

FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

**YOU ALSO BE READY, BECAUSE
THE SON OF MAN IS COMING AT
AN HOUR WHEN YOU ARE NOT
EXPECTING HIM.**

LUKE 12:40

Last Sunday of the Church Year

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

WELCOME



Worship Series: Cause/Effect

November 23, 2025

“Every why hath a wherefore.” That was Shakespeare’s poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect.

Today’s Focus: Scripture/Anticipation

The Church has marked the passing of yet another Church Year, waiting for its Lord to return. How long will we have to wait and watch for Jesus to return? We do not know. Jesus said he would return soon. However, the definition of “soon” for the One who has no beginning or end will naturally differ from ours. Whenever Jesus returns, it will take us by surprise. So, how do believers avoid growing lethargic? How do we remain ready and watchful for Christ’s return? Our Savior points us to his Scriptures.

The promises Jesus has made us this past year—promises that give us comfort and hope and purpose— were not merely spoken. Jesus ensured those promises were written down in Scripture. As we see in Scripture all the promises that Christ has fulfilled, there is discernable effect. The Spirit creates within us an eager anticipation regarding the Scriptural promises that are as-of-yet unfilled. While we cannot be certain when the day of fulfillment will come, we are completely confident of what that day will bring. No matter how many years we must mark, we watch with eager anticipation, and we pray, “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt

Organist: Ben Warmuth | **Elder:** Jacob Pelas

Altar Guild: Helen Hacht & Gail Michnay | **Projectionist:** Margie Smith

Opening Hymn

639 God Has Spoken by His Prophets



1 God has spo - ken by his proph-ets, spo - ken his un - chang - ing Word,
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
3 God is speak - ing by his Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain,



each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the right - eous Lord.
bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, with the Fa - ther ev - er one;
in the age - less Word de - clar - ing his own mes - sage, now as then.



In the world's de - spair and tur - moil one firm an - chor holds us fast:
spo - ken by the Word in - car - nate, God from God, be - fore time was;
Thro' the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith is stand - ing fast:



God is King, his throne e - ter - nal, God the first and God the last.
Light from Light, to earth de - scend - ing, he re - veals our God to us.
God a - bides, his Word un - chang - ing, God the first and God the last.

Text: George W. Briggs, 1875–1959, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879
Text: © 1953, ren. 1981 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282
Tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: EWING

1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;

for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.

Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,

we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Glory to God in the Highest'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Below the first staff, there are two verses of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics 'for God has shown his favor in Jesus' holy birth! extend to us your mercy and hear us as we pray.' The third staff continues with 'Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring; With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,'. The fourth staff concludes with 'we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King. you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!'.

Tune: Alexander C. Ewing Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House, Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282 Tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; 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

Habakkuk 1:1–3; 2:1-4

The LORD instructs the prophet Habakkuk to write down what he was about to hear God say. That revelation empowered God's people to anticipate God's deliverance.

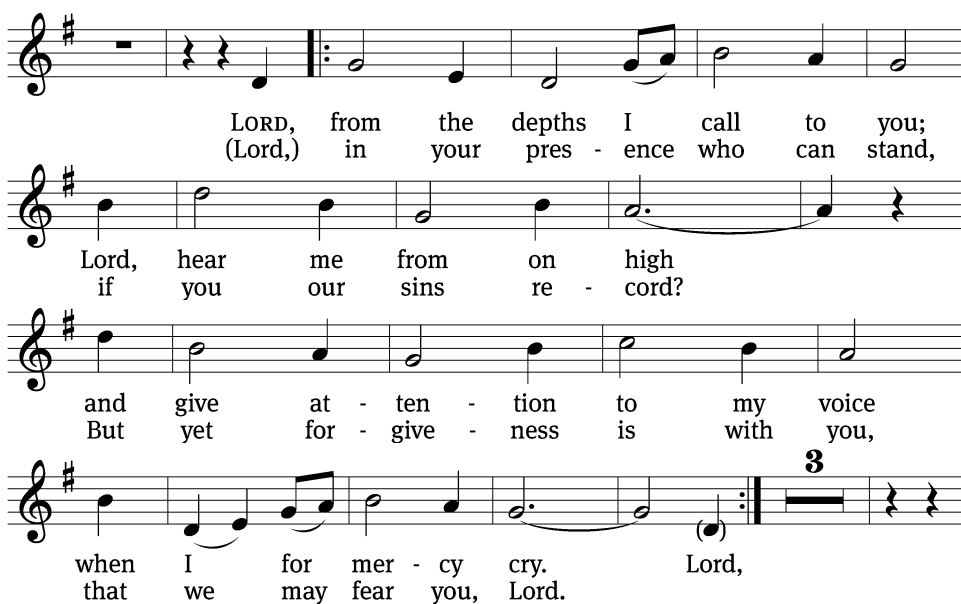
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

