

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2017

WELCOME

We welcome you in the name of Christ. **We love welcoming guests/visitors** and encourage you to complete one of the blue cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher. We have a gift for you available at our Welcome Desk – please stop by after worship. You are invited to join in all parts of worship. Everything you need is printed in this worship folder (except for the hymns, which are located in the red hymnal in the pews/chairs).

All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you may simply stay seated. For instructions on how to receive the bread and wine, see the Communion section later in this booklet. Portions of worship in **bold print** are to be spoken/sung by the whole congregation. **We stand** for portions of our worship service. Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer.

CHILDREN AND NURSERY

We love having children in worship and welcome their active presence. Please also feel free at any time to make use of our fully equipped and professionally staffed nursery, located at the north end of the Gathering Area (main church entrance). **Our nursery is open and staffed during all regular morning services for children newborn to 5 years old.** Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Caring Corner (through the double doors opposite the Gathering Area). Special activity bags for children in worship are available next to the elevator in the Gathering Area.

Sunday Morning Christian Formation Groups (Sunday School) for all ages are held at 9:30 each Sunday morning. Class information is available at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area.

Children's Church for ages 3-7 is held from 11:00-11:30. It begins in the Sanctuary with Children's Time and moves to the Nielsen Room (downstairs in the main church). Children rejoin parents in the Sanctuary during the Offering Song.

OUR WORSHIP

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church – gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God's constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

OTHER NOTES

- **Amplification devices** for the hearing impaired are available from ushers or at the welcome desk.
- **Large print worship booklets** are available from the ushers.
- A **restroom** is located at the north end of the Gathering Area (additional restrooms downstairs).

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

Open ✠ *Authentic* ✠ *Relational* ✠ *Serving*

Pastor Brett Davis

Pastor Bob Humphrey

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If you're interested in why we do what we do, follow the notes in this column.

+ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins, but no one should feel compelled.

We give thanks for this great gift that baptized once, maybe as an infant, our sins are daily washed and we "walk wet" as children of God in the world. In the Easter season this replaces the confession and forgiveness.

We sing as the Spirit gathers us for worship. This hymn sets the tone for the day.

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING

We come from our homes, our labor, our struggles, and our joys – which we share in fellowship as a Christian community. We are gathered together as God's people to worship. In this first part of our worship, we share together honestly – our sins, in confession, our joy in forgiveness.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME *At each service, all children are invited forward for time with a pastor.*

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Llanfair" (arr. A. Travis)

(We stand)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The congregation turns and faces the baptismal font.

We gather as we live – in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Christ from death to life. Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt, and our shame here are drowned and gone. Our fear, confusion, and self-righteousness -- ALL are washed away by grace. **You, O God, wash us clean.**

Our pride, our hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of us no longer have the power to define us. Rejoice that God has claimed us in this baptismal grace, not by our own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone. **You, O God, give us new life.**

As we begin worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

369 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

The congregation turns to face the cross as the procession approaches the altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.

LLANFAIR

Based on
Revelation 5 and
other images of
scripture,
this song lifts us
to join our praise
with all the
church in heaven
and on earth.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

~ Hymn of Praise continues on next page ~

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

This prayer collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray . . . one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(We sit)

WORD

The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47 (see back of bulletin)

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was outpoured on God's people. This new community is founded on the teachings of the apostles and sustained in the breaking of the bread.

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgy, from the Greek, means "the work of the people." Our worship is designed so we all take parts. We are far more than just spectators.

The scripture readings follow a three-year cycle, called a lectionary. We are connected with other Christians all over the world, in many denominations, reading the same texts.

We stand during the gospel because we believe our Lord is present with us in the reading.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25 (see back of bulletin)

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly in the midst of adversity.

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(We stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10 (see back of bulletin)

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through Jesus, but those who avoid Jesus are dangerous to the flock.

The Holy Gospel according to ... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

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

(We sit)

SERMON

Pastor Bob Humphrey

Silence for reflection follows.

(We stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

782 My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

(during the final verse of the hymn, the baptismal and new member parties gather at the baptismal font)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM – 8:00

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MASON LEE PUFFENBARGER

BAPTISMAL ACCLAMATION - *After the candle is presented, the congregation sings.*

#595 Jesus Loves Me *verse one only*

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS – 11:00

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NICENE CREED (9:30)

*The creeds
(statements of
faith) date back
to the 4th century
and contain the
basics of what
Christians
around the world
hold to be true.*

Let us confess our faith:

**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.**

The use of the *non-capitalized* word “catholic” here means simply worldwide or universal.

We pray as a community. The assisting minister leads this time to gather the prayers of all, and at his/her invitation you may add others aloud or silently in your heart.

