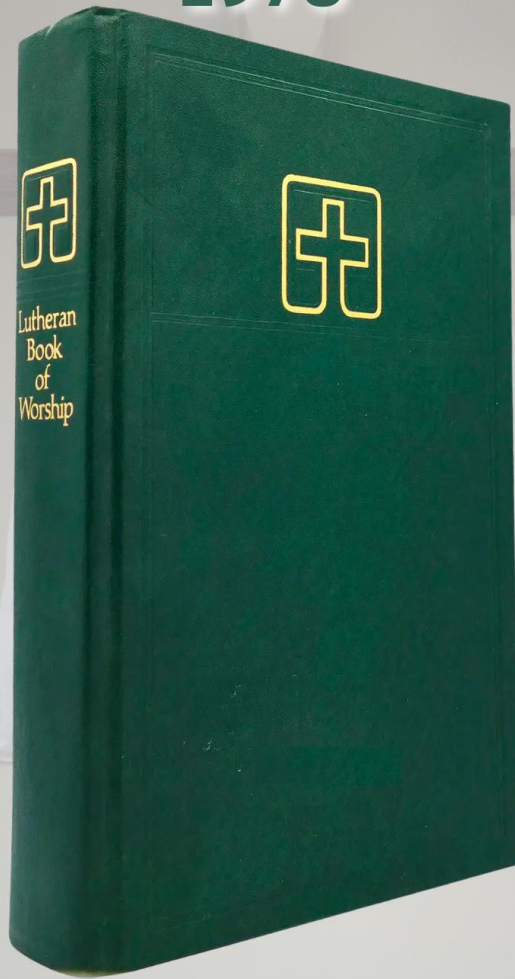


Lutheran Book of Worship 1978



February 4, 2024
5th Sunday after Epiphany



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 4, 2024

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 basket, or **scan this QR Code** with your smart phone to complete the visitor card digitally. We have a gift for you 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 booklet. All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing! 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 by the whole congregation. We stand for portions of our worship service. **Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer.**



HEALTH AND SAFETY

While we do not require masks in the building, wearing a mask for any reason is always welcomed. We continue to follow the current CDC guidance, and we request that anyone who experiences symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, stay home, self-isolate and get tested. Please wear a well-fitted mask if you have a known exposure to COVID in the past 10 days. Thank you for doing all you can to help care for one another by reducing the spread of germs in our community!

OUR WORSHIP

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church – gathering, word, meal, sending. However, the shape of worship may feel different over these coming weeks as we experience different liturgies that have been used over the past 200 years of the Lutheran movement. Though we witness profound changes through this worship series, the heartbeat 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 Narrative Lectionary (a four-year cycle of scripture readings in biblical order), we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time. For details about the history of this liturgy, see the explanation on the back cover.

Worship will be live-streamed this morning. Digital ministry is an essential part of our community with the Wellstream service at 11:00 am allowing those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a service of Holy Communion. The cameras will be primarily focused on our worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the sanctuary. If you have questions or concerns about appearing on camera, contact Pastor Alex or Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org).

OTHER NOTES

- **Amplification devices** for the hearing impaired are available from ushers or at the Welcome Desk.
- 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 Lauren Eanes

Pastor Alex Zuber

281 E. Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 434-3496
www.muhlenberglutheran.org

HOLY COMMUNION – 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

PREPARATION

WELCOME

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRELUDE *Salvation Unto Us Has Come* (Reger)

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We stand and face the baptismal font as the minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

ENTRANCE RITE

ENTRANCE HYMN 405 *Lord of Light*

1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The minister greets the congregation.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.

G And al - so with you.

P Let us pray...

Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(We sit)

FIRST LESSON Psalm 122

Pew Bible page 633

A The First Lesson is from the 122nd chapter of the Psalms.

After the lesson the reader may say: "Here ends the reading."

(We stand)

ALLELUIA VERSE



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

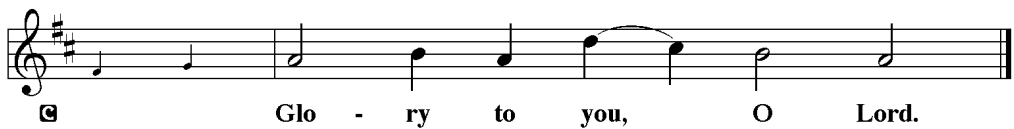


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

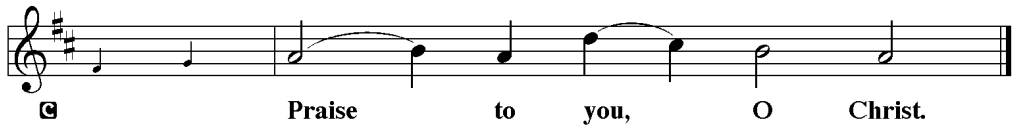
GOSPEL Mark 6:1-30

Pew Bible N.T. page 41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.



