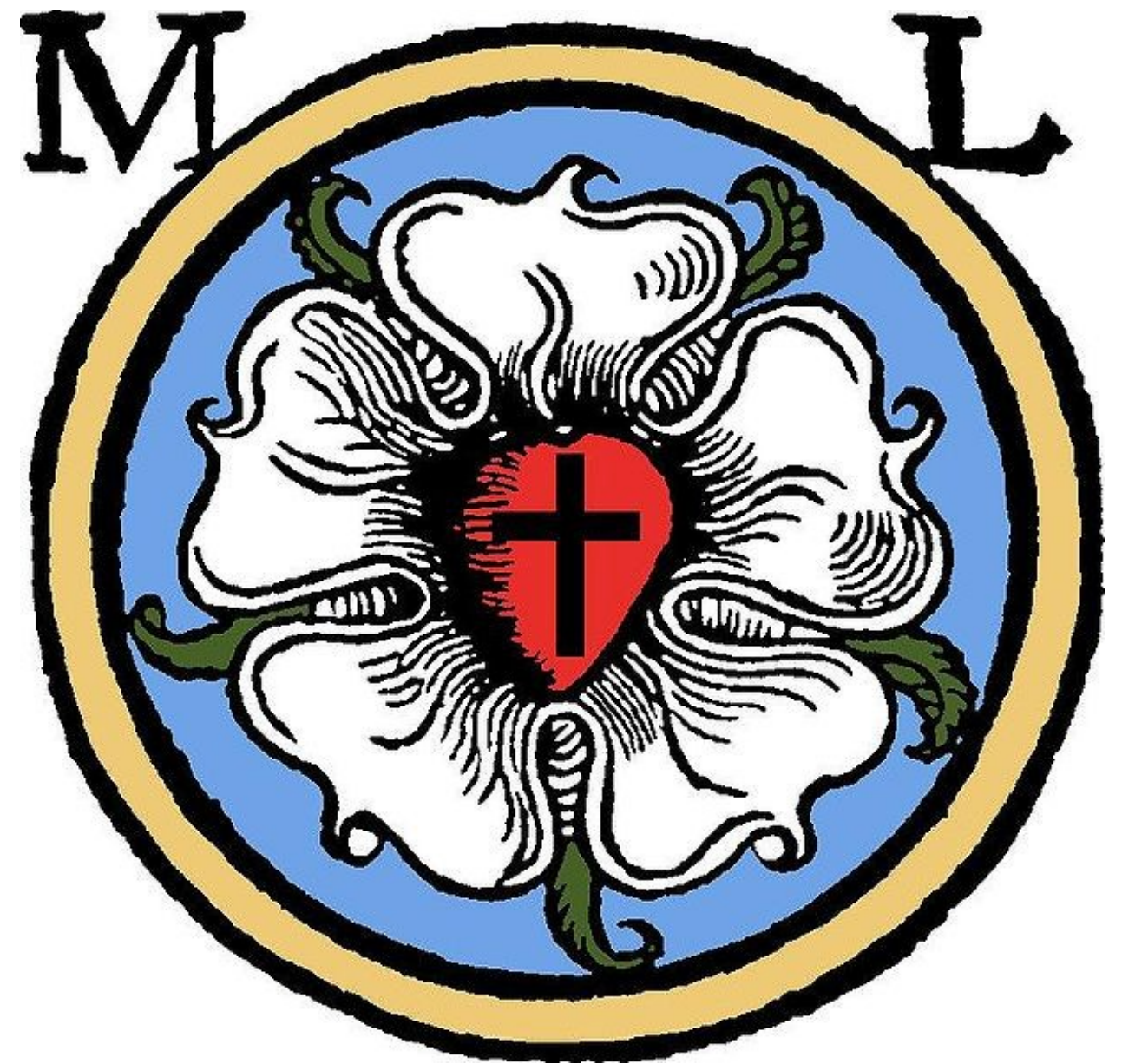
When we describe this bondage of sin, it is essential that we choose the right metaphor. Is this bondage merely a spiritual sickness, or is it a spiritual death? If the former, then the human will has the residual power to cooperate with God's grace (*synergism*) in the process of salvation. If the latter, salvation is God's work alone (*monergism*) and has the form of a spiritual resurrection from the dead. Moreover, this latter alternative also entails the doctrine of predestination since God's work alone accounts for the salvation of his elect.

