

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ AUGUST 30, 2020

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 9:00-11:00 am. We'll use "Breakout Rooms" via Zoom to ensure that everyone has a space to participate in this time together! Sunday School classes open around 9:00 am, and all are welcome to join for 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 one of the Pastors, or would like a smaller 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

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

Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major, BWV 560 (J. S. Bach, 1685-1750)

Organ Solo

(We stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation turns and faces the baptismal font.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins, the ways we have unraveled God's good creation.

Holy God,

We have been angry because we see suffering and we don't understand.

We have been skeptical because we know heartbreak that doesn't seem fair.

We have withheld love because sacrifice only feels real when it's our own.

Forgive us for forgetting that you created the heavens and the earth.

Forgive us for withholding our pain from you.

Forgive us for thinking that we know everything.

When the world falls apart around us—

When love unravels and life slowly fails—

Draw us in.

Show us grace; for you gave the wind its weight and you gave our bodies life.

Forgive us for forgetting that.

Amen.

God, the Great Sewer—who weaves us together in community, collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging—is there when life unravels. God is there to stitch your wounds together—through forgiveness, grace, and mercy—to hold you in the palm of God's hand, to tell you of love, and to invite you into a new journey. Receive forgiveness in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, and be restored into the rich tapestry of God's beloved community.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ~ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *we sing verses 1 & 3*

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.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

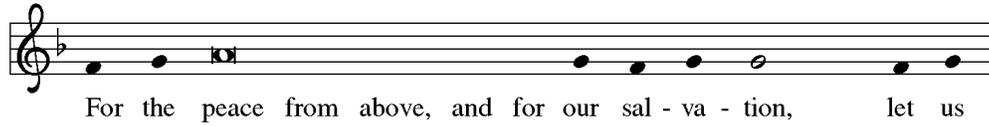
GREETING

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.**

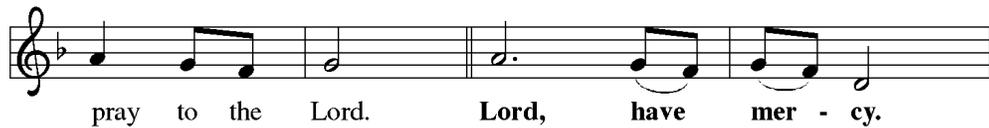
KYRIE



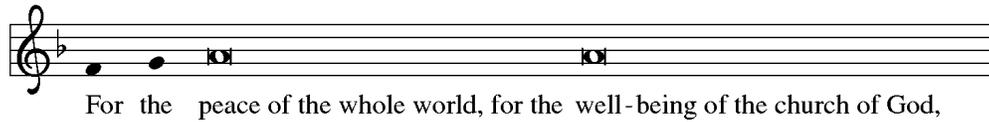
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



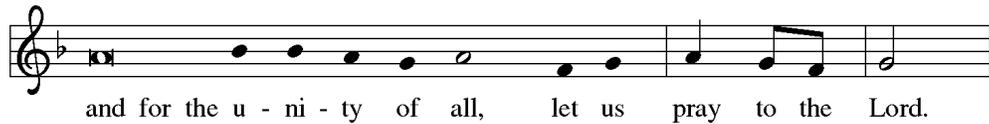
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



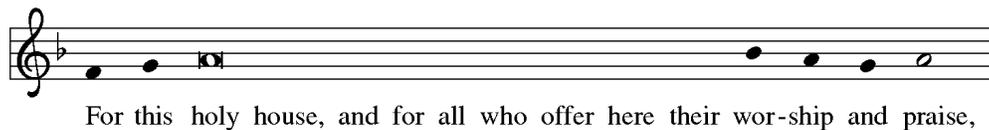
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty 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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, 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 ~ Job 28:12-28