After the reading the minister may say: "The Gospel of the Lord."



(We sit)

SERMON

Pastor Eanes

Silence for reflection may follow.

(We stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY 390 *I Love to Tell the Story*

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.

~ see next page ~

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry

and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

The CREED may be said. The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.¹
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish, special concerns.

The congregation may be invited to offer petitions and thanksgivings. Prayers of confession may be included if the Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness has not been used earlier.

The minister gives thanks for the faithful departed, especially for those who recently have died.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

¹ “Or, He descended to the dead.” Is an optional change to this line in the original hymnal.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

R Peace be with you.

(We sit)

The OFFERING is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

The appointed OFFERTORY may be sung by the choir as the gifts are presented, or the congregation may sing an offertory, or an appropriate hymn or psalm may be sung.

OFFERING

Anthem:

Light of the World

From Godspell

Song by Stephen Schwartz

An offering is gathered at this time to support the mission of the church and care for those in need. Our offerings are a humble and grateful response to the gifts that God has first given us. You can place a gift in the offering plate as the ushers come around, or give online by scanning the QR Code and visiting our online giving portal.

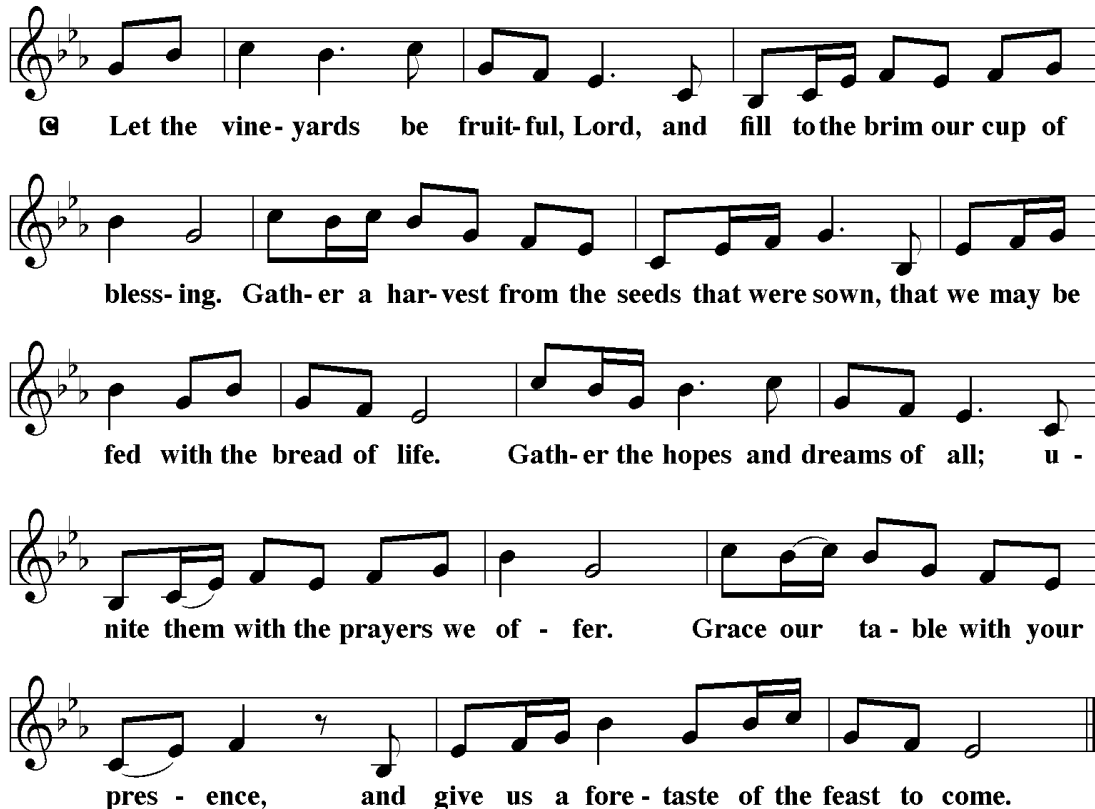
MAKE YOUR OFFERING DIGITALLY
BY SCANNING HERE



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

(We stand)

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

After the gifts have been presented, this prayer is said.

