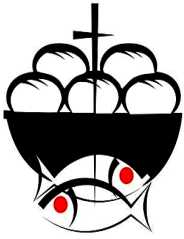


FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado
(303) 776-2800 | www.firstluth.org
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen



Ordinary Time

23rd Sunday After Pentecost
Commitment Sunday
Sunday, November 16, 2025
9:30 a.m.

We welcome you to worship!
Please fill out the blue worship card and place it in the offering plate later in the service.

GATHERING



PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

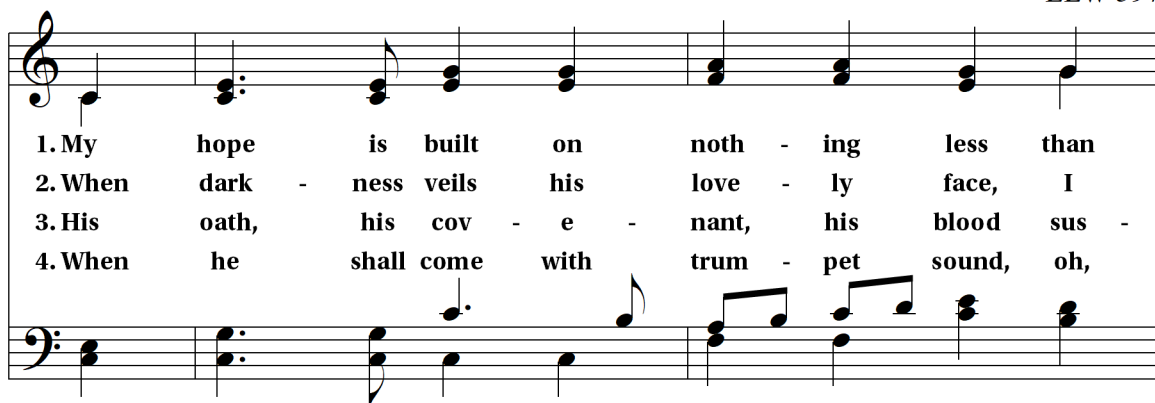
you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life.

Amen.

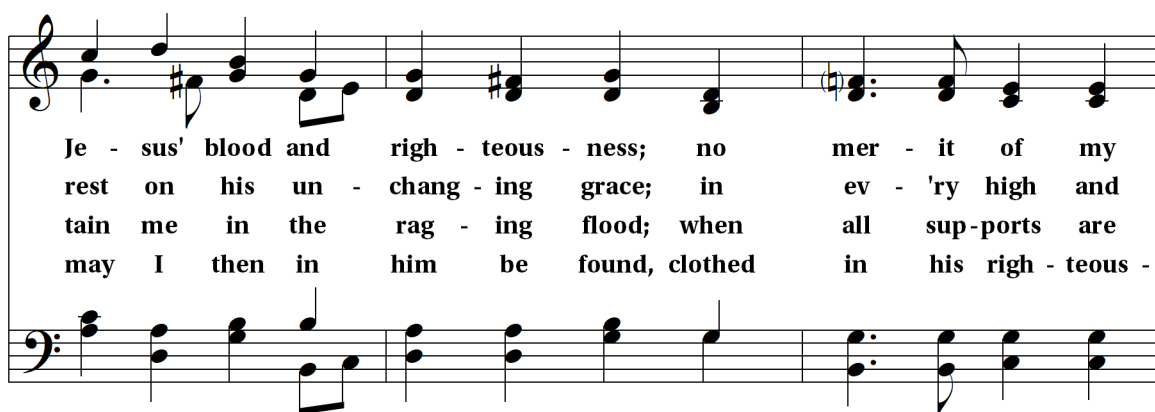
Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597



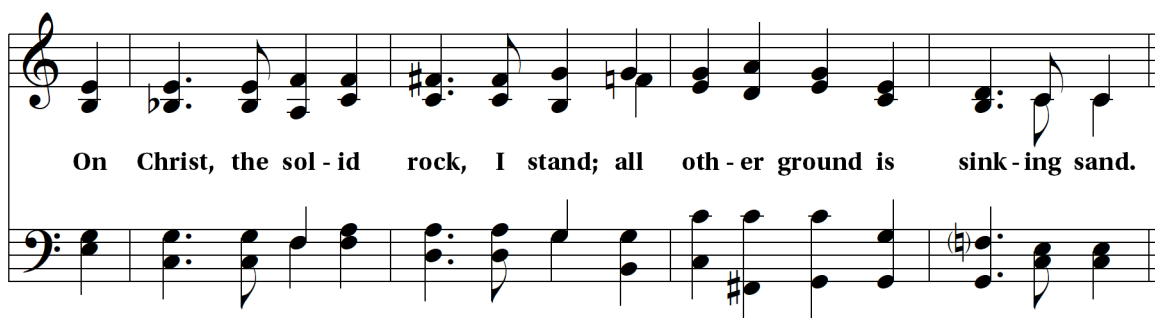
1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gail my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne.



