



# UNEXPECTED

Lent 2021

Learn more about our Lenten Theme at  
[www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021)

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church



A Wellspring of God's Grace

# First Sunday in Lent ~ FEBRUARY 21, 2021

## WELCOME TO WELLSTREAM WORSHIP

We welcome you in the name of Christ to this digital form of worship. The Wellstream is a digital ministry that allows Muhlenberg Lutheran Church to **livestream our 11:00 am Sunday morning worship services** through our Social Media platforms. You are encouraged to join in all parts of worship, responding and worshipping as you would in person. Everything you need is printed in this worship booklet so that you may follow along with the worship leaders. Portions of worship in bold print are to be spoken/sung by the whole congregation, wherever you are. We stand for portions of our worship service, and invite you to do this as it is comfortable. ***If you are watching this service LIVE, we encourage you to engage with other members of the community in the comments on either Facebook or YouTube—responding to prayers, offering prayer requests, or sharing the peace.***

We recognize that **Worship** and the formation of **Community** are central to living out our mission in the world. Worship is where we gather around the true Wellspring of God's Grace—the Word and Sacraments of Jesus Christ—in order that we might find renewal, and become a source of this same grace in our daily living. Worship, and the community we find there, is at the heart of who we are. However, in this season of Social Distancing in the midst of COVID-19, the best way to be community, is to not be *in* community. This service is not meant to replace face-to-face community, and digital worship cannot provide the sacramental nature of worship to those who engage online. However, this can be a powerful tool in this difficult season for connecting God's people when life gets in the way and *equipping all people to live out Christ's love.*

## CONNECT WITH US LIVE AT 11:00 AM

To access the service LIVE, visit our [Facebook Page](#) or [YouTube Channel](#) at 11:00 am. Both are also accessible from the homepage of our website.

## SUNDAYS AT MUHLENBERG VIA ZOOM

Join us for fellowship via Zoom each Sunday from 8:30-11:00 am. We'll use "Breakout Rooms" via Zoom to ensure that everyone has a space to participate in this time together! We begin with a communion service at 8:30. Sunday School classes begin at 9:30 am, and all are welcome to join classes or stay in "The Gathering Area" for conversation. Full group Coffee Hour begins at 10:30 am. If you'd like a private word with the pastor on call, or would like a room to catch up with a small group, we have private breakout rooms for that! You're welcome to join whenever you'd like! Join each week at this link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>.

## GIVE ONLINE

While we aren't meeting in person, the work of the church has not ceased. Please don't forget your financial gifts to God's mission in this place. You may mail your check to the church (281 E. Market St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801) or give online at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/give](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/give).

## BEST PRACTICES FOR 'ATTENDING' CHURCH ONLINE

- Get out of bed and get dressed—*it will put you in the right mindset to worship*
- Go through your normal Sunday routine—*minus the "hurry up we're running late" part*
- Gather your family together—*avoid distractions and make worship something for all*
- Project the feed on your largest screen—*it will feel more like you're "there"*
- Sing along loud and proud—*yes, it feels weird, but it feels weird for those leading worship in an empty room too!*
- Engage in the message—*let this hour be the beginning of a conversation with your friends and family, call and check in with others who "went to church"*

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## 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](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## 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

**CHILDREN'S TIME** *Children are invited forward for a brief message with the pastor.*

### PRELUDE

*Give Me a Clean Heart* (M. Douroux, b. 1941; arr. A. D. Tessier)

Vocal Solo

*(We stand)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The congregation turns and faces the baptismal font.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

**Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God at the margins,

**We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows.**

**Amen.**

We name our sins and expect vengeance and fury, and yet God meets us with unexpected grace. Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of † Christ, leading you from death into life.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN ~ Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery** *we sing verses 1, 2 & Lent 1*

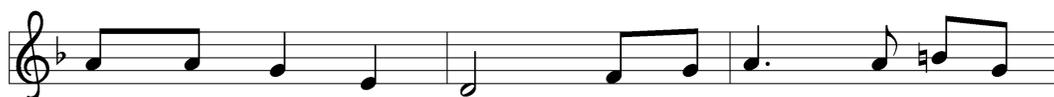
*The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.*

*~see next page~*

## Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

*One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.*

### *General*

Light of life beyond conceiving,  
mighty Spirit of our Lord;  
give new strength to our believing,  
give us faith to live your word

### *Lent 3*

Living Water of salvation,  
be the fountain of each soul;  
springing up in new creation,  
flow in us and make us whole.

### *Lent 1*

From the dawning of creation  
you have loved us as your own;  
stay with us through all temptation,  
make us turn to you alone.

### *Lent 4*

Give us eyes to see you clearly;  
make us children of your light.  
Give us hearts to live more nearly  
as your gospel shining bright.

### *Lent 2*

In our call to be a blessing,  
may we be a blessing true;  
may we live and die confessing  
Christ as Lord of all we do.

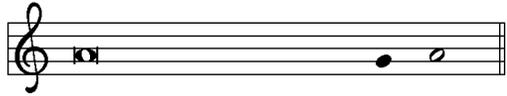
### *Lent 5*

God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death,  
hold us close through each tomorrow,  
love as near as every breath.

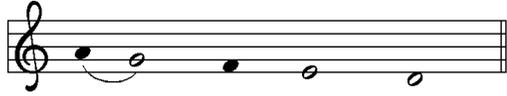
## GREETING

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.**

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



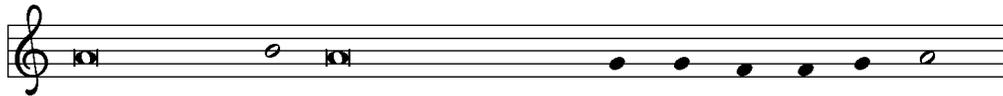
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

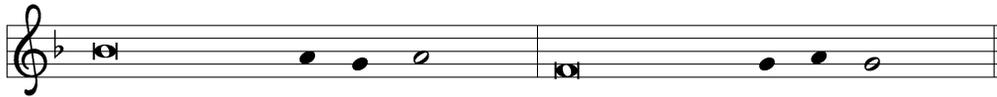
O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(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.