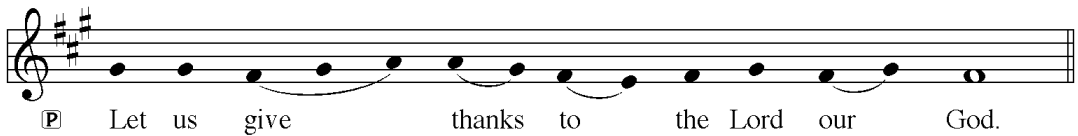
A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The ministers make ready the bread and wine.

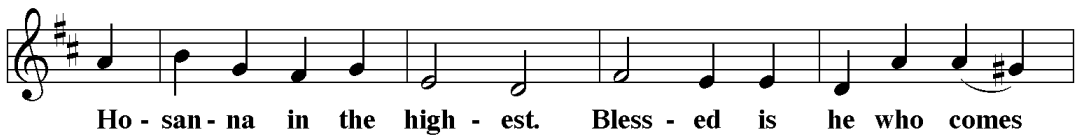
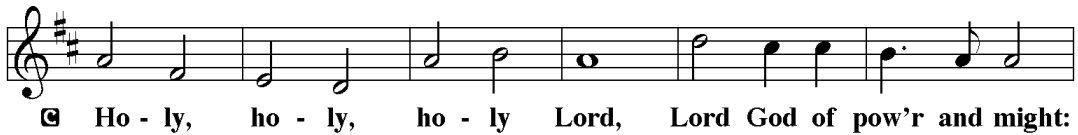
The GREAT THANKSGIVING is begun by the minister standing at the altar.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The preface appropriate to the day or season is sung or said.

P It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat

of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

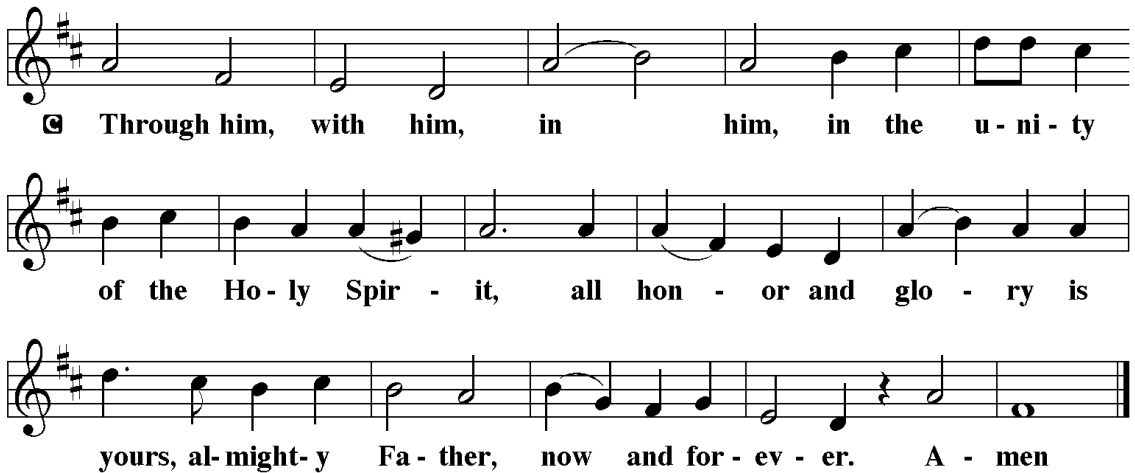
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



C Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty
of the Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is
yours, al - might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

(We sit)

The COMMUNION follows. The bread may be broken for distribution.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The presiding minister and the assisting ministers receive the bread and wine and then give them to those who come to receive. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: "Amen."

All are welcome at the Lord's Table! After the invitation to communion, the ushers will direct each row to come forward. If, for any reason, you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, signal an usher or raise your hand, and an assisting minister will bring the elements to you.

As you come forward, pick up a small cup from the table at the front and then receive the bread (wafer) from the minister. Gluten-free wafers are located on the table. If you require gluten-free, please take one and present it to the pastor for blessing.

Next, proceed to one of the two communion assistants. The first chalice has wine, and the second chalice has grape juice.

After consuming the wine/juice, please put your cup on the tray along the side wall, and return to your seat via the side aisle. **If you don't wish to remove your mask up front**, you may choose to bring the elements back to your pew to eat/drink there.

Music During Distribution

Hymns and other music may be used during the ministration of Communion.



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, grant us peace.