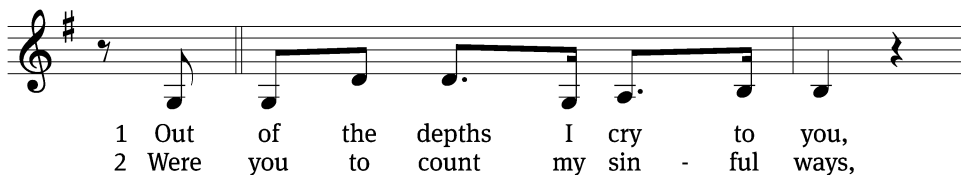
Psalm 130

Intro

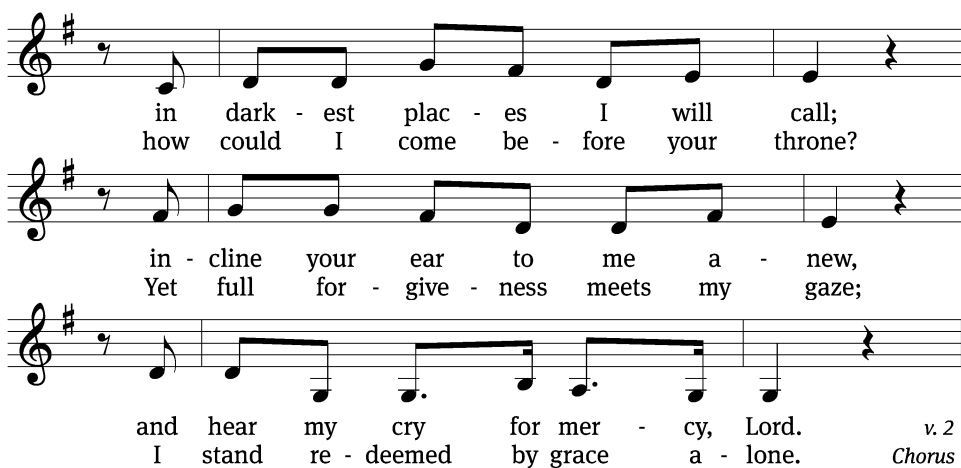


LORD, from the depths I call to you;
(Lord,) in your pres - ence who can stand,
Lord, hear me from on high
if you our sins re - cord?
and give at - ten - tion to my voice
But yet for - give - ness is with you,
when I for mer - cy cry. Lord,
that we may fear you, Lord.

Verse



1 Out of the depths I cry to you,
2 Were you to count my sin - ful ways,



in dark - est plac - es I will call;
how could I come be - fore your throne?

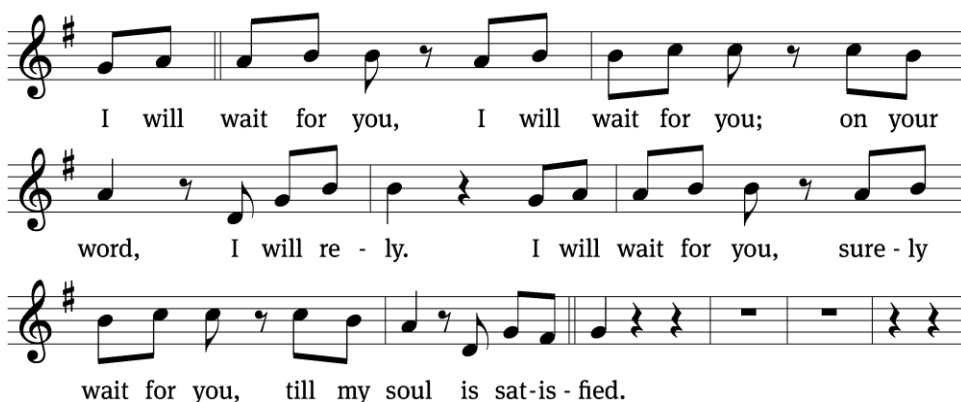
in - cline your ear to me a - new,
Yet full for - give - ness meets my gaze;

