

FIRST LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

*Love the Lord your God,
walk in his ways,
and keep his commandments,
his statutes, and his ordinances.*

DEUTERONOMY 30:16

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

WELCOME



Worship Series: Wounds that Heal

September 7, 2025

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

“Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem” (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Today's Focus: Count the Cost

This week Jesus' sharp words expose our desire to pursue comfort and avoid pain at all costs. Jesus explains that following him will be hard. Jesus' disciples will be called to let go of things they love and embrace things we naturally loathe. Jesus promises that discipleship comes with crosses—a unique type of pain. So, Jesus tells us that we must count the cost of following him. He wants us to do that now, ahead of time, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment and emotions are running high. However, our calculations must not only consider what we might give up for Jesus. They also entail calculating what we get through him! When we perceive the infinite blessings we find in Christ, the decisions we just make, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever is lost as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt | **Accompanist:** Robert Joseph

Elder: Jerry Thompson | **Altar Guild:** Gail Michnay | **Projectionist:** Spencer Sonnemann

Opening Hymn

631 Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening



1 Speak, O Sav - ior, I am lis - t'ning, as a ser - vant
 2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you and to lis - ten
 3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing where I quench my
 4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or
 to your voice; let me ev - er love and fear you,
 thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;
 me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



to your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, that each day, my whole life
 let your Word still be my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,
 on your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will be my
 that I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing your



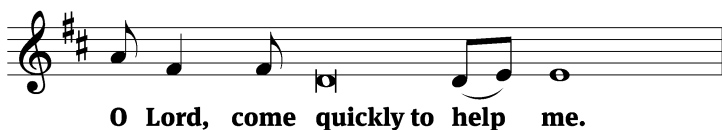
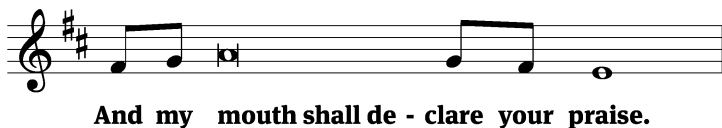
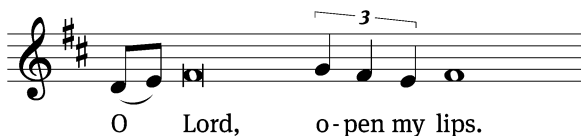
through, I may serve and fol - low you. Let your Word e'er
 Lord, flee in ter - ror at your Word; but to all who
 light thro' death's cold and drear - y night; yes, they are my
 praise, from my heart glad an - thems raise, till my high - est



be my plea - sure and my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.
 feel sin's bur - den you give peace and words of par - don.
 sword pre - vail - ing and my cup of joy un - fail - ing.
 praise is giv - en in the end - less joy of heav - en.

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–1683; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (sts. 2–3): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
 Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667
 Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Sentences



Tune: Marty Haugen
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Come, O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

Pastor will sing the verses. The congregation will sing the refrains.

Refrain





let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,



come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a won - drous God,

2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,




Refrain

you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

Text: Marty Haugen
Text and tune: © 1995, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