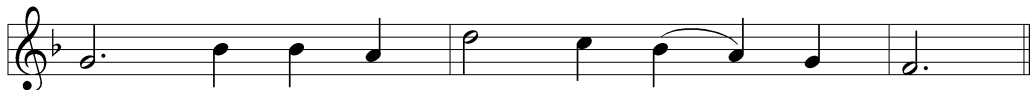
Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray that we may
2 The chas - tened peace of sin for - giv'n, the fil - ial
3 Our trem - bling hearts cleave to thy word. All thou hast
4 One bread, one cup, one bod - y, we, u - nit - ed
5 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray: oh, keep us



feast on thee to - day; be - neath these forms of bread and
joy of heirs of heav'n, grant as we share this won - drous
said thou dost af - ford; all that thou art we here re -
by our life in thee, thy love pro - claim till thou shalt
stead - fast to that day, that each may be thy wel - comed



wine en - rich us with thy grace di - vine.
food, thy bod - y bro - ken and thy blood.
ceive, and all we are to thee we give.
come to bring thy scat - tered loved ones home.
guest when thou shalt spread thy heav'n - ly feast.

(We stand)

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

G Amen.

The POST-COMMUNION canticle or an appropriate hymn is sung as the table is cleared.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION PRAYER

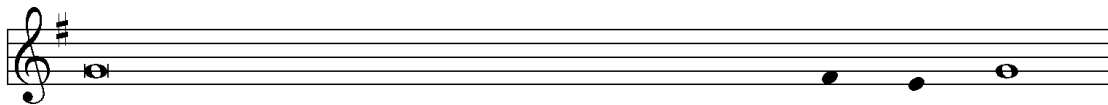
P O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are sick and homebound. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of Life that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

C Amen.

Silence for reflection.

The minister blesses the congregation.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL



- ☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.



☐ A - men

The minister may dismiss the congregation.

☐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☐ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *O God of Light* (Cabena)

Today's service is replicated, almost in its entirety, from a worship service that happened at Muhlenberg on February 4, 1990. We've used the same liturgy and hymns from that day, as well as the same special music, including the prelude, postlude, and choir anthem. Note the complicated chart for communion distribution! The altar was still located against the wall of the chancel at this point, but in 1991 a renovation of the space was completed, including the installation of a new organ and the relocation of the altar to be "freestanding" as we have it now.

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH

Harrisonburg, Virginia
 The Rev. John L. Derrick, Pastor
 The Rev. Dennis S. Roberts, Pastor
 The Rev. Robert W. Chell, Campus Pastor
 Mr. Don R. Smith, Minister of Music

HOLY COMMUNION – 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

PREPARATION

Prelude: "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" – Reger
 +*Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness Page 77

ENTRANCE RITE

*Entrance Hymn 405 – "Lord of Light" Page 78
 *Apostolic Greeting Page 78
 *Hymn of Praise – "Glory to God . . ." Page 79
 *Salutation and Prayer of the Day Insert

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:5-9a
 Psalmody: Psalm 112 (sung responsively) Insert
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Page 83
 *Alleluia Verse Page 83
 *Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20
 Sermon – "Salty Folks Who Light Up" Pastor Derrick
 Silence for Reflection
 *Hymn of the Day 390 – "I Love to Tell the Story"
 *Apostles' Creed Page 85
 *Prayer of the Church Insert

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Sharing of the Peace Page 86
 Offering
 Voluntary: "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" – Bach
 Anthem: "Light of the World" – Schwartz 14/15 Page 86
 *Offertory – "Let the vineyards . . ." Page 86
 *Offertory Prayer – "Merciful Father . . ." Page 87
 *The Great Thanksgiving Page 88
 *Lord's Prayer (left column) Page 91
 ADMINISTRATION OF LORD'S SUPPER
 Congregational Hymn – 225
 *Post-Communion Blessing Page 92
 *Post-Communion Canticle – "Thank the Lord ..." Page 92

*Post-Communion Prayer

Page 94

*Blessing & Dismissal

Page 95

*Postlude: "O God of Light" - Cabena *LSW 127*

+*congregation faces baptismal font

*congregation stands

8:30 A. M. SERVICE

Rebekah Rathke

David Hill

Bruce Rathke

Bradley Walton

Roy Spitzer, Ch.

Carolyn Spitzer

Ron Williams

Steve Bird

ACOLYTE

CRUCIFER

CANTOR

LECTOR

USHERS

COMMUNION LAY ASSISTANTS

Margie Miller

Gary Snyder

Bill Whitmire

11:00 A.M. SERVICE

Joel Carson

Cory Wilfong

Saundra Clough

Terry Propst

Diane Eneyd, Ch.

