



*As you wait
for the
revealing
of our Lord
Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 1:3

**November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent
9:30 AM Worship**

First Lutheran Church
709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218
Washburn, North Dakota 58577
www.flcwashburn.com

PRELUDE AND BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GATHERING

P: Come, let us worship the Lord.

C: Let us wait and watch for the Messiah's return amongst us.

P: He will come in the clouds with power and glory.

C: He will gather the elect from the four winds and from all corners of the earth and heaven.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: The days are coming, says the Lord, when God's promises to Israel and Judah will be fulfilled. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. (Jeremiah 33:14)

C: Amen.

P: The Lord proclaimed, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." Let us take this time to examine ourselves, asking for forgiveness for the things which we have done that are not pleasing to the Lord and the things which we have neglected. (Malachi 3:1)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P: God of grace,

C: we confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. Prepare our hearts to follow Jesus in doing your holy will. Forgive us, we pray, and shape our lives according to the cross of Christ who has called us to walk in his ways. Restore us to a right relationship with you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: In the name of Jesus, God's only Son who came to do the will of his Father, you are forgiven. By Christ's holy sacrifice your sins are wiped clean and you are made right with our heavenly Father. Rejoice in this free gift and take it to heart.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for whom we wait, the love of the Father who will never let us go, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

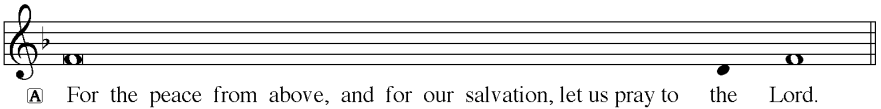
C: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC Kathy Farstad, Claudette Ness
Sue Winter, Rick Richard, Arden Wagner
"For the Beauty of the Earth"

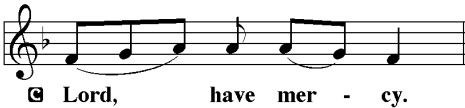
KYRIE



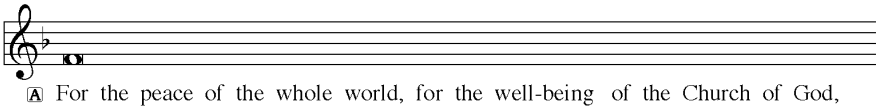
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



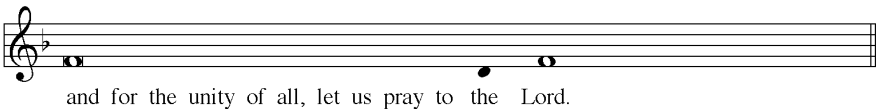
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



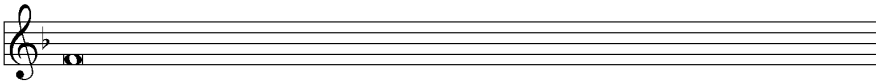
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Ⓒ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. Ⓒ A - men

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Read in Unison)

Gracious God, you are the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and end. May your Spirit kindle in us a spirit of readiness, that we might at all times and in all places be prepared for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING – Ava Schmidt Isaiah 64:1-9
(We have been in our sins for a long time. Then, when least expected—nor could we have expected it—God did something awesome and immense in scope. He acted for those who wait for him in hope of forgiveness. No one has ever imagined a God who meets with his people, though they are sinners (Matt 9:10; Rom 5:8).)

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence — ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

PSALM – Haylie Bentz.....Psalm 80:1-7
(God does not remain angry with his people forever. He will yet smile upon us and restore us. On that day, he will save us from ourselves—from our sin—and the laughter of our enemies will cease.)

¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth

² **before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**
Awaken your might;
come and save us.

³ Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

⁴ **How long, Lord God Almighty,**
will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

⁶ **You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,**
and our enemies mock us.

⁷ Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

SECOND READING – Grace Omlid 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
(As we await the coming of the Lord, he has equipped us with every gift needed to sustain us in our faithful expectancy. God is so faithful in this regard, that he will keep us guiltless on the great day of his appearing. We are made holy through Christ's holiness. Therefore, we are kept guiltless by this free gift of grace that God provides.)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37

(No one knows the day of Christ's returning. Jesus said that even he did not know when he would return. So, we should not be concerned with times and dates. Instead, our interest should be the same as Jesus' business (Luke 2:49). Until he does return, we should be alert and wakeful, doing the work of the gospel.)