and hear my cry for mer - cy, Lord.
I stand re - deemed by grace a - lone.

v. 2

Chorus

Chorus



I will wait for you, I will wait for you; on your
word, I will re - ly. I will wait for you, sure - ly
wait for you, till my soul is sat-is - fied.

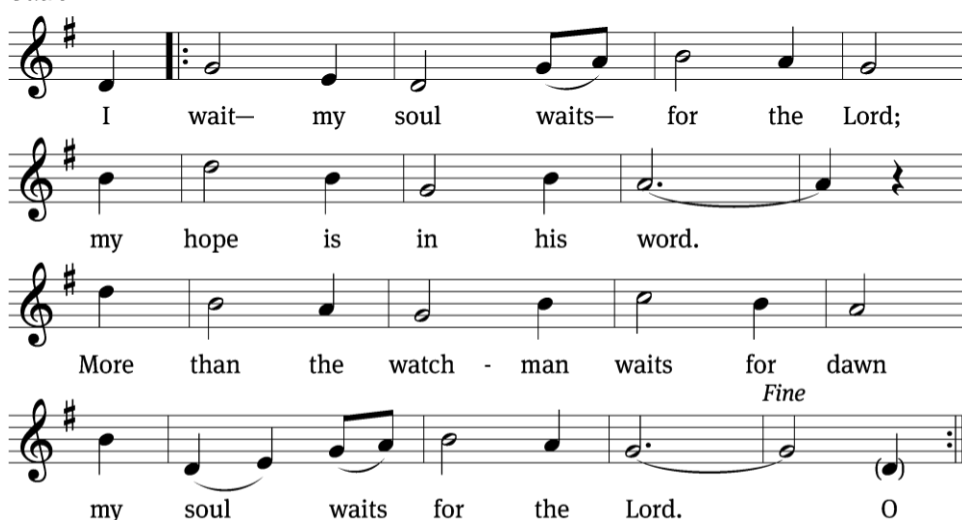
- 3 So put your hope in God alone;
take courage in his pow'r to save—
completely and forever won
by Christ emerging from the grave. (Chorus)
- 4 Now he has come to make a way,
and God himself has paid the price,
that all who trust in him today
find healing in his sacrifice. (Chorus/Final Chorus)

Final Chorus



I will wait for you, I will wait for you; through the
storm and through the night. I will wait for you, sure-ly
wait for you, for your love is my de-light.

Outro



I wait— my soul waits— for the Lord;
my hope is in his word.
More than the watch - man waits for dawn
my soul waits for the Lord. O

Second Reading

Revelation 22:6–13

Christ is coming soon. In the meantime, in eager anticipation, we hold onto and make known what God has revealed in his Word.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

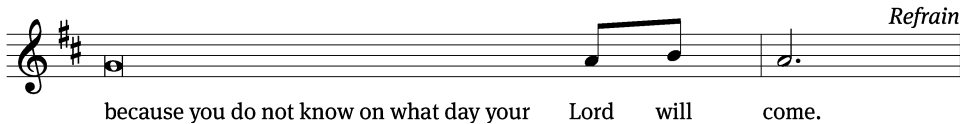
Matthew 24:42



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

Gospel

Luke 12:35–40

Though we cannot know when Jesus will return, we can be certain what will happen when he does. So, we watch and wait with anticipation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day 487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee



once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 those who set at naught and sold him,
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
 wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Sermon

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

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.