¹²"But where shall wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?
¹³Mortals do not know the way to it,
and it is not found in the land of the living.
¹⁴The deep says, 'It is not in me,'
and the sea says, 'It is not with me.'
¹⁵It cannot be gotten for gold,
and silver cannot be weighed out as its price.
¹⁶It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir,
in precious onyx or sapphire.
¹⁷Gold and glass cannot equal it,
nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold.
¹⁸No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal;
the price of wisdom is above pearls.
¹⁹The chrysolite of Ethiopia cannot compare with it,
nor can it be valued in pure gold.
²⁰"Where then does wisdom come from?
And where is the place of understanding?
²¹It is hidden from the eyes of all living,
and concealed from the birds of the air.
²²Abaddon and Death say,
'We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.'
²³"God understands the way to it,
and he knows its place.
²⁴For he looks to the ends of the earth,
and sees everything under the heavens.
²⁵When he gave to the wind its weight,
and apportioned out the waters by measure;
²⁶when he made a decree for the rain,
and a way for the thunderbolt;
²⁷then he saw it and declared it;
he established it, and searched it out.
²⁸And he said to humankind,
'Truly, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom;
and to depart from evil is understanding.'"

The reading concludes:

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

(We stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ~ Matthew 13:54-58

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

⁵⁴He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? ⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" ⁵⁷And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house." ⁵⁸And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

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 ~ Holy God, Holy and Glorious we sing verses 1, 2 & 4

~see next page~

we sing verses 1, 2 & 4

Holy God, Holy and Glorious



1 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and glo - ri - ous,
2 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and pow - er - ful,
3 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and beau - ti - ful,
4 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and on - ly wise,
5 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and liv - ing one,



glo - ry most sub - lime, you come as one a - mong us
pow - er with - out peer, you bend to us in weak - ness;
beau - ty un - sur - passed, you are de - spised, re - ject - ed;
wis - dom of great price, you choose the way of fol - ly:
life that nev - er ends, you show your love by dy - ing,



in - to hu - man time, and we be - hold your glo - ry.
emp - tied, you draw near, and we be - hold your pow - er.
scorned, you hold us fast, and we be - hold your beau - ty.
God the cru - ci - fied, and we be - hold your wis - dom.
dy - ing for your friends, and we be - hold you liv - ing.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

ELLIOTT TAYLOR OHGREN

PRESENTATION

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidates:

I present Elliott Taylor Ohgren for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring your son to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with *him* among God's faithful people, bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper, teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *his* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *him* in faith and prayer,

so that *your son* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your son* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Elliott* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *him* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support *Elliott* and pray for *him* in *his* new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Elliott, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

The water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

and of the Son,

The water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

After the baptism, the assembly may respond with a sung acclamation.

BAPTISMAL ACCLAMATION ~ You Have Put On Christ we sing twice

1* 2 3

You have put on Christ; in him you have been bap - tized.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain Elliott with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Elliott, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

The service continues with the prayers of intercession.

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 ~ Simple Gifts (arr. M. Hayes, 2002)

Vocal Solo

(We stand)

OFFERING SONG ~ we sing verses 1 & 2

We Give Thee but Thine Own



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing,
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

OFFERING PRAYER

Giver of every good thing, **we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be woven into a garment of love. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

God of unending surprises, this life is a tapestry of moments woven together, and we long to be weavers of love. Today we gather and pray that you would unravel our bias. Unravel our assumptions. Unravel whatever it is that keeps us from you. And as you do, clear space in our hearts for your Word. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 ~ *I Love to Tell the Story* we sing verses 1 & 2 (see next page)

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

I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

BLESSING

May the God of loose ends and knotted hearts,
hem us in before and behind,
weave us together in hope and praise,
unravel our doubt,
sew faith into our hearts,
and draw us together in hope and faith.
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

Dona Nobis Pacem (Traditional)

Vocal Duet & Clarinet

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

LAY ASSISTING MINISTER ~ Robert Alley

LECTOR ~ Linda Alley

MUSICIANS ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister
Aaron Looney, Organ Soloist at Prelude
Cynthia Page, Cantor
Nelle Fox, Vocal Soloist
Keira Miller, Clarinetist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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 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.