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANTHEM

"Toccata in D Minor"

Jeffrey Hartmann

WORD

READINGS

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

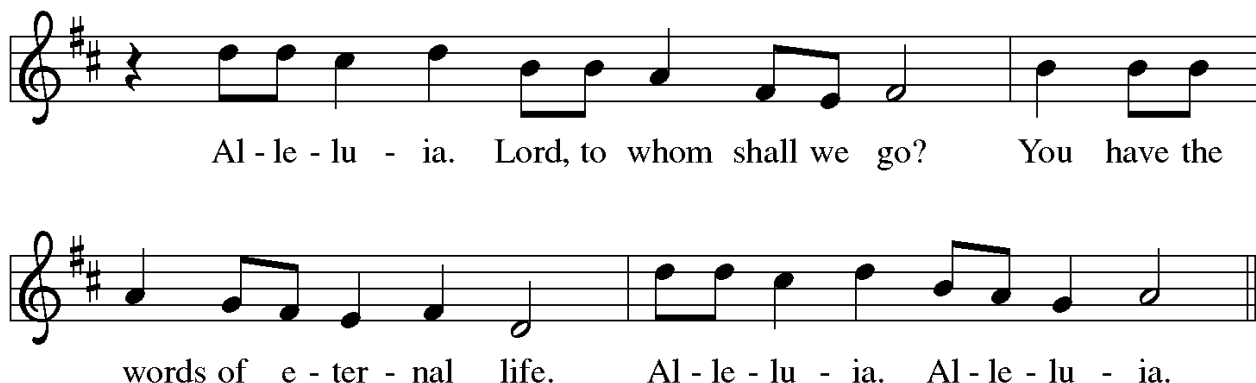
Philippians 4:4-9

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 14th chapter beginning at the 13th verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 14:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Garrett Struessel

LITANY FOR OFFERING OF COMMITMENT CARDS

See Insert

Litany for Offering of Commitment Cards

November 16, 2025

P. Let us pray. Almighty God, by your holy word, all that we know has come into existence: our universe, our world, our lives, our loved ones, and all that we have and hold so dear. By your holy word, you have called us together to be a Church of love and service in the world.

C. By your holy word, we know that we live in grace and hope. Keep us ever close to your word, that it might be written upon our hearts. Help us to grow in faith and love toward you and toward one another, so that we might always live in trust and hope. Center us in routines that keep us close to

you, O Lord.

P. Lord of heaven and earth, we benefit from your generosity, creativity, grace, love, and forgiveness. Lead us Lord, to respond to your love.

C. By your word, O Lord, guide our lives, forgive our sins, inspire our thoughts, shape our attitudes, lighten our darkness, give us eternal hope, and fill our hearts with joy, assuring us of your constant presence, until we are united on the one great banquet feast of love.

P. Accept, O God, this response to your generosity, as we offer tokens of our love and commitment which we bring forward today. By your word of blessing and grace, may they blossom forth as leaves on a tree, as flowers in our hearts, as blessings in your kingdom, as joy in Jesus Christ.

C. Amen

(At this time, people may bring their Pledge Cards forward and place them in the baskets before the altar.)

THE APOSTLE'S 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 THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