At the time of the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic Church held that the human will was merely sick, not dead. Thus, it still had the residual power to cooperate with God when assisted by divine grace. With God's help it could earn enough merit for its salvation. But if it failed, it could rely upon the surplus merit earned by previous saints. Since these saints had earned more merit than they needed for their own salvation, they left a surplus of merit which was stored up by the Church and dispensed through the sale of indulgences. By purchasing these indulgences, people could reduce their time in purgatory.

Luther saw the Achilles heel of this entire system. It was the assumption that the human will was merely spiritually sick. By contrast, Luther believed that the human will was dead in trespasses and sins so that nothing less than the atonement of Christ and the regeneration of the Spirit could save it from its bondage to sin. Therefore, in his classic work, *The Bondage of the Will*, Luther held that the bondage of the will—along with the corollary doctrine of predestination—was the central issue of the Protestant Reformation.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

1517—2026



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Holy Communion 11:00 AM

October 25, 2026

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *O Lord, We Praise You* (SBH) No. 499

*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) No. 140

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Movie and meal after Service today!

Adult Catechism class is on Tuesday at 11 and 7 pm. We are discussing the book we read over the summer. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

Adult Sunday School is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

Dart Ball Game is October 27 with First Lutheran at Chartiers Crossroads.

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.

SARRIS CANDY ORDERS ARE DUE November 5..

WREATH ORDERS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 13.

Movie and Meal after Service today.

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 you 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, 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, Leann Vitteck, Oliver Chadwick, Danielle Sherman, Judi, George Salvucci, Bill Kovach.

All Saints Sunday names are due this week. Please give names to Pastor Rob or Kathleen.

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptation, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon the Church Your saving peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Revelation 14:6-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody for the Day (read responsively)

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Second Reading:Romans 3:19-28

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung)(ELW) page 142

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Gospel:John 8:31-36

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 SermonPastor Grewe

(children leave for Sunday School)

SermonRev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the DayLord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word(ELW) No. 517

*The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

First Lutheran Church

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Dennis Schmidt, Mark Black, Matthew Mazzotti, Lutheran Lay Worship Leaders

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist ad Music Director

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God and in memory of my dearly departed and most beloved wife Marilyn P. Jaquay in celebration of her birthday. A donation was made to the church by George W. Jaquay.

The Lay Reader is Lisa Maust.

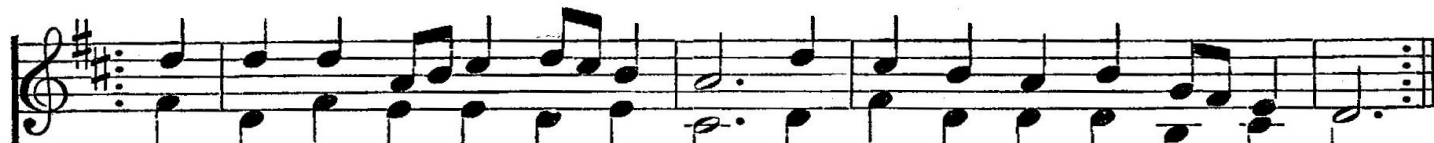
Acolytes are Jacin and Trevor Flowers.

Counters and Greeters today are L. Coleman and J. Black.

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.



1. A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
Our help-er he a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing:
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide Our striv-ing would be los-ing;
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos-ing.



For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he; Lord Sa-ba-oth his



great, And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.
Name, From age to age the same, And he must win the bat-tle.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>3 And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.</p> | <p>4 That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.</p> |
|---|--|

*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

Now We Join In Celebration

(ELW) No. 462

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

*The Benediction (sung response)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

(SBH) No. 150

*The Dismissal (response)

C: Thanks be to God.

