

"THE RIVER OF GOD IS FULL  
OF WATER." PSALM 65:9

CARING FOR CREATION  
SUMMER MOUNTAINS RIVERS FORESTS SERIES

# RIVERS

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH



# Tenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ AUGUST 1, 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"*

---

## 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)

**CARING FOR CREATION: FORESTS**  
**“All the trees of the forest sing for joy.” Psalm 96:12**

**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**

*The Prayer* (arr. S. Zylstra)

Piano Duet

*(We stand)*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The congregation turns and faces the baptismal font.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, † one God, who calls forth creation, evokes praise from creation, and stirs life in creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of righteousness and justice,

**You have made the Earth and all that is in it, but we have failed to honor your good work. We do not recognize your presence among us, and our hardened hearts do not hear creation’s cry. We have made your good land a desolation, and we dishonor your image in our neighbors. Forgive us, in your steadfast love, O God, for trampling your vineyards and polluting your sky. On your holy mountain, call us again to be stewards of your earth and to join all creation in songs of praise. Amen.**

Rejoice, for the Incarnate Word has come to you. Laying aside all heavenly glory, the Servant of all is obedient unto death to make of you and all the earth a new creation. Rejoice, for Christ, from whom nothing can separate you, + forgives you all your sins. Rejoice, for the One whose name is majestic in all the earth raises you up to newness of life. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN ~ Oh, Sing to God Above**

*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~

# Oh, Sing to God Above

## Cantemos al Señor



1 *Can - te - mos al Se - ñor*      *un him - no de a - le - grí - a,*  
 2 *Can - te - mos al Se - ñor*      *un him - no de a - la - ban - za*  
 1 Oh, sing to God a - bove      a hymn of joy - ful greet - ing,  
 2 Oh, sing to God a - bove      a hymn of praise and bless - ing,



*un cán - ti - co de a - mor*      *al na - cer el nue - vo dí - a.*  
*que ex - pre - se nues - tro a - mor,*      *nues - tra fe y nues - tra es - pe - ran - za.*  
 a song of grate - ful love      in the new day's light re - peat - ing:  
 a song of grate - ful love,      hope and faith our hearts ex - press - ing:



*El hi - zo el cie - lo, el mar,*      *el sol y las es - tre - llas*  
*En to - da la crea - ción*      *pre - go - na su gran - de - za,*  
 you made the sea and sky,      the sun and stars in splen - dor;  
 cre - a - tion lifts its voice      to tell your might and glo - ry,



*y vio en e - llos bon - dad,*      *pues sus o - bras e - ran be - llas.*  
*a - sí nues - tro can - tar*      *va a - nun - cian - do su be - lle - za.*  
 de - light shone in your eye—      all your works were filled with won - der.  
 and we, too, will re - joice      to pro - claim the sav - ing sto - ry.

*Refrain / Estribillo*



*¡A - le - lu - ya!*      *¡A - le - lu - ya!*      *Can - te - mos al Se -*  
*Al - le - lu - ia!*      *Al - le - lu - ia!*      *Oh, sing to God a -*



*ñor: ¡A - le - lu - ya!*      *¡A - le - lu - ya!*      *¡A - le - lu -*  
*bove: Al - le - lu - ia!*      *Al - le - lu - ia!*      *Al - le - lu -*



*ya!*      *Can - te - mos al Se - ñor: ¡A - le - lu - ya!*  
*ia!*      *Oh, sing to God a - bove: Al - le - lu - ia!*

*Last time*



*Can - te - mos al Se - ñor: ¡A - le - lu - ya!*  
*Oh, sing to God a - bove: 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.**

## KYRIE

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for  
hun-gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam-i-ly; for  
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



*Refrain*  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of the waters of the earth: streams and rivers, lakes and oceans. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's water, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us; through Jesus Christ, source of living water. **Amen.**

(We sit)