²⁴{Jesus said,} “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC Orlin Larson
“The Little Mountain Church House”

SERMON Pastor Chuck Mann

SPECIAL MUSIC Kathy Farstad, Claudette Ness
Sue Winter, Rick Richard, Arden Wagner
“He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!”

The 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; 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.

We 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 worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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

Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us. May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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, for ever and ever. Amen

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

P: As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)

C: Amen.

HYMN On Insert
“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today’s Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

- PASTOR Pastor Chuck Mann
- ACOLYTES..... Justin Scheresky & Maeleigh Baumann
- READERS Ava Schmidt, Haylie Bentz, Grace Omlid
- ORGANIST LeAnn Richard
- USHERS/GREETERS Kris Schmidt Family
- ALTAR GUILD Carla Bickert & Sonja Bergstedt
- SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS Dick & Carla Bickert

Our Mission

“Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service.”

Welcome

We begin a new church year today with the first Sunday of Advent. We watch for Jesus’ advent, or coming, among us: his return on the last day, and his presence with us now. Welcome.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

Sunday, November 15th Attendance – 55

Facebook Online Viewing - 175

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$2,147.00

Prayer Requests

Joel Joersz, Virgie Emineth, Cindy Delmonico – Mother to Melissa Kugler, Michelle Schweich – Niece to Arden & Sande Wagner, Glenn Weist, Anna Belle, Ruby from Pine Ridge, Claire Boucher – Friends of Aaron & Lexie Solomonson newborn, Jamie Baumann, James Tolbert, Brad Taylor – Friend of Pastor Chuck, Beryl Lonski – Brother-in-law to Mike & Sharon Nelson, Taylor Gardner, Harold Holtz, Elaine Renfrow – Mother to Lynette Sondrol, Sandi Femling – Cousin to Melanie Beckman, Laren Holznagel, Harlow Tatum – Daughter to Brea (Gutknecht) Tatum, Melisa Chrest, Ruth Lund – Mother to Doddie Kuntz, Derek Laning, Jacklyne Carlson, Amber Selken – Sister to Wendy Miller, John Krebsbach – Brother to Peggy Wollmuth, Arlo Omoth – Brother to Jeneen Loe, Shirley Nelson, Bob Miller, Rodney Jaeger

Poinsettias and Outdoor Greenery

Help purchase a poinsettia for the poinsettia tree. Cost is \$14 each and there will be a total of 30 purchased. Once the 30 have been purchased you need to buy your own and get it to the church. You are welcome to purchase your own from some other place if you don't want to purchase one of these. Either way, forms are on the table in the narthex to fill out. Forms and money need to be at Jeannette's office no later than noon on Tuesday, December 22nd, to be recognized in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You are also welcome to donate money for the outdoor greenery.

Offering Envelopes

Jeannette will be getting the 2021 offering envelopes ready within the next 2-3 weeks. If you have been receiving a set and do not wish to get them anymore, please let her know soon. Likewise, if you have not been getting envelopes and would like some, please let Jeannette know soon.

Advent Devotions

The NALC Advent Devotions are on the table in the narthex. Pick up a copy today to use with your daily devotions during Advent.

Our Daily Bread

The December/January/February edition of *Our Daily Bread* is in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy today to use with your daily devotions.

Donations & Christmas Gifts for Pine Ridge

We are once again collecting donations and Christmas gifts for our friends in Pine Ridge. Any and all donations are welcome. Clothing, household, toys, board games, undergarments, toiletries, and winter gear. Coffee and powder laundry detergent are always welcome too as they serve as a form of currency on the reservation.

We are especially looking for craft items as not only is it an outlet but it's also a way that the recipient can help support themselves - Seed beads, Beads, Jump rings, Earing hooks, Elastic cord, Wire, Paints, Sketch pads

Donations can be put under the choir loft stairs. Please have donations to the church by December 16th. Thank you!

Connections

We are looking at ways to better connect our members, especially those who are participating online with those who are participating in-person. Many have expressed how much they miss the fellowship time between the service and Sunday School. I have seen it first hand when I was finishing my internship how much the members who were participating in my senior project really missed having time to chat with one another back in March 2020. Today, whether someone is in isolation due to quarantine or it is felt due to other mitigating circumstances, we want to help you all connect with one-another during this time. Even though we are in uncharted territory, we can share in each other's burdens and find new ways to fill the void that has been created through social distancing. You are not alone. We are in this together!

