

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*July 26, 2026*

# WELCOME

*A warm welcome to visitors who join us today to worship our Risen Lord!  
We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today.  
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

*Children are always welcome at worship.*

*If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery available for parents and their children  
on the second floor in the education wing. Take the first left down the hallway, and  
the nursery is the first door on your right.*

*Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices  
for today's worship are available.  
Please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST July 26 – August 2

|                  |           |                             |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 9:30 a.m. | Worship Orchestra Sunday    |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 9:30 a.m. | LWR Quilters                |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 9:30 a.m. | Worship with Holy Communion |

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,  
**we confess to you all our sins.**  
**Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.**  
**In your mercy, call us back to you.**  
**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**  
**Restore us to dwell in your peace.**  
**In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

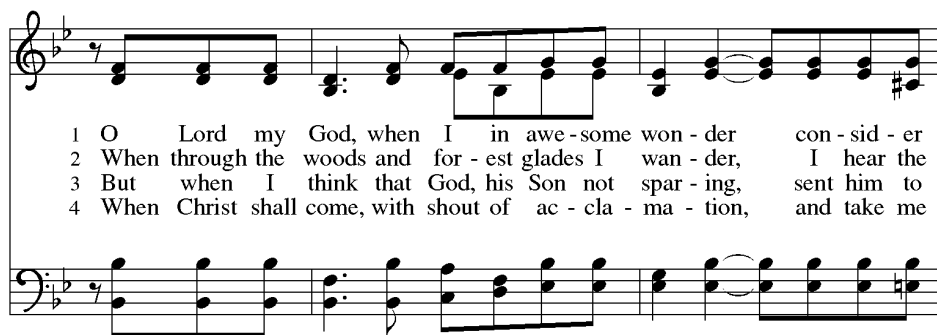
Jesus says, "Come to me,  
all you who are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,  
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

# How Great Thou Art

Text: Carl G. Boberg, Stuart K. Hine

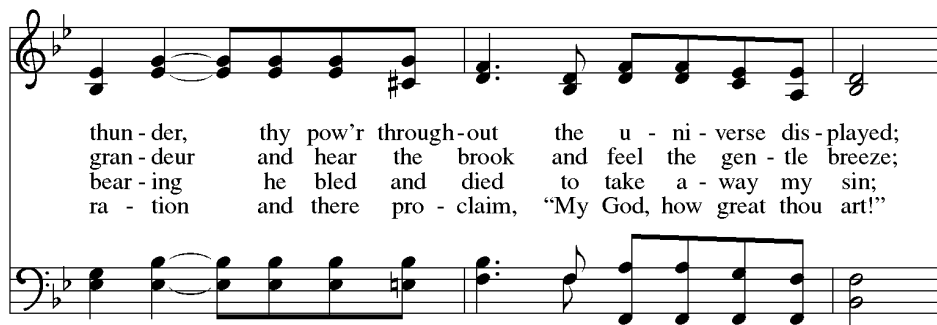
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to  
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



*Refrain*  
Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to  
thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## KYRIE

- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# WORD

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING

**1 Kings 3:5-12**

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup> And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 119:129-136

- <sup>129</sup> Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- <sup>130</sup> **When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**
- <sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.
- <sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**
- <sup>133</sup> Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- <sup>134</sup> **Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**
- <sup>135</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.
- <sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

## SECOND READING

## Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup> The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

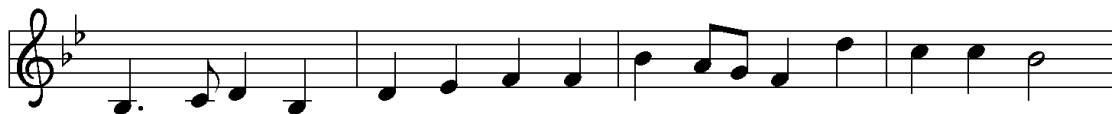
<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

