

UNEXPECTED

and mysterious is the gentle word of
GRACE...

PALM
SUNDAY

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church



A Wellspring of God's Grace

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday ~ MARCH 28, 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.

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"*

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

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

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.*

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

The presiding minister addresses the congregation.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna to the Son of David!

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL ~ Luke 19:28-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 19th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

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

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

All may raise their palm branches for the blessing and the processional hymn.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ~ All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

~see next page~

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

GREETING

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ANTHEM ~ Hosanna! Blessed Is He (C. McClure; St James Press; #15220)

Tween Choir

(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 118:1-2, 19-29 congregation sings responsively



¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever.

²Let Israel | now declare,
"God's mercy en- | dures forever."

¹⁹Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the Lord.

²⁰**"This is the gate | of the Lord;
here the righ- | teous may enter."**

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation.

²²**The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.**

²³By the Lord has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

²⁴**This is the day that the | Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.**

²⁵Hosanna! | O Lord, save us!

We pray to you, Lord, pros- | per our days!

²⁶**Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the Lord;
we bless you from the house | of the Lord.**

²⁷The Lord is God and has giv- | en us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners | of the altar.

²⁸**You are my God, and | I will thank you;
you are my God, and I | will exalt you.**

²⁹Give thanks to the Lord, | for the Lord is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever.

(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.

(We sit)

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO LUKE

This reader's theater presentation of the Passion is a fast-paced narrative, almost as though the different readers are stumbling over one another and cutting each other off to tell the story. Allow yourself to be immersed in the urgency and emotion of the Passion as it's proclaimed. This script was crafted by prayersofthefaithful.org.

After the reading:

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

ANTHEM ~ What Wondrous Love (C. Dupree, St James Press; #15220)

Vocal Solo

(We stand)

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.

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 ~ *Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless* (arr. M. Burkhardt, 2013)

Organ 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

(We stand)

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 - 3

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

Go to Dark Gethsemane



- 1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
- 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
- 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
- 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

CLOSING WORDS

Let us enter prayerfully into this Holy Week together, watching and waiting with Christ so that together we can celebrate the joy of the Resurrection. We cannot keep the feast until we have kept the vigil.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PRESIDING MINISTERS ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes, Pastor Alex Zuber

LAY ASSISTING MINISTER ~ Meg Wightman

LECTOR ~ Sarah Sunde

PASSION READERS ~ Abby, Emma, Jenny and Jon Gibson

MUSICIANS ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister
Members of Tween Choir
Emily Eppard, Vocal Soloist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER



As we continue our *Unexpected* journey with Jesus, join us for worship during Holy Week and Easter!

Monday - Thursday of Holy Week (March 29-April 1), we'll join with congregations around the Valley for daily worship at **12:15 pm** on YouTube (see [The Chimes](#) for links).

Maundy Thursday (April 1), we'll remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, and Jesus' commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. Worship will include Holy Communion, and will take place on [Zoom](#) at **7:00 pm**.

Good Friday (April 2) draws us to the cross, as we worship on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) at 12:15 pm through the Virtual Community Prayer Walk, an annual ecumenical tradition. We'll gather once more at **7:00 pm** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) for a contemplative reflection on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

Easter Vigil service (April 3) proclaims through story and song that God continually brings life out of death! Join us at **7:00 pm** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) for the lighting of the new fire, creative retellings of the salvation story by the Muhlenberg community, a remembrance of our baptisms, and a celebration of the night of salvation.

Easter Day (April 4) brings 3 opportunities for celebrating the resurrection with Muhlenberg. We'll join in songs of praise and the feast of Holy Communion at **8:30 am** on [Zoom](#). At **11:00 am** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#), gather around sacred words in a festive, musical celebration. At **4:00 pm**, we'll meet in person from the safety of our cars in the parking lot to proclaim Christ's victory over death, including Holy Communion.

Links to all these services are also available at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/lent2021. We look forward to celebrating these holy days with you and the ones you love.

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 4th 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.