

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 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).

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## MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

*Open + Authentic + Relational + Serving*

Pastor Brett Davis

Pastor Bob Humphrey

281 E. Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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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

8:00 & 9:30 *Song of Remembrance* (arr. G. Martin, 2002)

11:00 *Nothing Can Keep Us* (arr. C. Greene, 1997)

Organ  
Cherub Choir

*(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

**# 367** Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*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.*

Based on  
Revelation 5 and  
other images of  
scripture,  
this song lifts us  
to join our praise  
with all the  
church in heaven  
and 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 7:55-60 (see back of bulletin)

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

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 2:2-10** (see back of bulletin)

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

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 14:1-14** (see back of bulletin)

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

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**

**# 767 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me**

SO NIMM DENN MEINE HANDE

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

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS – 8:00** ELW Page 234

*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.*

## **NICENE CREED (9:30 & 11:00)**

**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.**

**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.**

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

## 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

8:00 & 9:30 *Salvation Unto Us Has Come* (Anonymous)

11:00 *A Peaceful Alleluia* (arr. J. A. Shafferman, 1995)

Organ  
SonShine Singers

(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.

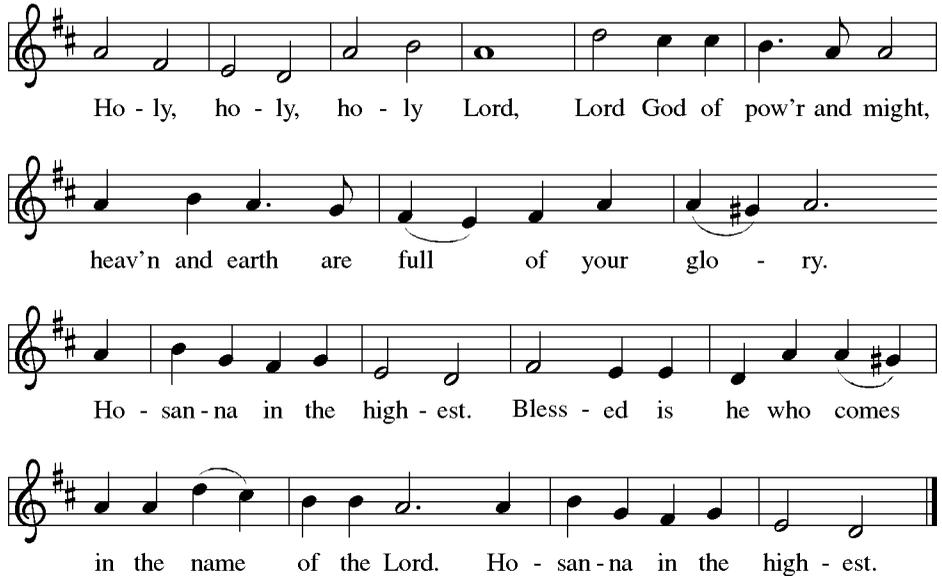
The “Holy, Holy, Holy” echoes the heavenly chorus in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus enters Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility. Some will make the sign of the cross at the announcement of God’s presence: “Blessed is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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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.

## 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.**

The "last supper" was a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. He invited them to share this meal in the future to remember him and he promised to be present in a mysterious, but very real sense.

All who desire to participate are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The disciples knew the Lord in the breaking of the bread. Come to this table, where you are known and loved by God. **Amen.**

(We sit)

## COMMUNION

*Processional Communion:*

Come forward, first receive the bread\* and then take a glass from the trays. You will be offered wine from the pouring chalice. Place your empty glass on the tray and return to your seat via the side aisle. For those who prefer grape juice, pre-filled cups of juice may be selected from the center of the serving trays. You may decline either element or both. If you choose to decline both, please feel free to come forward to receive God's blessing.

\*Gluten free bread is located next to the empty communion glass trays. Take one if needed and present it to a pastor for blessing.

As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words:

"The body of Christ, given for you . . . The blood of Christ, shed for you." You may say: "Amen."

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



## **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**

*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.*

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

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN:**

**# 758 You Are the Way**

DUNDEE

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

*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.*

## **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.**

*Feel free to stay and listen to music.*

## **POSTLUDE**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (arr. P. Benjamin, 2003)

***After worship, the pastors invite you to greet them and each other in the Gathering Area.***

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

**PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER:** Pastor Bob Humphrey

**ACOLYTES:** 8:00 — Frank Lambert  
9:30 — Oris Griffin  
11:00 — Emily Eppard

**CRUCIFERS:** 8:00 — Margie Miller  
9:30 — Bill Whitmire  
11:00 — John Mulder

**TORCH BEARERS:** 8:00 — Karen Matthias, Peggy Hill  
9:30 — Oris Griffin, Cheryl Hoak  
11:00 — Judy Wilfong, Bill Compton

**LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 8:00 — Wylie Walton  
9:30 — Mary Elizabeth Skinner  
11:00 — Neil Alexander

**SOUND TECHS:** 8:00 — Mike Koch  
9:30 — Bruce Matthias  
11:00 — Dana Crittenden

**LECTORS:** 8:00 — Larry Blade  
9:30 — Janine Miller  
11:00 — Jeff Williams

**GREETERS:** 8:00 — *Ushers will also serve as greeters*  
9:30 — Melissa Perritt, Billy Perritt  
11:00 — Pete & Tilton Weaver

**USHERS:** 8:00 — Gina Vogen, Tom Yeakle, Don Yeakle, Susan Gallaher  
9:30 — Carl Holyfield, Kathy Holm, Janet Simmons, John Sellers  
11:00 — Terry & Linda Looney, Rion Looney, Jesse Eppard

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** 8:00 — Karen Matthias, Margie Miller  
9:30 — Janine Miller, Bill Whitmire  
11:00 — Bill Compton, Judy Wilfong

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS:** Kathy Alexander, Hannah Arthur

**MUSICIANS:** Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister  
Gianne Ghe Zhu, Music Ministry Accompanist

Please leave this  
worship booklet in  
basket at sanctuary  
entrance for the  
next service.

*Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and  
in honor of their Mothers by Wylie and Diane Walton*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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