God of healing and hope,

you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

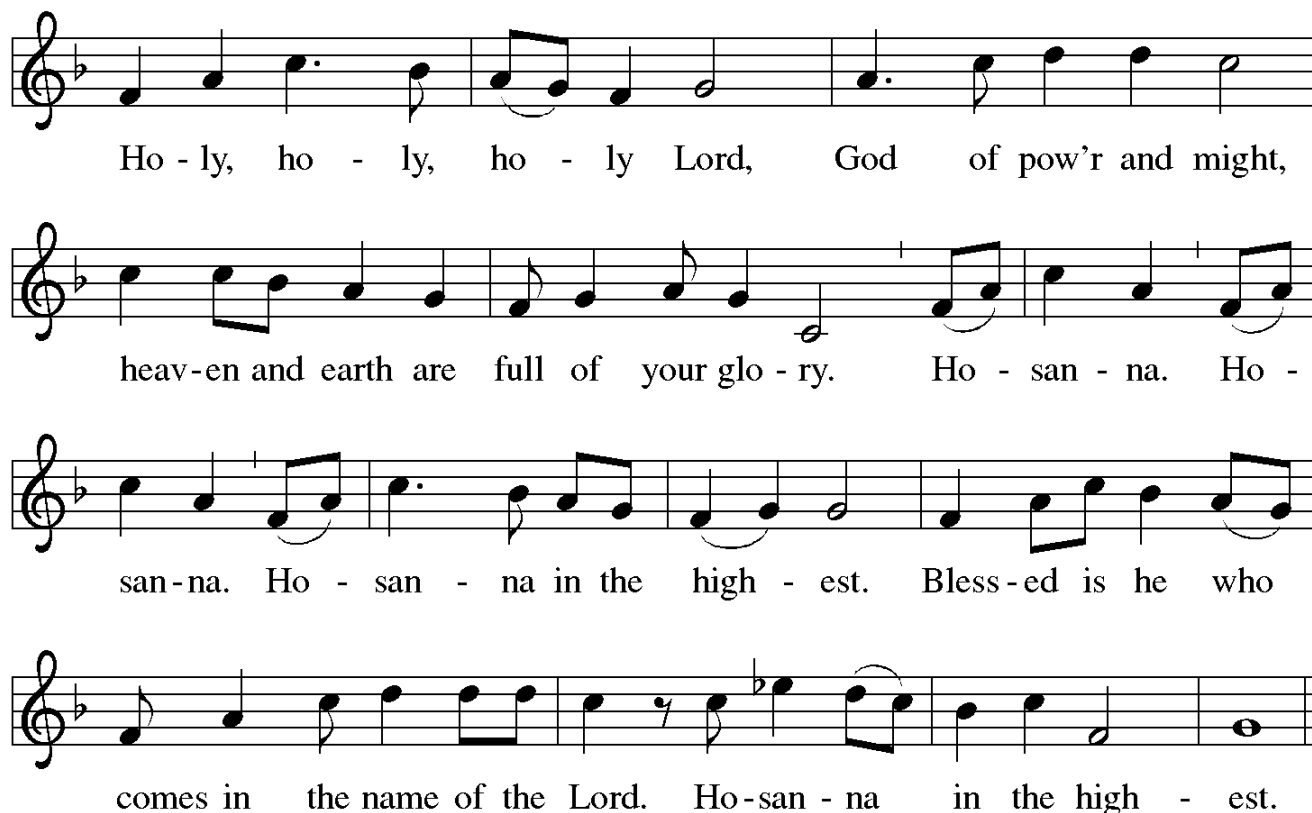
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the second measure. The third and fourth staves are continuous. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures.

Page 144

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. 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 in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

SHARING OF COMMUNION (for those of you at home)

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear these words and partake of the bread/cracker and wine/juice, giving it to each other, if possible:

"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."

COMMUNION

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on

the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

Page 146

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 peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Abide with Me"
"Canticle of the Turning"
"How Firm a Foundation"

