Ninth Sunday after Pentecost ~ August 11, 2019

WELCOME

We welcome you in the name of Christ. **We love welcoming guests/visitors** and encourage you to <u>complete one of the blue cards</u> in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher. 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 except the hymns which are in the red hymnal in the pews/chairs.

All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you may simply remain seated. 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/sung by the whole congregation. **We stand** for portions of our worship service. Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer.

CHILDREN AND NURSERY

We love having children in worship and welcome their participation. Please also feel free at any time to make use of our fully equipped and professionally staffed nursery, located at the north end of the Gathering Area (main church entrance). Our nursery is open and staffed during all regular morning services for children newborn to 5 years old. Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Caring Corner (through the double doors opposite the Gathering Area). Special activity bags for children in worship are available next to the elevator in the Gathering Area.

OUR WORSHIP

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church – gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy 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 Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time. For details, see "About Our Worship" on last page.

OTHER NOTES

- Amplification devices for the hearing impaired are available from ushers or at the welcome desk.
- Large print worship booklets are available from the ushers.
- 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

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

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

God's Beautiful World (arr. S. Zylstra, 2011)

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, \pm one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us + all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

327 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

EBENEZER

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.

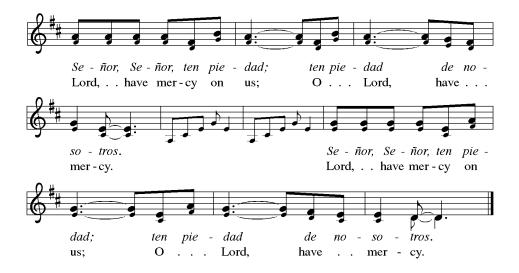
GREETING

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.**

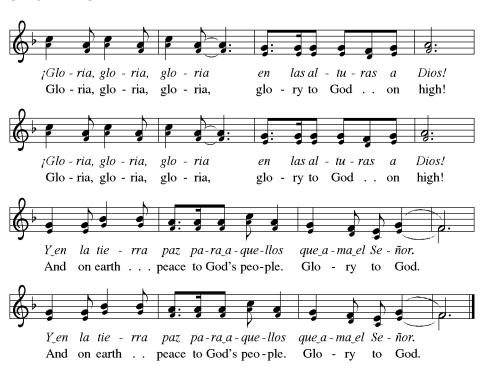
KYRIE



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CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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: Genesis 15:1-6 (see back of bulletin)

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33:12-22 We read responsively.

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³The Lord looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield.

²¹Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.

²²Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (see back of bulletin)

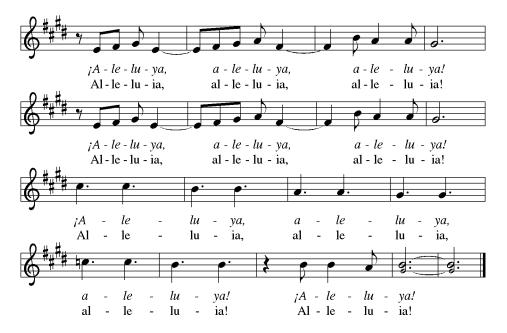
Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(We stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40 (see back of bulletin)

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

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

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

#771 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

HOLY MANNA

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:

... 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.**

Have a prayer concern to share? Forms are available in the back cover of each hymnal.

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)

MEAL

In the second half of our liturgy, we gather around the table, following Jesus' invitation. Here in this meal we encounter the risen Lord who gives himself for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening the Body of Christ.

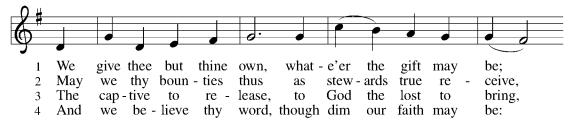
OFFERING

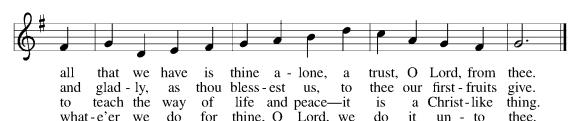
This Little Light of Mine (arr. J. Raney)

Piano Duet

(We stand)

OFFERING SONG: We Give Thee but Thine Own sing verse 1





OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

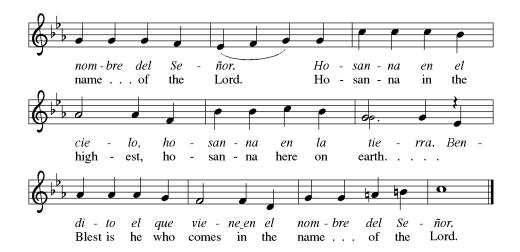
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **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.

Invitation to Communion

God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.

(We sit)

COMMUNION

Processional Communion:

Come forward, first receive the bread* and then take a glass from the trays. You will be offered wine from the pouring chalice. Place your empty glass on the tray and return to your seat via the side aisle. For those who prefer grape juice, pre-filled cups of juice are available from the center of the serving trays. You may choose to receive only the bread. You may come forward for a blessing if you do not wish to receive. If you need to commune in the pew, please let an usher know.

*Gluten free bread is located next to the communion glass trays. Take one if needed and present it to the pastor for blessing.

As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words:

"The body of Christ, given for you . . . The blood of Christ, shed for you." You may say: "Amen."

Music During Distribution

Lamb of God



Piano Solo

(We stand)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. 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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

400 God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

CWM RHONDDA

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

BLESSING

Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving; and the blessing of the holy Trinity, + one God, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is sending you. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing (arr. M. McDonald, 2015)

After worship, Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex invite you to greet them and each other in the Gathering Area.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

PREACHING MINISTER: Pastor Lauren Eanes PRESIDING MINISTER: Pastor Alex Zuber

ACOLYTES 8:45 — Bill Whitmire

10:30 — Kat Kolodinsky

CRUCIFERS 8:45 — Peggy Hill

10:30 — Kathy Thompson

LAY ASSIST. 8:45 — Larry Blade

MINISTERS 10:30 — Meg Wightman

SOUND 8:45 — Keith Baker
TECHS 10:30 — Dana Crittenden

LECTORS 8:45 — Pam Bergey

10:30 — Janine Miller

USHERS/
GREETERS
8:45 — Pam Bergey, Sylvia Hollen, Gina Vogen, Diane Walton
10:30 — Hans Barthmus, Corey Reed, Tim & Kristy Peifer

COMMUNION 8:45 — Sue Totty, Crystl Whitmire **ASSISTANTS** 10:30 — Janine Miller Kathy Thompson

MUSICIANS: Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister

Bill Vance & Elizabeth Williams, piano duets

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of J. S. & Nan Sellers and Vernon & Bessie Tusing by John & Faye Sellers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Please leave this worship booklet in the basket at the sanctuary entrance for the next service and take

The Chimes home with you.

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 three-year cycle, called a 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 <u>non</u>-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: 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," 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..."

EUCHARISTIC 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: 1Cor. 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.



Please join us at 4:30 today for the Installation of Pastor Alex Zuber.

See The Chimes for details.