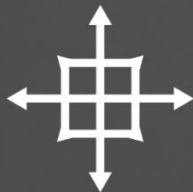


FALL 2023

Who
Am I?



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Who am I? ~ September 10, 17, 24 and October 1, 2023

WELCOME

We welcome you in the name of Christ. **We love welcoming guests/visitors** and encourage you to complete one of the blue cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering basket, or **scan this QR Code** with your smart phone to complete the visitor card digitally. 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. All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing! 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 by the whole congregation. We stand for portions of our worship service. **Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer.**



HEALTH AND SAFETY

We are grateful that the prevalence of COVID in our community has decreased, and we do not require masks in the building. However, we continue to follow the current CDC guidance and we request that anyone who experiences symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, stay home, self-isolate and get tested. Please wear a well-fitted mask if you have a known exposure to COVID in the past 10 days. Wearing a mask for any reason is always welcomed. Thank you for doing all you can to help care for one another by reducing the spread of germs in our community!

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 Narrative Lectionary (a four-year cycle of scripture readings in biblical order), we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time. *For details, see “About Our Worship” on the last page.*

Worship will be live-streamed this morning. Digital ministry is an essential part of our community with the Wellstream service at 11:00 am allowing those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a service of Holy Communion. The cameras will be primarily focused on our worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the sanctuary. If you have questions or concerns about appearing on camera, contact Pastor Alex or Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org).

OTHER NOTES

- **Amplification devices** for the hearing impaired are available from ushers or at the Welcome Desk.
- 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

PRELUDE

(We stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We stand and face the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit whose breath gives us life. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy and faithful God, **you have called us into your community, yet we fail to follow you. You have invited us into your blessing, yet we forget what it means to belong to you. We witness the world's violence and suffering, yet we are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, remember who you are and whose you are. God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, you are known, you are forgiven, you are loved. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

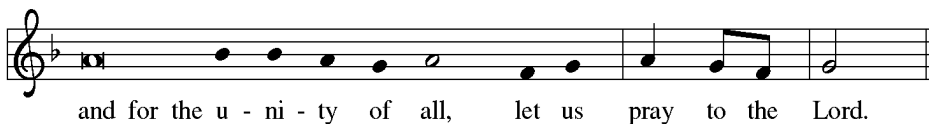
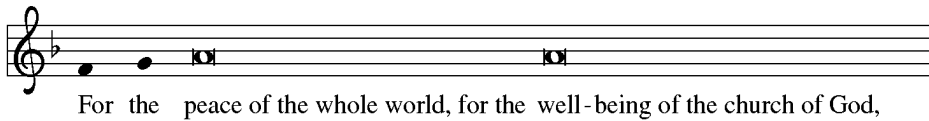
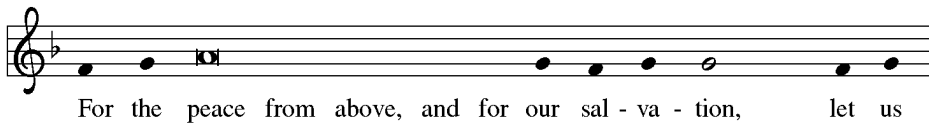
The congregation turns to face the cross as the procession approaches the altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.

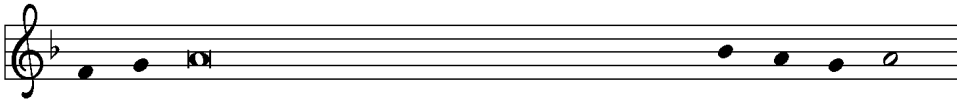
September 10	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	ELW 859
September 17	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	ELW 839
September 24	<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	ELW 807
October 1	<i>Jesus, We Are Gathered</i>	ELW 529

GREETING

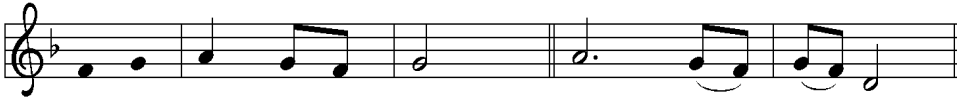
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE





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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (CONT'D)



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are



seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We sit)

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

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

September 10	Genesis 2:4b-25	Pew Bible page 2
September 17	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7	Pew Bible page 15
September 24	Genesis 32: [9-13] 22-30	Pew Bible page 33
October 1	Exodus 1:8-14 [15—2:10]; 3:1-15	Pew Bible page 54

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.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

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

September 10 Mark 1:16-20
September 17 Mark 10:23-27
September 24 Mark 14:32-36
October 1 Mark 12:26-27a

Pew Bible N.T. page 35
Pew Bible N.T. page 47
Pew Bible N.T. page 53
Pew Bible N.T. page 50

After the reading:

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

(We sit)

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows.