*Following the sermon, silence is kept to reflect upon God’s message.*

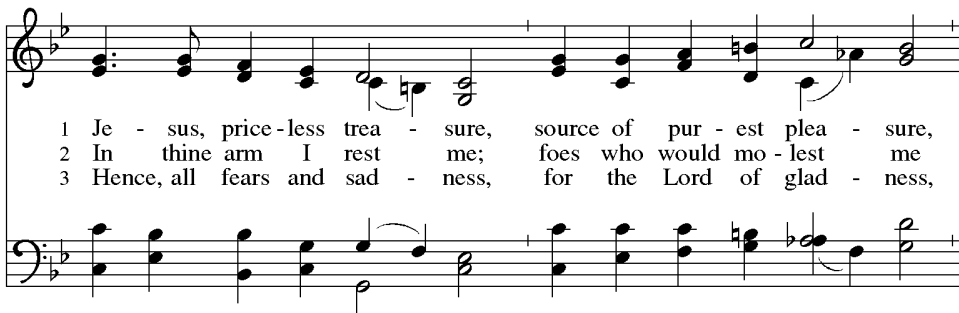
## PASTORAL PRAYER

*Following the prayer, please stand as you are able.*

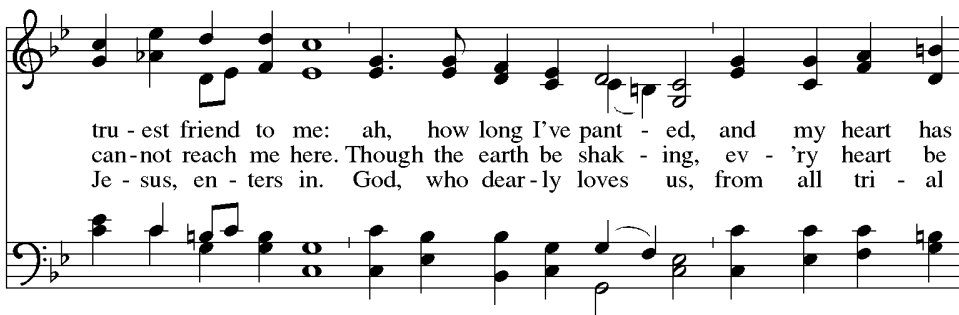
# Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Text: Johann Franck; tr. Catherine Winkworth

Music: JESU, MEINE FREUDE, Johann Crüger



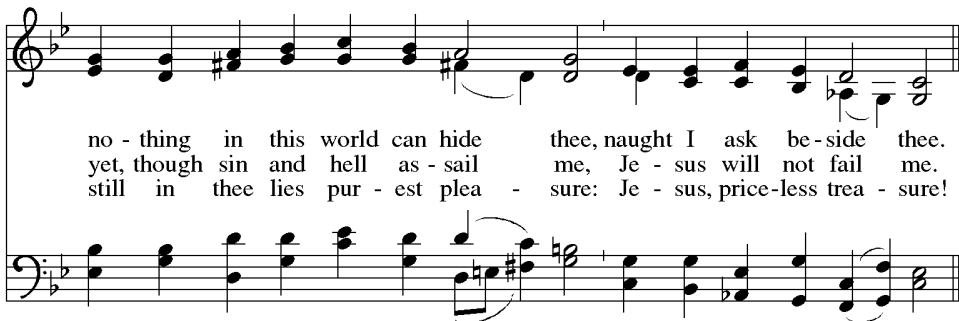
1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,  
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me  
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



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!

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. The assembly is seated.*

## OUR RESPONSE

### GATHERING OF GIFTS

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church,  
including the care of those in need. Online giving is  
available at [felcc.org](http://felcc.org) or by scanning this QR code.*

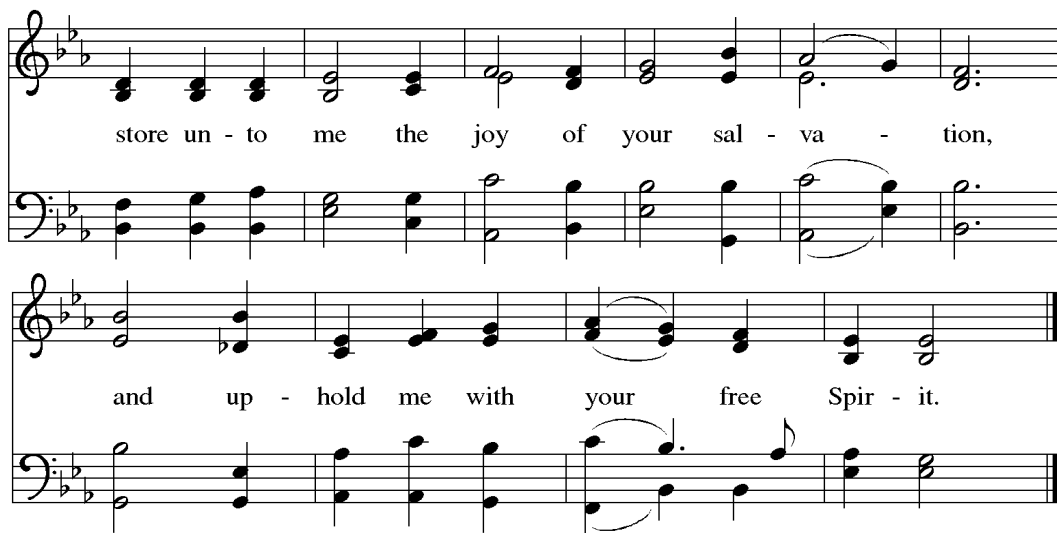


**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *Please stand as you are able.*

### OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The music features a mix of whole, half, and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.



## OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can see your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**SENDING**

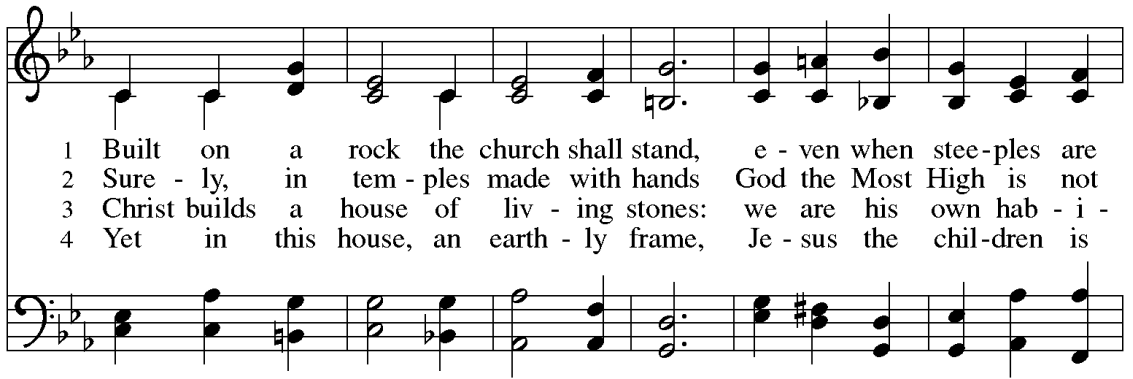
### **BLESSING**

May Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever more.

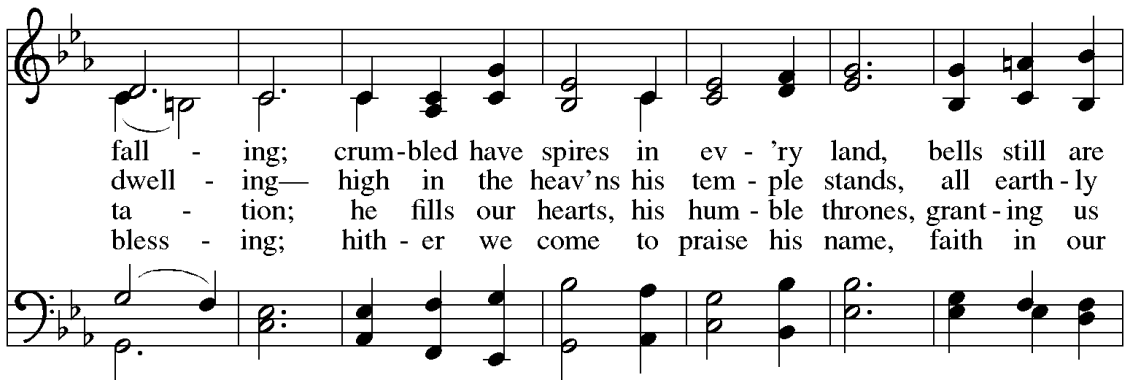
**Amen.**

# Built on a Rock

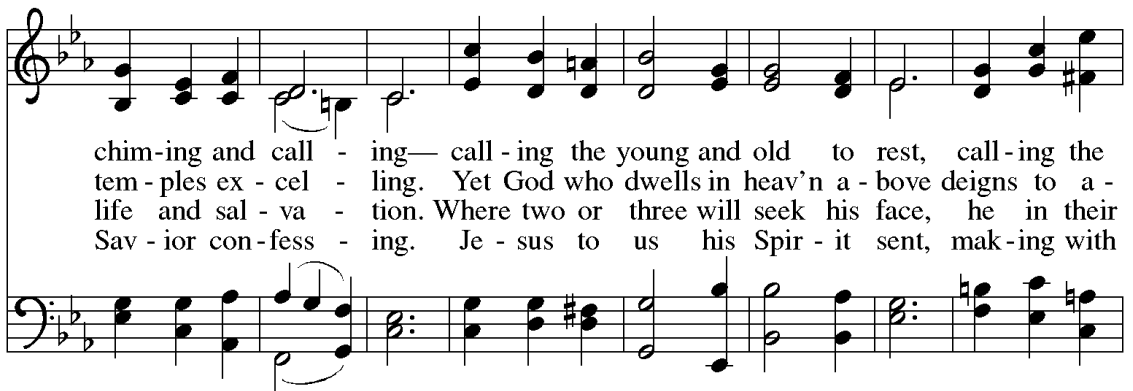
Text: Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig; tr. Carl Doving Music: Ludvig M. Lindeman



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
 grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
 many may come to hear your Word,  
 who here this promise is bringing:  
 “I know my own, my own know me;  
 you, not the world, my face shall see;  
 my peace I leave with you. Amen.”

## DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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***Please remember in your prayers ...***

Healing: Healing: Cathy Beam (8/15), **Marcia Hunt** (8/6), **Don Mayer** (8/6), **Bill Nienstedt** (7/30), **Kristy Nienstedt** (7/30).



Grieving: Family and Friends of Connie Wilkins

Continuing Prayers: Madeline Artman, **Joanne Caskey**, **June Diehl**, **Harold Forrester**, **Charles Kampmeyer**, **Dalton Paul**, **Julie Paul**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, **Hunter Boock**, Derek Haugh

**ATTENDANCE**    July 19       50 in person       9 online

**BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT HELP** If you are helping with the Back to School event, please meet at 1:00 p.m. on August 7 in the Fellowship Hall to help set up.

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS** It's the time of year to gather items for our school kits and layettes. The following are needed: crayons (boxes of 16/24), blue or black ink pens (no gel), blunt scissors, and notebooks (sheets of 70). A list of items and a collection box is outside the office. Items need to be collected by October 1.

**BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT** Join us on Saturday, August 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. as we distribute socks and underwear to elementary age young people in our community. Please contact Mary Beth Warne McGraw at 717-372-8282 to let her know of your interest.



**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS** Our WELCA members put together Personal Care Kits to send to LWR each year. With the help of an Action Team Grant from Thrivent our goal this year is to put 100 health kits together. A health kit consists of a bath towel, sturdy comb, nail clipper, two bars of soap and an adult toothbrush. We are asking members of First to contribute

4 oz. bars of soap and toothbrushes. On Sunday, September 13 our youth and church members will assemble these health kits in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. We are hoping everyone can help with this project.



**VENEZUELA HELP** Two powerful earthquakes have struck Venezuela. Countless families are without shelter, safety or access to necessities. Lutheran Disaster Response is responding through long-standing partners in the region including the Lutheran World Federation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela. These partners are working to identify urgent needs, and coordinate a plan for long-term assistance. To contribute financially to these efforts, make a check payable to First Lutheran and write Venezuela on the memo line or the envelope and place in the offering plate. Or you are welcome to send the check directly so it arrives sooner. In that case make checks payable to: Lutheran Disaster Response; P.O. Box 1809; Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Thank you for your care.

**STAINED GLASS GIVING** Work is completed on the stained glass windows. Gifts to help cover the cost are still appreciated. Thank you to those who have given generously.



**MINI GOLF SCRAMBLE** Join Christians in central PA to support Hogar Miguel Orphanage in Guatemala. (Associated with Tree-4-Hope). The scramble will be fun for all ages and abilities including children. It is being held on Saturday, August 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Challenge Family Fun Center located at 366 Middletown Rd. Hummelstown, PA. This family-friendly event is a fun twist on the traditional golf scramble and is designed for everyone. Participants will enjoy a day of mini golf, fellowship, lunch, and a chance to win some great prizes. Scan the QR code to register.



**STREET CLOSURE** Washington Street will be closed between First Lutheran Parking Lot entrance and Southgate traffic light for an extended period.

**SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network)** Working with the social workers of the school district, SCAN volunteers fill emergency requests for clothing and school supplies. When a request is received, it is assigned to volunteers to acquire the necessary items, either through purchase or donation. When requests are received the need is urgent. The children involved are in crisis situations—domestic upheaval, homelessness, unexpected relocations. Please contact Tim or Mary: 717-264-4759, 717-491-0611, [tim@gotwald.org](mailto:tim@gotwald.org), [mary@gotwald.org](mailto:mary@gotwald.org)  
Thank you for considering.



|                          | <b><u>July 26</u></b>            | <b><u>August 2</u></b>                     | <b><u>August 9</u></b> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Lector:                  | Gary Fleegal                     | Joyce Ray                                  | Rose Wilson            |
| Communion<br>Assistants: |                                  | Karen Sloan<br>Gerry Wilson<br>Rose Wilson |                        |
| Greeters:                | Gary Kennedy<br>Marianne Kennedy | Becky Hoover                               | Becky Hoover           |
| Altar Guild:             | Barb Evans                       | Barb Evans                                 | Barb Evans             |
| Ushers:                  | Volunteers                       | Volunteers                                 | Volunteers             |



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717-264-2015

Pastor  
Pastoral Assistant  
Director of Church Music  
Parish Administrator  
Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
Technical Lead  
Custodian

The Rev. Jane Nicholson  
The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer  
Freda J. Dorand, Deacon  
Ashley Hessong  
Sally Herritt  
Carol McCoy  
Daniel Worcester  
Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**We welcome visitors this morning.**

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps.  
at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

**Our Mission**

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus,  
burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

**Worship Schedule**

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
and on our webpage at [www.FELCC.org](http://www.FELCC.org)

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus,  
and to worship with us.