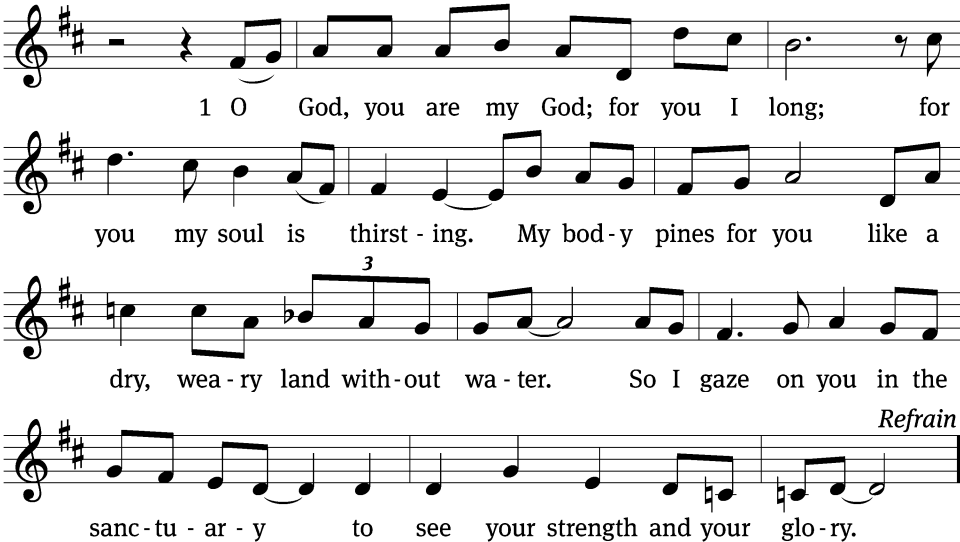
Psalm 63

Refrain



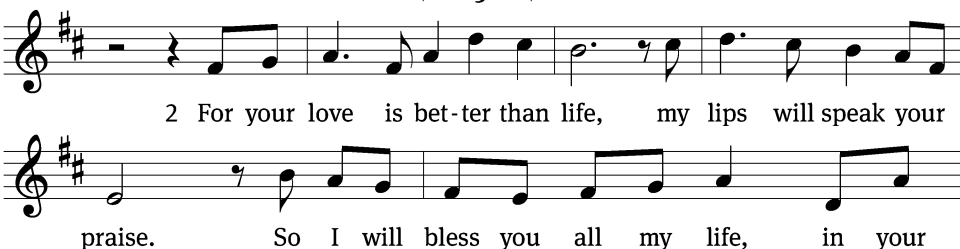
In the morn-ing I will sing, I will
sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to
you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

Verse



1 O God, you are my God; for you I long; for
you my soul is thirst-ing. My bod-y pines for you like a
dry, wea-ry land with-out wa-ter. So I gaze on you in the
sanc-tu-ar-y to see your strength and your glo-ry.

Verse



2 For your love is bet-ter than life, my lips will speak your
praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your

name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a
ban-quet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.

Verse

3 On my bed I re-mem-ber you. On you I
muse through the night, for you have been my help; in the
shad-ow of your wings I re-joice. My soul clings to
you; your right hand holds me fast.

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First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Prior to settling within the Promised Land, the LORD wants his people to calculate carefully the choice between life and death.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 92

Refrain



LORD, it is good, LORD, it is good,

LORD, it is good to give thanks to you.

Tone



It is good to / praise the LORD
and make music to your name, / O Most High,
proclaiming your love in the / morning
and your faithful- / ness at night,
to the music of the / ten-stringed lyre
and the melody / of the harp. *Refrain*

For you make me glad by your / deeds, LORD;
I sing for joy at what your / hands have done.
How great are your / works, LORD,
how pro- / found your thoughts!
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Tune: Tony Alonso
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Second Reading

Philemon 1,7–21

The case of the escaped slave, Onesimus, returning to his owner, Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost in following Jesus. Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 14:25–35

Jesus teaches us that following him closely will come at a cost.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and
 fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on
 Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
 scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
 winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own
 earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
 not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,
 all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is
 God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and
 you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and
 swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to
 my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!
 friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.
 clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.
 heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

You Are God; We Praise You

Congregation will sing opening refrain, bolded words in each verse, and the refrain after each verse.

Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you. To

to Verses



you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.



praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.



- 1 With the an - gels in heav - en, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 2 Cre - a - tor of all things, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 3 O — Christ, King of glo - ry, **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, **we praise you, we praise you!**

O — Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, **we praise you, we praise you!**

You be - came a man to set us free; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With a - pos - tles and proph - ets, **we praise you, we praise you!**

O — Spir - it, most ho - ly, **we praise you, we praise you!**

You have ris - en to free us; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the mar - tyrs and your ho - ly Church, **we sing in end - less praise!**

To the Trin - i - ty most bless - ed, **we sing in end - less praise!**

And with all your saints in glo - ry, **we sing in end - less praise!**

Installation of Elders, School Board, & Sunday School Teachers

Offering

WELS Connection

Lord, Have Mercy

In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you; be
mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer
Tune: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130002372

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.

Prayer of the Day

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Prayer for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.

Benedicamus



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

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Blessing



The Lord bless and keep you.



A - men.



The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



A - men.



The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



A - men.

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Closing Hymn 617 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all



crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;



praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer (alternate) 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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Principal Stephen Kamps
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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.