We would love to see everyone able to meet face-to-face and spend time catching up. Until it is possible to do this safely for everyone, we would like to announce a new weekly time to do this. Starting on Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 pm, we will be holding our first **Coffee Hour Fellowship** time online for you to join to spend some time in Christian Fellowship with all who join.

Coffee Hour Fellowship:

- *Purpose:* This new opportunity is for you to CONNECT with your beloved friends of the church and is to offer a time and

space where you are able to see people face-to-face, enjoy conversation, catch up with what has happened/is happening in your lives. This is a ministry of FLC that will enable everyone who meets to share joys and concerns, prayer requests and great Christian fellowship. Our hope is that this gives many people opportunities to meet with fellow members who have been away and may feel isolated.

- *Who is this for?* Everyone! This is for anyone in the congregation and any visitors who want to chat (especially those in isolation or feeling isolated by what is happening in the world around us).
- *What is needed to join?* Technology needed: 1) a camera and 2) microphone and 3) an internet connection. Many devices would automatically work to connect such as laptops, smartphones, iPads/tablets). Desktop computers would need a webcam plugged into the computer.
- *Is it difficult to join?* Not at all. It is a one-click link that will open the program and meeting.
- *How will the time work?* Depending on the number of people joining, we will try to keep it so that everyone who would like to talk or share is able to speak. If we get more than 8-10 people joining, we can decide to split and share in smaller groups. All you need to do is come ready to see, listen and talk to your friends in Christ.
- **Schedule:** To start we scheduled 3 times to meet in December in-between the holidays, you are welcomed to come to all or just give it try.
 - ◇ December 6, at 7:00 pm ONLINE
 - ◇ December 13, at 7:00 pm ONLINE
 - ◇ December 20, at 7:00 pm ONLINE
- Have questions? or need help getting set up? -- do a trial call with Pastor Chuck before December 6!
- *How do you sign-up?* Please call Jeannette in the office or Pastor Chuck (c: 701-891-9443) or email pastorchuck@westriv.com and a link will be sent to you.

Bible Studies:

- Join existing Bible studies via ZOOM to join in the conversation. Please let us know in advance if you would be interested.

Please let us know if you would like to join us to find ways to stay CONNECTED during the upcoming weeks and months!

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Chuck if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not usually get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

Online Giving

Many of you have patiently been waiting for e-giving here at First Lutheran Church. I am happy to announce that it is up and ready to use!

We welcome all donations through any of the options we offer for giving. You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

- ⇒ Put your offering in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.
- ⇒ Mail your offering or drop it off at the church office.
- ⇒ Go to the church website: www.flcwashburn.com and click on the donate button on the homepage. Follow the instructions from there.
- ⇒ For our smartphone users, don't forget you can contribute through GivePlus Church, our mobile giving app. It's a convenient solution whenever you have your phone but don't have cash or checks with you.

See the two pages on GIVEPLUS MOBILE in the November newsletter or go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to quickly find the app and download it for free. You can easily make donations anytime you're moved to give, or create an account to schedule recurring weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly offerings and to the account of your choice. When you create an account, you can also securely and conveniently store debit/credit card or bank account information, manage donations and review giving history. You choose how you prefer to login - Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

Find our church by ZIP code - 58577 or by searching our Church name - First Lutheran Church, Washburn, ND

- ⇒ Scan this code and it will take you directly to the app.



Get started today! Download our mobile app or visit www.flcwashburn.com to set up your online contribution!

**First Lutheran Church Update as of November 17, 2020
regarding Orders from ND Governor's Office and
ND Dept. of Health:**

As a religious organization, the FLC executive committee has reviewed the subject COVID 19 related materials, and in prayerful consideration we are moving forward with the following guidelines:

Church Services- in-person

- Facemasks will be required in accordance with the Governor's/State Health Officer's orders
 - Masks must be worn when *entering* or *exiting* the sanctuary. Please bring your own mask if able, if you do not have one available, the church will continue to provide disposable masks barring any supply/availability issues.
 - This does not apply to those who are exempt from ND health order, such as those with medical conditions, children 4 years old and under (children under 2 years old should never wear face coverings), etc.
- Social distancing will be observed, by family unit (maintaining six feet apart).
 - Pews will remain in usual position to allow for the most space per family unit
- Circumstances where mandatory face coverings may be temporarily removed (from state health officer order part 6) that are applicable to our services
 - Pastor Chuck (or others using mics up front) while socially distant in leading the service
 - Musicians to play instruments (as long as they are able to be socially distance)
 - While a family unit is sitting in the pew during the service when social distancing is possible
- After the service has finished, please fellowship outside for adequate space for social distancing.