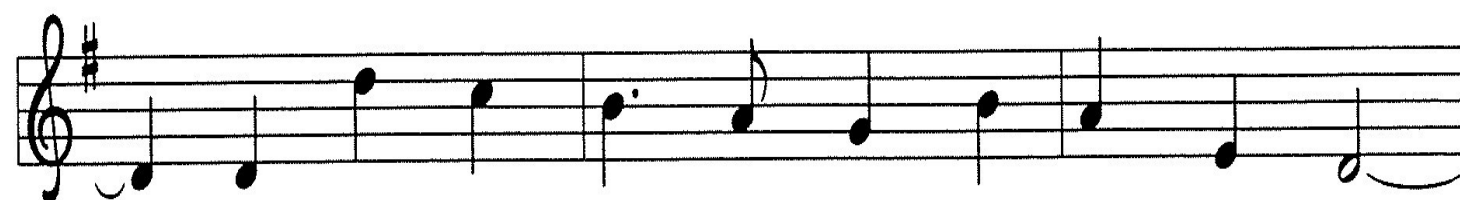
Postlude

We Know That Christ Is Raised

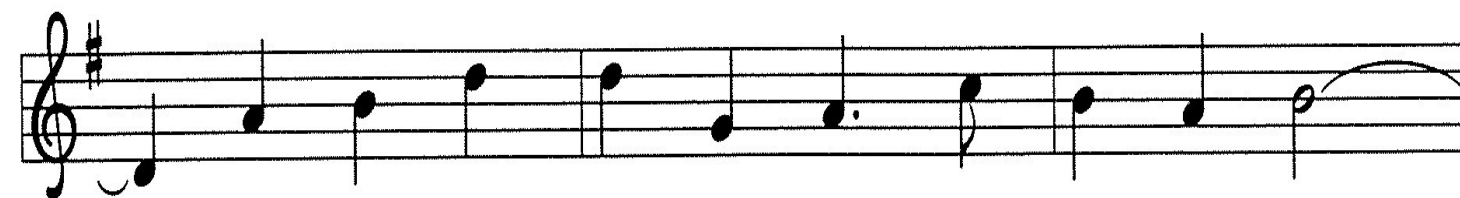
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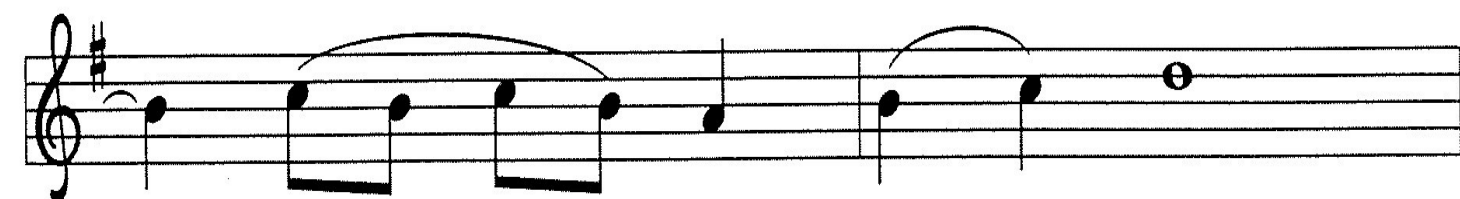
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Now We Join in Celebration

