

# 16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

*Creation by the Word*

**Genesis 1:1-2:4a**

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church



A Wellspring of God's Grace

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

## 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! 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

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, certain measures are in place for our time of worship to be as safe and healthy as possible. **Well-fitted masks will be required for all in-person worshippers, regardless of vaccination status.** Masks are a way we protect those around us, and we wish to create a worship space that is as safe as it can be for those under 12 who cannot be vaccinated yet. Physical distancing will be in place in the sanctuary with every other row in use. **Music will be sung by the choir only.** At this time, there is no congregational singing of hymns and liturgy. Our choir members will be masked, and all musicians have provided proof of vaccination.

## 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 at 11:00 am.** 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](mailto: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](http://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

*For the Beauty of This Hour* (arr. A. Fedak, 2016)

*(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.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

*Silence for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(We sit)

## GATHERING HYMN

Soli Deo Gloria *verses 1, 2 & 4 (sung by choir)*

SOLI DEO GLORIA

*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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE *(sung by choir)*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Grand designer of all things, the light and darkness, the dome in the midst of waters, the sky and dry land, the vegetation, the seasons, the swarms of living creatures, birds and great sea monsters, creeping things and wild animals, and us; all these were brought into being with a word on your lips. And it was good. **Amen.**

## 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 1:1—2:4a

Judy Wilfong, Biblical Storyteller

*We invite you to lay your bulletin aside and listen to the Biblical Storyteller.*

#### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup>God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I

have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

## **Chapter 2**

<sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. <sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

*The reading concludes:*

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

*(We stand)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *(sung by choir)*

**GOSPEL ~ John 1:1-5**

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

*After the reading:*

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

*(We sit)*

**SERMON**

Pastor Alex Zuber

*Silence for reflection follows.*

## ANTHEM

8:30 Le Cygne ("The Swan," from Carnival of the Animals, C. Saint-Saens, 1835-1921)

Piano Duet

11:00 Creator of Beauty and Giver of Light (M. Schweizer)

Vocal and Flute Duet

## REMEMBRANCE OF 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

On this 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we remember, O Lord, all whose lives were changed on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Bless our remembrance and bless our prayers as we come before you,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For all victims who went to work or boarded planes that morning, never guessing what the day would bring, and for all who were caught in the attacks and lost their lives,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For those who resisted terror at the price of their own lives,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For all who worked valiantly and selflessly to help others,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For the first responders who rushed in as others rushed out,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For houses of worship that opened their doors in the midst of chaos to provide places of rest and solace, prayer and hope,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For those who stood in line at blood banks and for all who gave time, money and labor to help survivors and their families,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For innocent people who were treated with hatred or suspicion because of their religion or nationality,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For this citizenry of many nationalities, races and religions,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For the scars of war that have been carried these past 20 years and for those who bear them,



## **We pray to you, O Lord.**

For ourselves, as we remember that day as if it were only yesterday.

## **We pray to you, O Lord.**

*We pause for a moment of silent reflection as the bell is tolled three times in memory of those who died in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania.*

Let us pray,

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is discord, union;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**

**to be understood as to understand;**

**to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

. . . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*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.*

(We stand)

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Maintaining physical distancing, and only making physical contact with members of your own household, the congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace (i.e., hand over heart, nod, wave, etc.), using these or similar words: “**Peace be with you.**”*

## 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.*

(We sit)

### MUSICAL OFFERING

8:30 *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (arr. G. Kendrick, 1989)

11:00 *When Morning Gilds the Skies* (R. Aarons)

Celebration Singers  
Sanctuary Choir

(We stand)

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, **you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

*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, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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**

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

*(We sit)*

### **COMMUNION**

*Physical distancing measures will be maintained for the distribution of communion. After the invitation to communion, take the prepackaged communion kit and open the bread side first. As the ministers says, “The body of Christ, given for you . . .” you may eat the wafer. As the minister says, “The blood of Christ, shed for you,” you may drink from the wine/juice side and say: “Amen.”*

*Please dispose of your communion packaging in the trash can by the doors on your way out. Gluten free and non-alcoholic juice communion elements are available.*

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.*

(We stand)

### SENDING HYMN

Beautiful Savior verses 1 & 4 *(sung by choir)*

SCHONSTER HERR JESU

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

### INSTALLATION OF CHILDREN'S MINISTER ASHLEY SAUNDERS

#### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

#### DISMISSAL

We have been renewed at the Wellspring of God's grace! Now, go in peace to live out Christ's love!

**We go to be: Open ☩ Authentic ☩ Relational ☩ Serving**

**Thanks be to God!**

#### POSTLUDE

Acclamation on "Grosser Gott" ("Holy God, We Praise Your Name," arr. P. Lehenbauer, 2019)

**After worship, *Pastor Alex and Pastor Daniel* invite you to greet them and each other in the Gathering Area and outside. Please maintain physical distance and be mindful of others' wishes for space.**

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

**PREACHING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

**PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Daniel Hess

**CRUCIFERS**      **8:30** — Roger Kagey  
**11:00** — Kathy Thompson

**LAY ASSISTING**   **8:30** — Mary Elizabeth Skinner  
**MINISTERS**      **11:00** — Kathy Thompson

**USHERS**          **8:00** — Karen Thomsen, Bart Long, Bill Whitmire  
**11:00** — Jon, Emma and Abby Gibson

**MUSICIANS**      Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister  
Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist  
Members of Celebration Singers (8:30) & Sanctuary Choir (11:00)  
Cynthia Page, Soprano; Greta Willis, Flute (11:00)

*Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and  
in honor of their children's wedding anniversaries by Malcom & Judy Wilfong and  
in thanksgiving for being together again in worship in person by Kathy Thompson.*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.

### **Reminders as You Exit the Sanctuary**

- **Please place your offering in the basket by the font.**
- **Please place your communion packaging in the trash can as you exit the sanctuary.**
- **We encourage you to 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 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: 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.