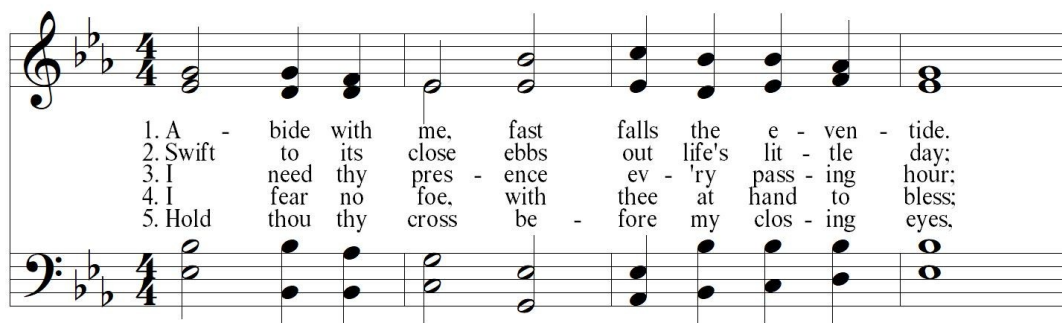
ELW 629

ELW 723

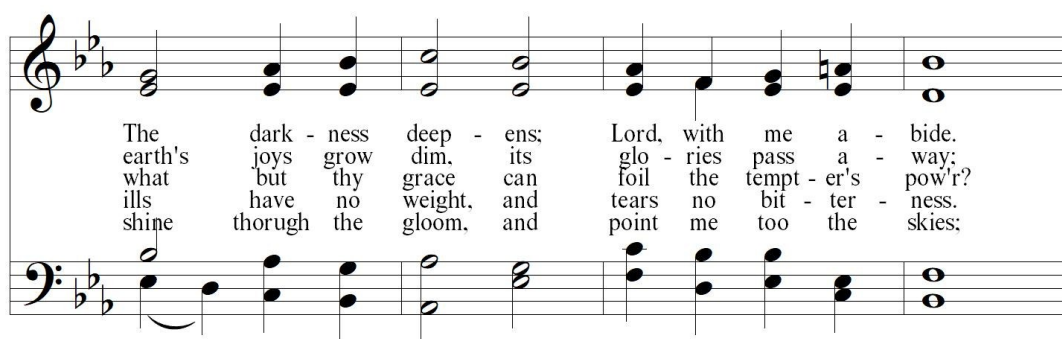
ELW 796

Abide with Me

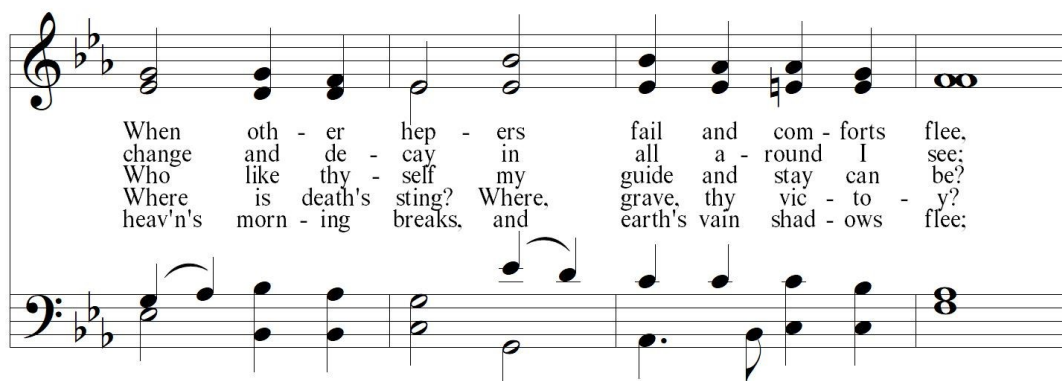
ELW 629



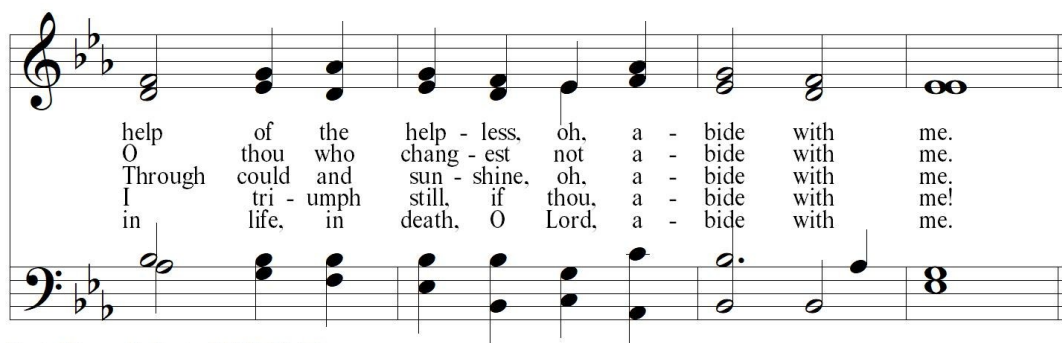
1. A - abide with me, fast ebbs falls the e - ven - tide.
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle - day;
 3. I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4. I fear thou thy foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes.



The earth's dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - abide.
 what joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ill shine through the gloom, and tears point no bit - ter - ness;
 the heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



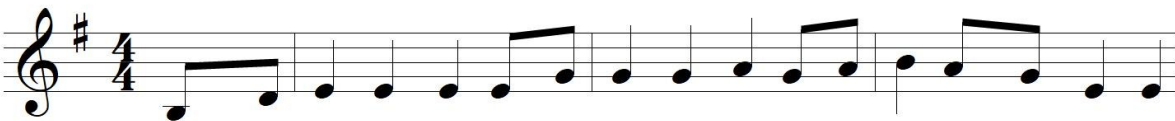
When oth - er hep - ers in fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in my all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self in my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - y?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



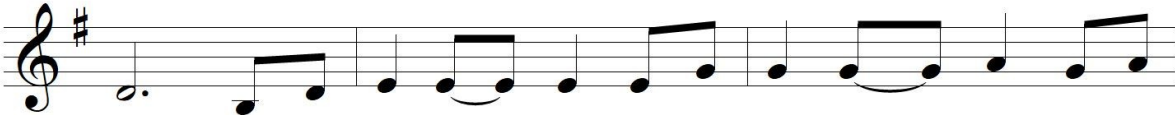
help of the help - less, oh, a - abide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - abide with me.
 Through could and sun - shine, oh, a - abide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou, a - abide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - abide with me.