462



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



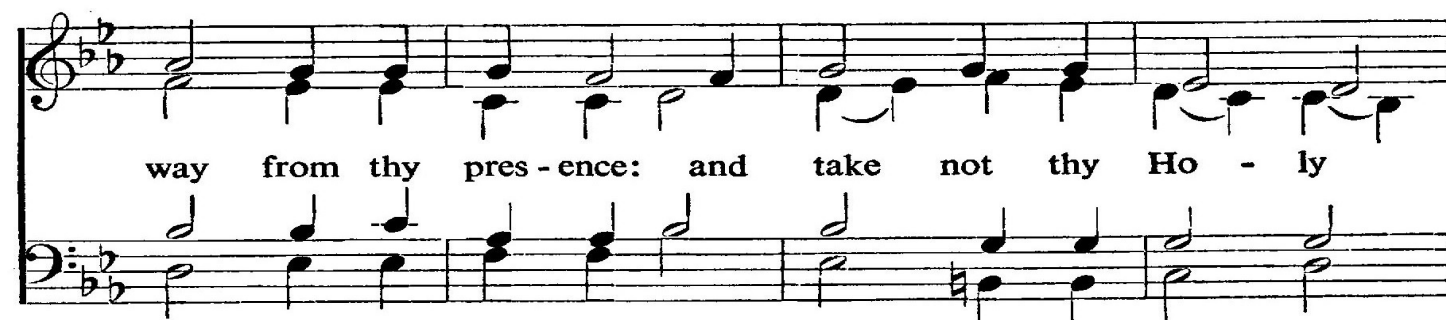
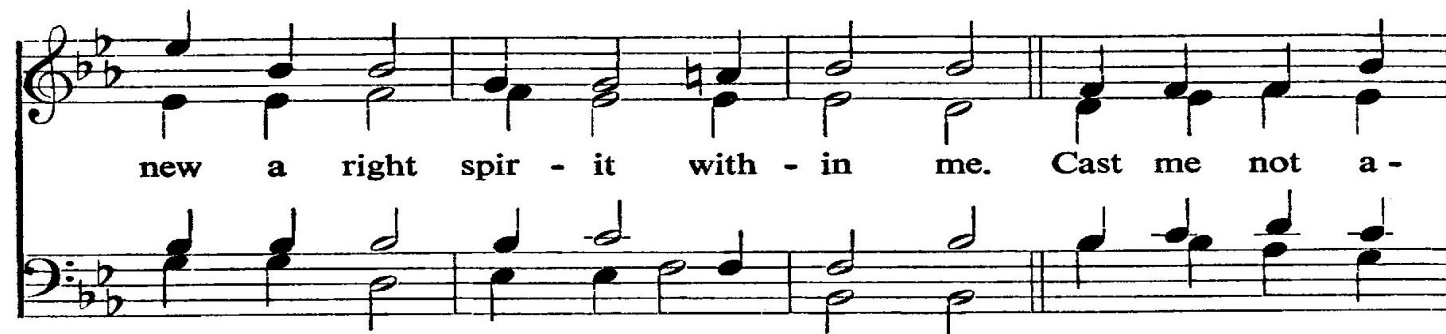
for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.



The Communion



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.

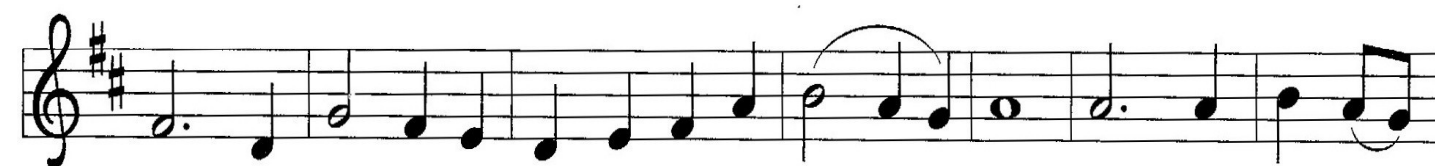
Refrain



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.