Much more than a pleasant greeting – we do this to proclaim God’s promise of peace to one another.

Our gifts are collected and dedicated to our Lord’s service. Your offerings support the ministries of Christ’s church in this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
who 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.**

PRAYERS

After each petition:

. . . Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Have a prayer concern to share? Forms are available in the back cover of each hymnal.

PEACE

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

The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:
“Peace be with you.”

(We sit)

MEAL

In the second half of our liturgy, we gather around the table, following Jesus’ invitation. Here in this meal we encounter the risen Lord who gives himself for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening the Body of Christ.

OFFERING

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (ass. C. S. Lang)
The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want (tune: Martydom)
Shepherd of My Heart (arr. F. O. O’Brien, 1992)

Organ Solo
Celebration Singers
Sanctuary Choir

(We stand)

OFFERING SONG: *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* (see next page)

This song becomes our prayer as our gifts are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service.

Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus: his the scep - ter.
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, be known to us in the breaking of the bread as you were made known to your disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient part of the worship that proclaims our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.

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.

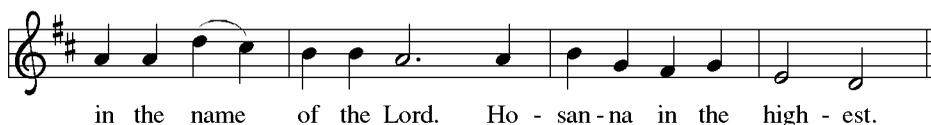
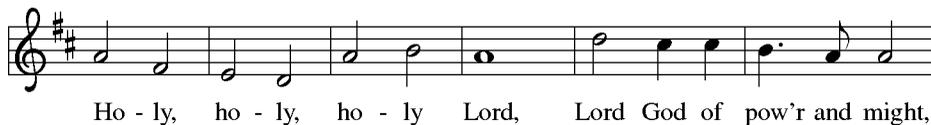
The "Holy, Holy, Holy" echoes the heavenly chorus in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus enters Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility. Some will make the sign of the cross at the announcement of God's presence: "Blessed is He..."

Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks.

Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks . . .

(the minister continues with the preface, concluding:) . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty . . .

. . . Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen!**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we pray, Amen. **Amen.**

. . . life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence the words our Savior gave us:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

On the first Sunday of each month, Lay Communion Ministers take communion to our sick and homebound members.

We gather once more in song as our worship concludes, and we prepare to take this good news into the world.

In this blessing we are reminded we bear God's name as we depart to live out our baptism, serving our neighbor and spreading the gospel.

Feel free to stay and listen to music.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life giving God . . . our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION PRAYER

O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are sick and homebound. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Our worship does not end, but continues in the world. In our daily lives we are called to be ministers of God's love and mercy as we live and serve by the power of the risen Christ.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN

The congregation turns and faces the cross reminding us that we follow Christ into the world and our daily lives.

BLESSING

May the God of all grace, who calls you to life in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

You Shall Go Out with Joy (arr. D. Wagner)

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER: Pastor Bob Humphrey

ACOLYTES: 8:00 — Frank Lambert
9:30 — Crystl Whitmire
11:00 —

CRUCIFERS: 8:00 — Gary Calleo
9:30 — Tim Eye
11:00 — Linda Looney

TORCH BEARERS: 8:00 — Opal Davis, Peggy Hill
9:30 — Oris Griffin, Stefanie Eye
11:00 — Terry Looney, Rion Looney

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS: 8:00 — Tassie Pippert
9:30 — Kim Fawley
11:00 — Gloria Goeres

SOUND TECHS: 8:00 — Mike Koch
9:30 — Keith Baker
11:00 — Trent Campbell

LECTORS: 8:00 — Mycah McNett
9:30 — Scott Jost
11:00 — Knute Leidal

GREETERS: 8:00 — *Ushers will also serve as greeters*
9:30 — Paul and Paula Caldwell
11:00 — Gary & Nancy Beatty

USHERS: 8:00 — Carol McCormick, Wylie & Diane Walton, Sandy Randolph
9:30 — Carl Holyfield, John & Faye Sellers, Bart Long
11:00 — Gary & Nancy Beatty, Steve & Lori Reich

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: 8:00 — Gary Calleo, Frank Lambert
9:30 — Tim and Stefanie Eye
11:00 — Terry Looney, Rion Looney

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS: Amy Moyers, Abby Moyers

MUSICIANS: Laura Douglass, Guest Organist
Gianne Ghe Zhu, Music Ministry Accompanist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Printed music for today's service comes from the ELW and reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-70153