**PSALM 15** congregation chants responsively



<sup>1</sup>Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the Lord.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

(We stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Unexpected and Mysterious

1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -  
ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter  
in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is  
faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.

## GOSPEL ~ Luke 10:25-42

Judy Wilfong, Biblical Storyteller

*We invite you to put your bulletin down and listen to the Biblical Storyteller.*

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

<sup>25</sup>Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup>He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup>He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

<sup>29</sup>But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup>He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

<sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

After the reading:

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

(We sit)

**SERMON**

Pastor Lauren Eanes

Silence for reflection follows.

(We stand)

**HYMN OF THE DAY** we sing verses 1, 3 & 4

O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
 word and thought may work a work for you.  
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
 may we each other's burdens share;  
 may we, where help is needed, there  
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move  
 all those who live to live in love,  
 till you receive in heav'n above  
 all those who live in you.

## APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

*After each petition:*

. . . Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

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? Share it live or email it to [info@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org).*

## 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)*

## THANKSGIVING

*We give thanks for the saving word and all the gifts of God, who then sends us to share the good news we have received and to care for those in need.*

**OFFERING** ~ *My Lord, What a Morning!* (Spiritual; arr. J. Butler, 1988)

Piano Solo

### OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God, **you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in our journey, and transform our giving, our fasting, and our prayer into reflections of your grace, that all may see and delight in the unexpected mercy of your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

God of the unexpected, you speak to us again through your Word, calling us your beloved children. You know the secrets of our hearts. When we sin and stray from your paths, you astound us with your saving grace. For this Word of life,  
**we give you thanks.**

Loving Jesus, living Word, in you the kingdom of God has come near; through you all that was lost has been found. Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead, delighting in your abundant mercy, and witnessing to your compassion in unexpected places. For this Word of life,  
**we give you thanks.**

Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell, into our scarcity, your abundance flows. Enliven all communities with your good news. Guide us to love and serve Jesus, surprising the world with hope. For this Word of life,  
**we give you thanks.**

All glory to you, God of the unexpected, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.**

## 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.

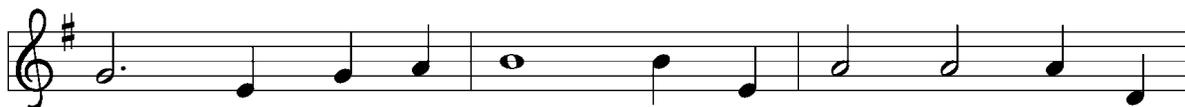
### SENDING HYMN we sing verses 1, 4 & 5

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

## Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our  
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the  
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of  
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice  
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and  
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and  
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me:"  
kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.  
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

### BLESSING

May the God of unexpected blessing turn your world around,  
May Christ delight you with new hope where there seemed to be none,  
May the Holy Spirit lead you in unimagined paths toward a way of +peace.  
**Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

We have been renewed at the Wellspring of God's grace! Now, go in peace!  
**We go to be: Open + Authentic + Relational + Serving. Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune* (arr. W. Held, 1992)

## **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

**PREACHING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

**PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

**LAY ASSISTING MINISTER** ~ Larry Blade

**MUSICIANS** ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister  
Cynthia Page, Cantor and Vocal Soloist

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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CCLI license # 20104877, and Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License: SAS014720.

## ABOUT OUR WORSHIP...

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:** + All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins, but no one should feel compelled. Both our confession of sin and God's promise of mercy are rooted in our baptism. We come before God recalling our brokenness, but even more God's great grace.

**GATHERING HYMN:** We sing as the Spirit gathers us for worship and this hymn sets the tone for the day.

**KYRIE:** The Kyrie is an ancient piece of service liturgy that may date back to the second century. Kyrie Eleison is Greek for "Lord have mercy" and is in reference to both New and Old Testament scriptures which use the same words and pattern.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** The Prayer of the Day collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

**READINGS AND PSALM:** Liturgy, from the Greek, means "the work of the people." Our worship is designed so we all take part. We are far more than just spectators. The scripture readings follow a four-year cycle called the Narrative Lectionary. We are connected with other Christians all over the world, in many denominations, reading the same texts. The Psalms were the original Hymns in Holy Scripture, used by God's people for personal and corporate devotion. They continue to be prayed, sung and read by God's people all over the world as a rich and honest expression of faith. We stand during the gospel because we believe our Lord is present with us in the reading.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

**NICENE & APOSTLES' CREEDS:** The creeds (statements of faith) date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century and contain the basics of what Christians around the world hold to be true. The use of the non-capitalized word "catholic" means simply worldwide or universal.

**PRAYERS:** 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.

**PEACE:** Much more than a pleasant greeting — we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace to one another.

**OFFERING:** 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.

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

**GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:** The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient part of the worship that proclaims our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal. 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..."

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:** Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks. These are the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture: 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Matt. 26:26-29, Luke 22:15-20.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed. See ELW page 1163 for Martin Luther's explanation of this prayer in the small catechism.

**COMMUNION:** 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.

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

**BLESSING:** 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. It reaffirms our mission and reminds us that if we are to be a Wellspring of Grace, we need to be renewed first through Water, Word, and Meal—the means of grace God has given to us.