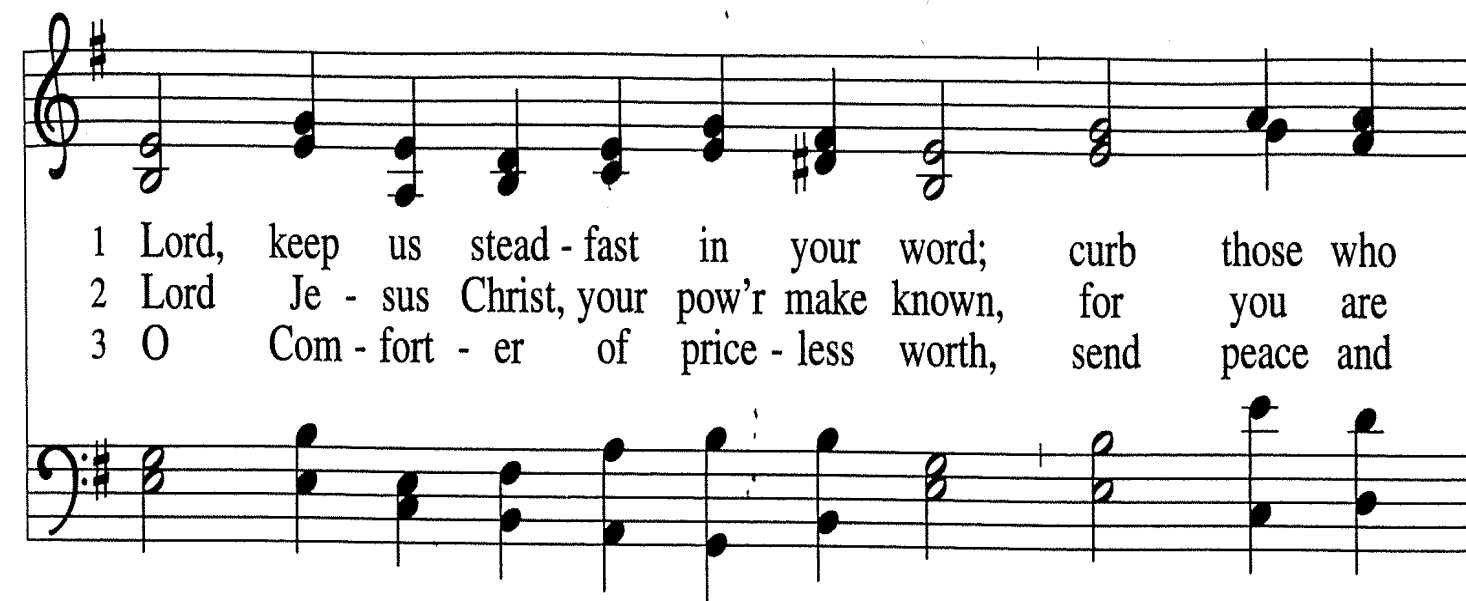


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

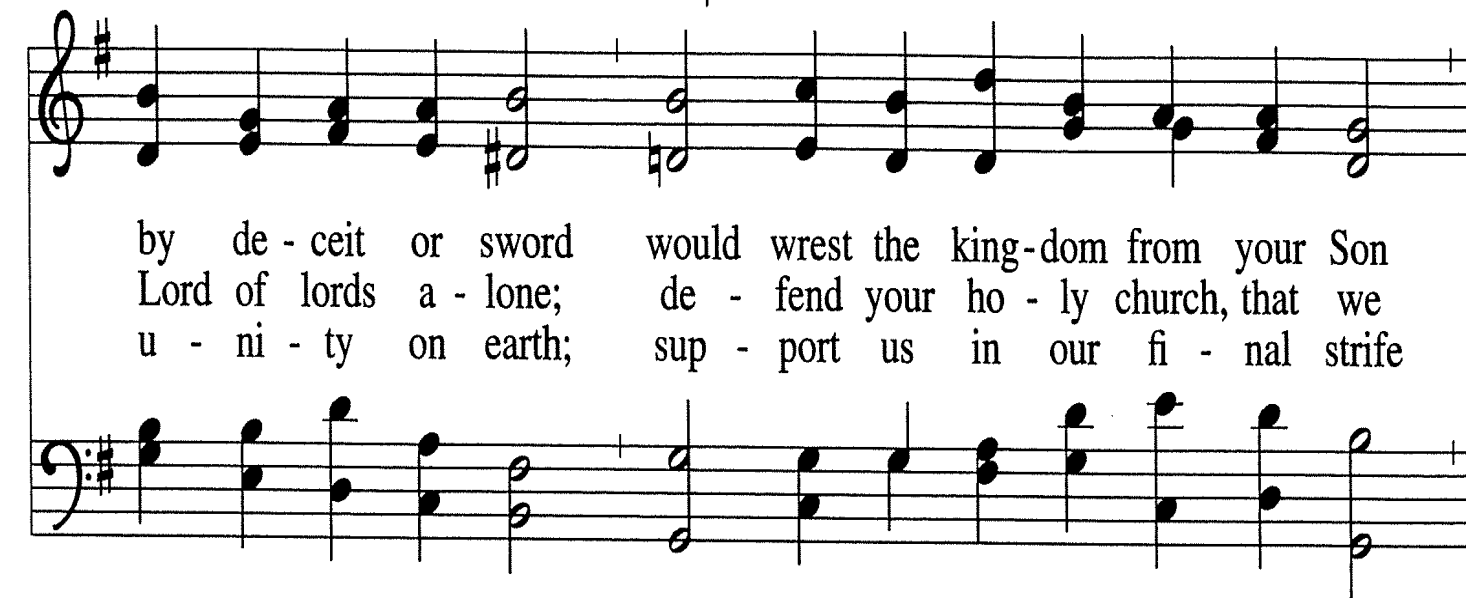


Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