Sunday School/Confirmation/Other small group activities held at the church

- All small groups are still welcome to meet
- Facemasks will be required when attending any of these activities at the church
- To accommodate more families to come see the Sunday School Christmas Program safely, we will be splitting the program into two separate programs with 20 minutes in-between, more information on this coming soon!

All previous guidelines remain in place:

- Every family is encouraged to attend church, Sunday school, or other activities in the manner that they feel most comfortable (whether on-line or in person)
- Hand sanitizer is available at multiple locations within the church.
- No food is to be prepared in the kitchen at this time, and there will be no coffee hour.
- The FLC website (www.flcwashburn.com) and Facebook will be updated as we continue to monitor the situation and any new developments. Please check these sites for updates or concerns. If you do not see an answer to your concern, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Chuck or Jeannette.
- If you are joining online and would like the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please contact Pastor Chuck.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

In Christ,

First Lutheran Church

COMMUNITY AND AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Gift tags for **Helping Hands** are available in the narthex. When you take a tag, please sign your name on the paper by the tag number. Please return your gifts (with the tag on it) no later than noon on Sunday, December 13th.
- **Stuff the Stocking for McLean County.** November 30th – December 14th, please help Dakota West Credit Union in Washburn stuff the stockings with kid friendly stocking size items for families with children in need of holiday help this year! Suggestions: stuffed animals, lip balm/nail polish, travel size games, toiletries, books/cards, colors/paints, hot wheels, gloves/hats, sock/undies, small toys, unopened bags of candy/snacks. Basically anything you can fit in a stocking for a kid! Look for a drop box at Dakota West CU or Captains Cabin. Stockings will be provided and stuffed by Dakota West CU and then distributed among various towns in McLean County to give to families! Other towns that have drop boxes are Garrison, Turtle Lake and Underwood. Thank you for your contribution!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	8:30 AM	Bible Study Led by Cathy Sheldon
	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:45 AM	Sunday School
		Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting AI-Anon Meeting
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
WED.	6:15 PM	Confirmation
	6:45 PM	Bell Choir
	7:15 PM	FLY
	7:30 PM	Choir
SAT.	1:00 PM	Private Baptism
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:45 AM	Sunday School
		Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson
	7:00 PM	Coffee Hour Fellowship (Online) AA Meeting AI-Anon Meeting

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring's bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as he ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free!

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

First Sunday in Advent – November 29, 2020

*I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
– 1 Corinthians 1:4–9–*

There's a saying that comes to my mind when I feel like I cannot say what I really want to say, "Don't talk about it, be about it." Speaking the truth in love means I cannot always blurt out what I really wish I could say! (Been there?) But, there's just so much talk going on around us, all the time. Talk about politics, talk about viruses and masks, talk about how we are inconvenienced and struggle with a new reality during this time of COVID safety measures. But when do we say to ourselves, "Enough talk! Let's do the best we can and continue to rely on the faithfulness of God" ?

At the heart of living in the faithfulness of God is trusting that he is with us, that he hasn't simply created us and left us to our own devices. St. Paul reminded the Corinthians that they were called into the fellowship of Christ for a reason: to live as followers of Jesus. To live like we are followers of Christ means we rely fully on his will, mercy, and care. We are called to share that worldview with others as they struggle with making sense of all the chaos, unrest, and danger in the world. As Christians, we are called to come to terms with what is going on in the world, to be sure, but then we are to stop talking about our woes and start living like we know for certain that God is faithful. If we don't live trusting our Savior, but rather spend a great deal of our time questioning the presence and providence of God, then we are not living the faith. We are not sharing the Good News of the Lord who loves us and cares for us, who saved us from the power of sin and death, and who gives us the promise of eternity.

Sometimes we have to stop talking and get on with trusting. May we be about living like followers of Christ, no matter what's going on. Amen.