## WORD

*The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.*

### FIRST READING ~ Isaiah 41:17-20

<sup>17</sup>When the poor and needy seek water,  
and there is none,  
and their tongue is parched with thirst,  
I the LORD will answer them,  
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.  
<sup>18</sup>I will open rivers on the bare heights,  
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;  
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,  
and the dry land springs of water.  
<sup>19</sup>I will put in the wilderness the cedar,  
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;  
I will set in the desert the cypress,  
the plane and the pine together,  
<sup>20</sup>so that all may see and know,  
all may consider and understand,  
that the hand of the LORD has done this,  
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

*The reading concludes:*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 98 *(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.  
<sup>2</sup>**The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**  
<sup>3</sup>**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.**  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.  
<sup>4</sup>**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**  
<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**  
<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
<sup>8</sup>**Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy**

at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

(We stand)

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL ~ John 7:37-39

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

<sup>37</sup>On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, <sup>38</sup>and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup>Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

*After the reading:*

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

(We sit)

### SERMON

Pastor Alex Zuber

*Silence for reflection follows.*

(We stand)

### HYMN OF THE DAY ~ Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

~see next page~

# Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry  
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of  
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

## 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 ~ Sacred Road** (D. Lanz, 1996)

Piano Solo

### OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, **you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God. At the creation you planted a garden and set humanity to care for it. By your Word you brought light and life into existence, by your Word you gave sustenance to all creatures, and by your Word you called us as stewards and caretakers of the land. Still today you bring new growth and plenty, and call us to the duty and delight of protecting and nourishing your good earth. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God. You planted in your creation the seed of hope, that the world would not continue forever in its bondage to decay. By your Word, through your prophets and singers, you watered that seed in Israel and declared to the nations that we would be redeemed. Still today you offer your Word of promise, that justice and peace will be brought to birth. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God. In the fullness of your time you sent your Word, your Son. We remember his prodigal planting of your Word by his teaching, his abundant giving of your food and health by his miracles, his gracious offering of your forgiveness by his welcome. We

proclaim the passage of his final Passover, when for our sake he passed through death into life and sealed with the Spirit our own place as his companions. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit, holy God, upon us and your whole creation. Let the seed of your Word find good soil, so that we may hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance. Unite our lives and our gifts with all of your children; move us to respond with eagerness to your Word of invitation to join in your service of this suffering and beloved world; through him who is the sower and the seed, the Tree of Life and the Bread of Heaven, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 ~ Shout to the Lord**

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

*~see next page~*


# Shout to the Lord



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.




My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise



to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;



for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.



Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

## BLESSING

God, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all created things, and upon you, God's children, that you may use them to God's glory and the welfare of all peoples. And may God the Father, who spoke the trees of the earth into being, and God the Son, who gives living water to all who would receive it, and God the Holy Spirit, who calls us to the holy mountain, bless you today and always. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

We have been renewed at the wellspring of God's grace. Go forth to share the love of Christ with all of creation.

**We go to be: Open + Authentic + Relational + Serving. Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Simple Gifts* (arr. S. Richards)

Shenandoah Harpers

---

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

**PREACHING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

**PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

**LAY ASSISTING MINISTER** ~ Larry Blade

**LECTOR** ~ Emily McKeever

**MUSICIANS** ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister

Alice Wightman & Elizabeth Williams, Piano Duet

Cynthia Page, Cantor

Joyce Brunk, Cathy Cunningham, Ann Daggett, Carole Grove, Linda Morrison; members of the Shenandoah Harpers (previously recorded in May, 2021)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Printed music for today's service is from the ELW and OneLicense.net and reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701538.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license # A-701538,

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

*Confession and Forgiveness* from Lutherans Restoring Creation)

*Psalm 148*, adapted by Samford University, Center for Worship and the Arts Creative Commons: Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike

*Thanksgiving for the Word* written by Mark Oldenburg

*Blessing Adapted from The Anglican Church of Southern Africa*

## 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.