Canticle of the Turning

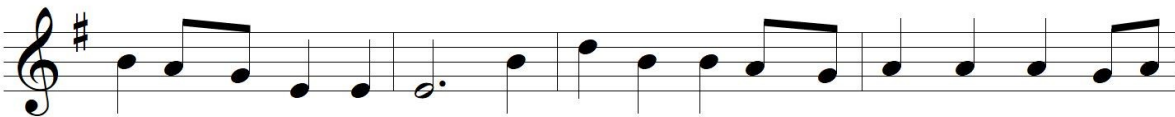
ELW 723



1. My soul cried out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in
 3. From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a stone will be left on
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us



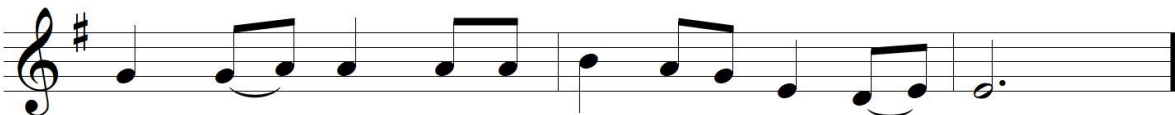
great, and my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you
 me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the
 stone. Let the king be ware for your jus - tice tears ev - 'ry
 fast God's mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the



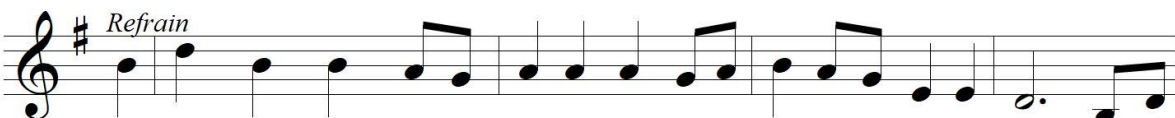
bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 end of the age to be. Your ve - ry name puts the proud to shame, and to
 ty - rant from his throne. The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



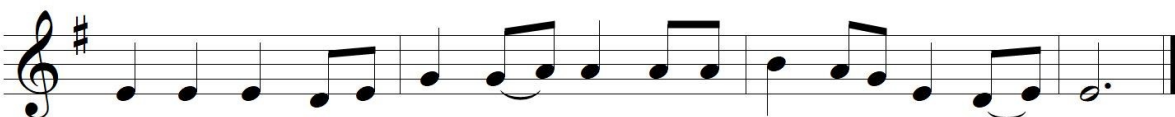
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can ne - ver earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -



way all tears, for the dawn draws near and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1953, based on the Magnificat

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

Music: Irish traditional

Irregular

Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796

1. How firm a foundation O satins of hte Lord, is
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed, for
 3. "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie, my
 4. "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove my

laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word! What
 I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll
 grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply. The
 sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love; and

more can he say tahn to you he has said who
 strength - en you, help you, and you casue he has said who
 flames - shal not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign up -
 then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn, your
 like

un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 dross to con - sume and your gold - to re - fine"
 lambs they shal still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: Early American

FOUNDATION
 11 11 11 11

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"When Peace Like a River"

ELW 785 vs. 1,3,4

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

1. When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 3. He lives oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4. Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil-lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well _____ with my soul, _____ it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,

WELCOME to Worship!

WELCOME to worship! We are so glad you are here!

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNS are available from the ushers.

KIDS WORSHIP BAGS are available to use during the church service. Pick one up in the narthex so they can enjoy looking through a children's Bible, coloring in the coloring pages, or playing with one of the toys. Kids worship bags are labeled according to age ranges. Please return the bags after service. Thank you for bringing your kids to church

ADDITIONAL PARKING is available in the Ahlberg Chapel parking lot, one-half block north of the church on Terry Street.

RESTROOMS are located on the upper level of the church, along the hallway leading to the Big Room. There are handicap accessible restrooms on the lower level near the elevator, and in the Big Room.

We love seeing you in worship!

Scan the QR Code for the Following!

View the Latest Sunday Bulletin



Preacher/Presider

The Rev. Garrett Struessel

Worship Assistant

Deacon Korra Looschen

Council Hosts

Amy Ley

John Oppenlander

Ushers

Holly Keenan

Mike Shiveley

Reader

Shannon Satur

Communion Assistants

Sally Campbell

Stephanie Nieuwlandt

Pianist/Organist

Jeffrey Hartmann