(We stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

September 10	<i>Will You Let Me Be Your Servant</i>	ELW 659
September 17	<i>All My Hope On God Is Founded</i>	ELW 757
September 24	<i>Abide With Me</i>	ELW 629
October 1	<i>Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer</i>	ELW 618

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:

. . . Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The Lay Assisting 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 *see The Chimes*

An offering is gathered at this time to support the mission of the church and care for those in need. Our offerings are a humble and grateful response to the gifts that God has first given us. You can place a gift in the offering plate as the ushers come around, or give online by scanning the QR Code and visiting our online giving portal.

**MAKE YOUR OFFERING DIGITALLY
BY SCANNING HERE**



**MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

(We stand)

OFFERING SONG ~ *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

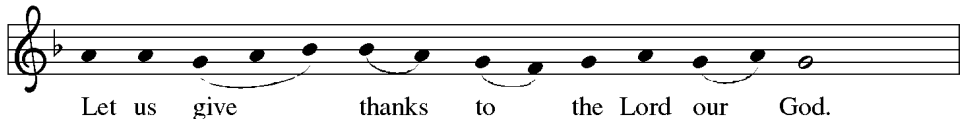
ELW 181

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous Giver, you provide each of us with gifts to offer back to you and in service to others. Bless this offering of time, resources, and our very selves. As we feast at your table of life, open our hands to serve and turn our hearts to all in need, trusting in your ever-present abundance for us and for all the world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
To Abraham and Sarah, you gave new life;
To Jacob, you gave blessing;
To Moses, you gave words of freedom;
To Ruth, you gave belonging;
To David, you gave worship and praise;
and, at this end of all the ages, you gave the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, eat and live.

(We sit)

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table! After the invitation to communion, the ushers will direct each row to come forward. If, for any reason, you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, signal an usher or raise your hand, and an assisting minister will bring the elements to you.

As you come forward, pick up a small cup from the table at the front and then receive the bread (wafer) from the minister. Gluten-free wafers are located on the table. If you require gluten-free, please take one and present it to the pastor for blessing.

Next, proceed to one of the two communion assistants. The first chalice has wine, and the second chalice has grape juice.

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

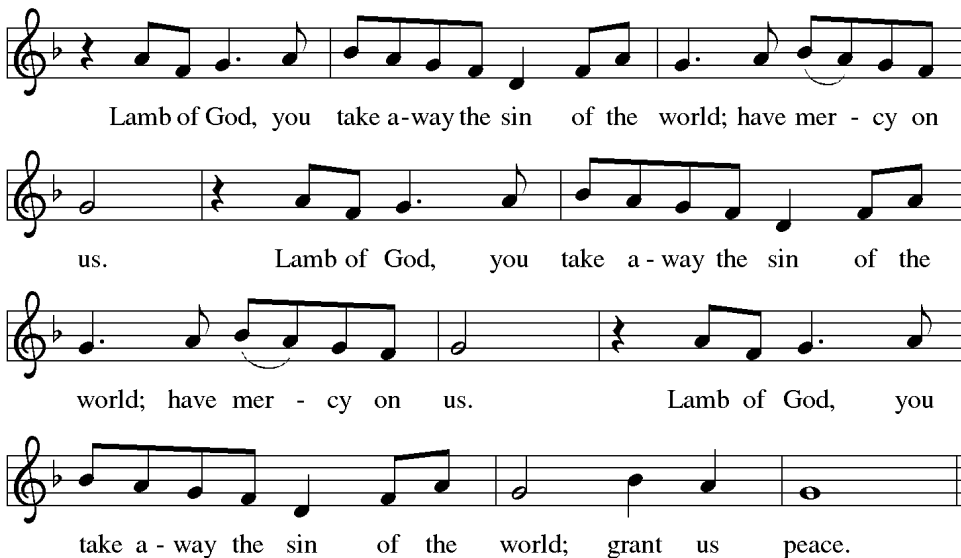
"The body of Christ, given for you . . . The blood of Christ, shed for you."

You may say: "Amen."

After consuming the wine/juice, please put your cup on the tray along the side wall, and return to your seat via the side aisle. **If you don't wish to remove your mask up front**, you may choose to bring the elements back to your pew to eat/drink there.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(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

Let us pray. O 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.

SENDING HYMN

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

September 10	God's Work, Our Hands	see back page of <i>The Chimes</i>
September 17	God Be With You Till We Meet Again	ELW 536
September 24	Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing	ELW 545
October 1	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	ELW 326

BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth with the courage to be who you are and who God is calling you to be.
We go to live out Christ's love. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *see The Chimes*

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: 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. 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.