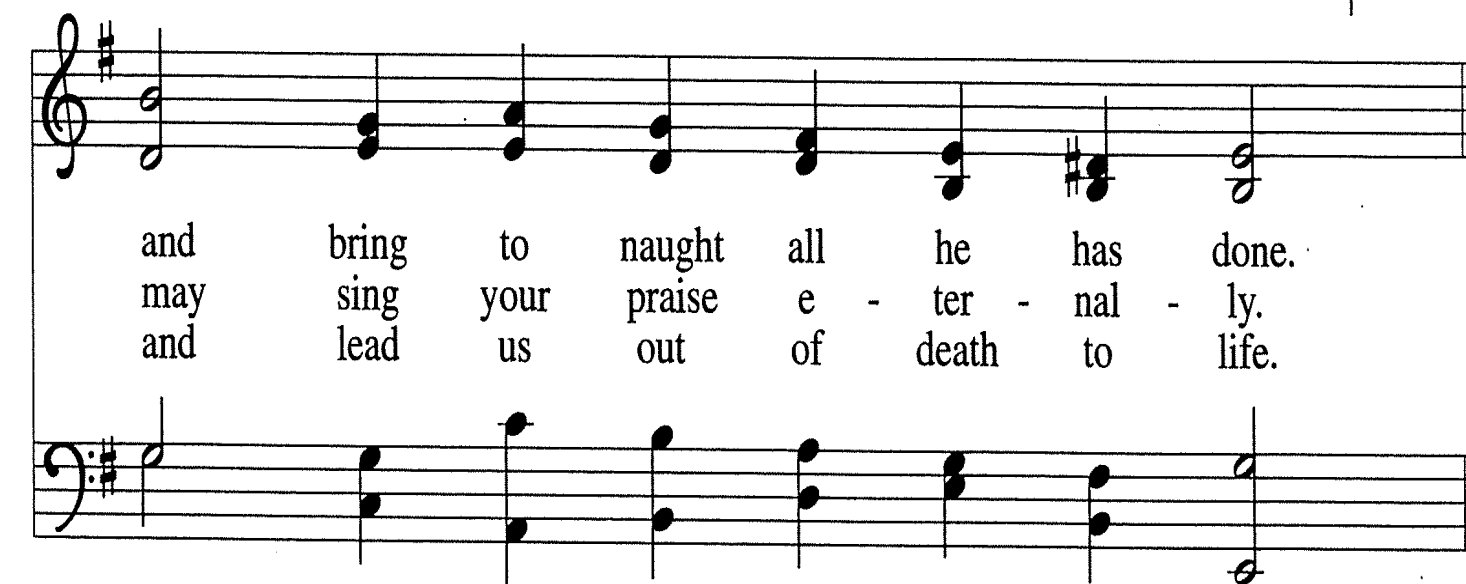
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word 517



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.