

UNEXPECTED

EASTER SUNDAY

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church



A Wellspring of God's Grace

Resurrection of Our Lord ~ APRIL 4, 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 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** is 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.

COFFEE HOUR

Join members of the community for a digital coffee hour at 10:30 am by following this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/388500586?pwd=VUYraGFZMEZTTDk5ekRQZUx1Q3pSQTo9>

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

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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

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.

WELCOME

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

PRELUDE

Alleluia (arr. M. Schweizer; St James Press # 15220)

Choir, Trumpets & Piano

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ~ Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

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.

~see next page~



Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

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 ~ Glory to God, Glory in the Highest *All sing as indicated below.*

Choir

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!

All

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!

Choir All

To God be glo-ry for-ev-er! To God be glo-ry for-ev-er!

Choir Choir

Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

All All

Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

All

Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(We sit)

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

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 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.

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.

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, 14-24 (Cantor will sing the refrain first, then congregation, and again where indicated.
We will sing the Psalm responsively.)

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good;
God’s mercy en- | dures forever.
- ²**Let Israel | now declare,**
“God’s mercy en- | dures forever.”
- ¹⁴The LORD is my strength | and my song,
and has become | my salvation.
- ¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:**
“The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly! Refrain
- ¹⁶The right hand of the LORD | is exalted!
The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!”
- ¹⁷**I shall not | die, but live,**
and declare the works | of the LORD.
- ¹⁸The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.
- ¹⁹**Open for me the | gates of righteousness;**
I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD. Refrain
- ²⁰“This is the gate | of the LORD;
here the righ- | teous may enter.”
- ²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me**
and you have become | my salvation.
- ²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.
- ²³**By the LORD has | this been done;**
it is marvelous | in our eyes.
- ²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it. **Refrain**

(We stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (we sing verse 1)



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

GOSPEL ~ Luke 24:1-12

Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

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

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in

Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

After the reading:

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

(We sit)

HOMILY

Pastor Lauren Eanes

(We stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now the Green Blade Rises

This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

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

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.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.

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.

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.

Have a prayer concern to share? Share it live or email it to info@muhlenberglutheran.org.

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.

This Service of the Word derives its pattern from the service of Holy Communion. Although a weekly celebration of the Lord’s Supper is the norm, a service of the word of God is also celebrated regularly or occasionally in many places.

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we hear and proclaim the saving word of God for all the world. We give thanks for that 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.

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 ~ Alleluia, Christ Is Risen (arr. J. Kirby; St James Press # 15220)

Choir, Trumpets & Piano

(We stand)

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous and surprising God, **when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

EASTER THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Through your Word you speak new life into our lives, rolling away stones and ushering in a new way of resurrection life here and now.

For your Word of new life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you created the heavens and the earth. By your Word you saved the earth from the waters of the flood. By your Word you led the Israelites safely through the sea. By your Word you led your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

For your Word of *deliverance*, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, your words and deeds have transformed death to resurrection life. Your Word has brought us all—wherever we are—to stand at the entrance of the empty tomb, and to walk with you into this Easter dawn.

For your Word of *Easter life*, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that the Alleluias we raise may be heard across all nations. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you. With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
Amen.

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.

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.

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN ~ The Day of Resurrection!

~see next page~

The Day of Resurrection!



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

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 loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen you in hope, enrich you with his love, and fill you with joy in the faith. And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE ~ My Spirit Be Joyful (arr. E. P. Biggs, 1952)

Trumpets & Organ

Feel free to stay and listen to music.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

LAY ASSISTING MINISTER ~ Neil Alexander

LECTOR ~ Kathy Alexander

MUSICIANS ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister
Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist
Members of Celebration Singers and Sanctuary Choir
Chris Carrillo & Christine Carrillo ~ trumpet
Liam Wightman ~ djembe

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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