Joe Eneyd

Patti Covington

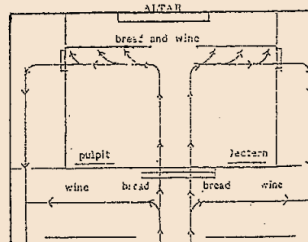
Rick Covington

Mary Ann Hardy

James Armentrout

Roy Ritchie

COMMUNION will be distributed at three stations as illustrated in the diagram to the right. Please follow the direction of the ushers. All baptized Christians who share our faith in the real presence of Jesus Christ and the active grace of God in the Sacrament are invited to participate. The blessing will be given when all have communed. Please sign a communion card and leave it on the pew. AA members desiring to commune in an alternate form are asked to speak to one of the pastors.



OUR THANKS to Jenny Miller and JoAnne Davis for keeping the nursery during the 11:00 service.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

COMMUNION **8:30** ~ Bill & Crystl Whitmire, Mark & Pam Briebl

ASSISTANTS **11:00** ~ Brett Tjaden, Sue Koch, Cheryl Hoak

CRUCIFERS **8:30** ~ Bill Whitmire

11:00 ~ Sue Koch

LECTORS **8:30** ~ Mark Briebl

11:00 ~ Brett Tjaden

USHERS **8:30** ~ Karen Thomsen, Margie Miller

11:00 ~ McKeever Family

SOUND **8:30** ~ Tom Pippert

TECHS **11:00** ~ Mark Byerly

MUSICIANS Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister

Judith Ofcarcik, Organist

Celebration Singers (8:30); Sanctuary Choir (11:00)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Permission to print/podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license # A-701538, CCLI license # 20104877, Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License: SAS014720, and St James Press, license #15220.

After worship, Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex invite you to greet them and each other in the Gathering Area. You may take this worship booklet home or leave it in the basket at the sanctuary entrance for recycling.

Today's Liturgy Explained

In 1965, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) issued an invitation to other Lutheran churches in North America to join it in work toward a common hymnal and service book. The invitation was accepted by the Lutheran Church in America, the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (Slovak), the American Lutheran Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, and in 1966 the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship was formed.

The goals of the Commission included: “to restore to Holy Baptism the liturgical rank and dignity implied by Lutheran theology, and to draw out the baptismal motifs in such acts as the confession of sin and the burial of the dead; to continue to move into the larger ecumenical heritage of liturgy while, at the same time, enhancing Lutheran convictions about the Gospel; to involve lay persons as assisting ministers who share the leadership of corporate worship; to bring the language of prayer and praise into conformity with the best current usage; to offer a variety of musical styles.”

In addition to being Inter-Lutheran, the work was also ecumenical, drawing on traditions and resources from the Roman Catholic Church following the Second Vatican Council, and the Episcopal Church, who were working on a revision of their *Book of Common Prayer*. Unfortunately, changes in the leadership and direction of the LCMS led to the denomination pulling out of the project and publishing their own separate hymnal (which was, in text and design, nearly identical to the *Lutheran Book of Worship*.) Perhaps the unity sought by the original commission was not found, but great ecumenical partnerships were forged in the development of the hymnal that eventually led to the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1988 and expanded relationships with the Episcopal Church and Presbyterian Church, among others.

In the 1970s, Muhlenberg had the opportunity to be a test congregation to try out the Commission's new liturgies and provide feedback to the group, and in 1978, when the *Lutheran Book of Worship* was published, Muhlenberg began using the new resource. Many changes in worship had already come in the 1970s at Muhlenberg, as lay communion assistants and lay lectors were authorized. And in 1977 the worship committee finally agreed to allow women to serve as ushers! In the 1980s, the congregation began many of the practices we are familiar with today: sharing the peace, lighting the Paschal candle, using the alb as a liturgical vestment, hanging banners to decorate the church at various festivals, offering continuous communion (as opposed to kneeling at the front by “tables,”) facing the font for confessions, and observing a period of silence following the sermon.*

The development of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* was a massive effort, and was in many ways the most in-depth, intense, theologically-focused inter-Lutheran project to date. It was a significant step in the unending process of liturgical revision and reform as the church seeks to continually shape its worship in continuity with our Lutheran heritage and reflecting the best of contemporary scholarship.

*Special thanks to Joan Strickler's *Strong Roots for New Plantings* for this local history