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

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who preserves his Church to the end of time, when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Tune: William Gokelmar; David Kauffman
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my $\dagger$ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my $\dagger$ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second staff begins with the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The third staff continues with 'world; have mer - cy on us.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the third staff.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us, grant us peace.

Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman
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Distribution Hymn

823 Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, fount of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In thine arms I rest me; foes who would op - press me
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; death, I now de - cry thee;
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,
 5 Hence, all fear and sad - ness! For the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me. Ah, how long in an - guish
 can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
 fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!
 Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther,



shall my spir - it lan - guish, yearn - ing, Lord, for thee?
 ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
 nor thy threats a - larm me while I sing of peace.
 Naught to me thy sto - ry told with tempt - ing voice.
 though the storms may gath - er, still have peace with - in.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
 Light - nings flash and thun - ders crash; yet, though sin and
 God's great pow'r guards ev - 'ry hour; earth and all its
 Pain or loss or shame or cross shall not from my
 Yea, what - e'er I here must bear, thou art still my



naught to hide thee; naught I ask be - side thee.
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 depths a - dore him, si - lent bow be - fore him.
 Sav - ior move me since he deigns to love me.
 pur - est plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 4–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 3): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

868 By Faith



1 By faith we see the hand of God
2 By faith our fa - thers roamed the earth
3 By faith the proph - ets saw a day



in the light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign,
with the pow'r of his prom - ise in their hearts,
when the longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear



in the lives of those who prove his faith - ful - ness,
of a ho - ly cit - y built by God's own hand,
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death



who walk by faith and not by sight. v. 2
a place where peace and jus - tice reign. *Refrain*
and rise tri - um - phant from the grave. v. 4



We will stand as chil - dren of the prom - ise; we will fix our



eyes on him, our soul's re - ward. Till the race is fin - ished and the



work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

- 4 By faith the church was called to go
in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in ev'ry corner of the earth. (Refrain)
- 5 By faith this mountain shall be moved
and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,
for we know in Christ all things are possible
for all who call upon his name. (Refrain)

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; arr. Ruth N. Coleman, b. 1953
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Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent
your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have
given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not
forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we
willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

834 Still, My Soul, Be Still



1 Still, my soul, be still and do not fear though winds of
 2 Still, my soul, be still; do not be moved by less - er
 3 Still, my soul, be still; do not for - sake the truth you



change may rage to - mor - row. God is at your side;
 lights and fleet - ing shad - ows. Hold on to his ways
 learned in the be - gin - ning. Wait up-on the Lord



no long - er dread the fires of un - ex - pect - ed sor - row.
 with shield of faith a - gainst temp - ta - tion's flam - ing ar - rows.
 and hope will rise as stars ap - pear when day is dim - ming.

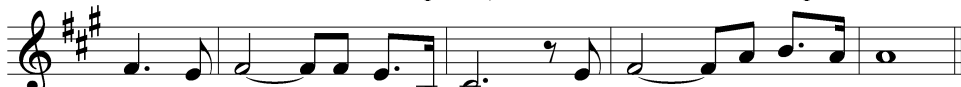
Refrain



God, you are my God, and I will trust in you and not be



shak - en. Lord of peace, re - new a stead - fast spir - it with - in



me to rest in you a - lone, to rest in you a - lone.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
 Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Stuart Townend; arr. Ruth N. Coleman, b. 1953
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Setting Three from Christian Worship

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

Worship | 9:00am

1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Worship with Lord's Supper | 6:30pm

OUR STAFF

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OUR MISSION

As a family of believers, the mission of First Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God by growing in the faith of our Savior Jesus Christ and by sharing the good news of His Word with others.

OUR INVITATION

It is a privilege for us to share with you the assurance Jesus offers about how imperfect people like us can enjoy a right relationship with our holy Creator.

Our church services are designed to be Christ-centered worship and include three main elements: God speaks to us in His Word, we respond with praises and prayers, and we encourage each other.

We are eager to have you learn more about the Triune God and about our church. If you are looking for a spiritual family in which you can be at home, please speak with our pastor.