

*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



16 APRIL 2023  
The Second Sunday of Easter  
10:30 am

*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

## LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

*Pastor Emeritus*

WALT GABER

RON KING

*Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity*

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

*Pastors in Residence*

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

*Director of Care & Health Ministries*

JAN MACINNES

BETH KELLER

*Youth and Family Ministry*

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

BECKY CAREY

*Interim Academy Administrator*

**16 APRIL 2023**

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Three • 10:30**



### LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage.

As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

***GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”***

**PRELUDE** – Variations on "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

Michael Burkhardt, David Cherwien

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

### TEMPLE TALK

Pastor Brian Riddle

*Please stand as you are able.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

☐ Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we give thanks for the Great Exchange, the mercy and forgiveness that wrap our true selves in sacred belonging and purpose.

☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

☐ For a word at the dawn of creation, which spoke water and life into being.

☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

☐ For the great flood that revealed nature's power and God's commitment to life after death.

☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

☐ For the river that carried Moses safely, building a bridge between mothers and nations.

☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



- P** For the rock split open in the desert, spilling water for those thirsting for freedom.
- C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**
- P** For the One who turned water into wine and met a woman at the well with living water.
- C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**
- P** For Living Water poured out on all people, washing the eunuch and Philip and us alike.
- C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**
- P** For the gift of holy baptism, which declares there are no more godforsaken places, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus. For Christ is risen!
- C** **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**
- P** Let us pray:  
 God of life, we rejoice with the waters that cover creation;  
 our songs of praise echo their dancing tides and streams.  
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on this community and all of creation.  
 Cleanse our fears.  
 Drown our divisions.  
 Give us mercy and grace to drink so that our whole lives  
 are signs of death defeated and thirst quenched  
 thanks to the risen Jesus, the Beloved of God.
- C** **Amen.**

*The author of this hymn text, John of Damascus, is one of the great poets of the Greek church. The poem, written for the Second Sunday of Easter, traditionally refers to the passage through the Red Sea, as seen in verse 1. The melody is by a 16<sup>th</sup> century priest of the Bohemian Brethren, who once traveled to Wittenberg to discuss the views of the Brethren with Martin Luther.*

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

**ELW 363**

**Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain**



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,  
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.  
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;  
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal;  
 who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
 comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing  
 Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;





led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 wel-comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

## GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P** The grace of our Risen Savior Jesus Christ, the love of the ever-living God, and the fellowship of the life-breathing Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### Refrain



This is the feast of vic to-ry for our God, Al-le - lu- ia, al-le - lu- ia, al-le - lu - ia!



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom and strength, And
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to
5. For the Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ who was slain Has be -



blood set us free \_\_\_\_\_ to be peo - ple of God. ... *refrain*  
 hon - or, \_\_\_\_\_ bless - ing and glo - ry are his. ... *refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - - tion: ... *to verse 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men. ... *refrain*  
 gun his \_\_\_\_\_ reign, \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le - lu - ia! ... *final refrain*

### Final Refrain



This is the feast of victo-ry for our God, Al-le - lu- ia, al-le - lu- ia, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Dignus est Agnus, tr. John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
 Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”**

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God’s plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd : <sup>22</sup>“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup>this Jesus, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>“For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, who is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; <sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. <sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. <sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ <sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that God would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ <sup>32</sup>“This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 16**

**Refrain:** (*Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.*)



- <sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;  
I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”
- <sup>2</sup> All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.
- <sup>3</sup> But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- <sup>4</sup> I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips. **R**
- <sup>5</sup> O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.
- <sup>6</sup> My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.
- <sup>7</sup> I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.
- <sup>8</sup> I have set the Lord always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. **R**



<sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup> For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. **R**

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose great mercy we have been given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith— being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire— may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

## GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand ►

in his side, I will not believe.”<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.<sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Jay

*Please stand as you are able.*

*This text was written by United Church minister Nigel Weaver during the meeting of the Hymn Society in Toronto in 1993.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 390**

**The Risen Christ**



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet  
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,  
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand  
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,  
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide  
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,  
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,  
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;  
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,  
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.  
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.  
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.  
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952  
 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Groatorex, 1877–1949  
 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.  
 Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

## NICENE CREED

**A** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS *1 Timothy 2:1*

**A** United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary world. Following the women at the tomb, empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words and our work. Hear us, O God.

**C** Your mercy is great.

**A** As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains. Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction. Hear us, O God.

**C** Your mercy is great.

**A** You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our communities' leaders. Give them a spirit of peace and hearts that burn for justice, that their leadership reflects your love. Hear us, O God.

**C** Your mercy is great.

**A** You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief. Hear us, O God.

**C** Your mercy is great.





**A** As you met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, show us your presence along our journeys. Bless our doubts and questions. Provide trusting and safe relationships for all ages, to nurture our connection to you and one another. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Resurrecting God, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with companions on our faith journey, especially those who now rest in your love, especially Leo Hokaj and Emily Wojecki Hokaj. Strengthen us with the eternal peace of your promises. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** The peace of the Lord is with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”**

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**ANTHEM – “Doubting Thomas”**

arr. Mark Schweizer

*O sons and daughters, let us sing! The King of Heaven, the glorious King,  
Over death and hell rose triumphing. Alleluia!*

*When Thomas first the tidings heard, how they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia!*

*“My pierced side, O Thomas, see; My hands, my feet, I show to thee;  
Not faithless but believing be.” Alleluia!*

*No longer Thomas then denied; he saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
“Thou art my Lord and God,” he cried. Alleluia!*

*How blest are they who have not seen, and yet whose faith has constant been;  
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia!*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY

ELW 462

Now We Join in Celebration



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,

stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990  
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
 Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Generous God,  
 in this meal you offer your very self.  
 We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
 In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.  
 In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world;  
 through Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And** al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift** them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

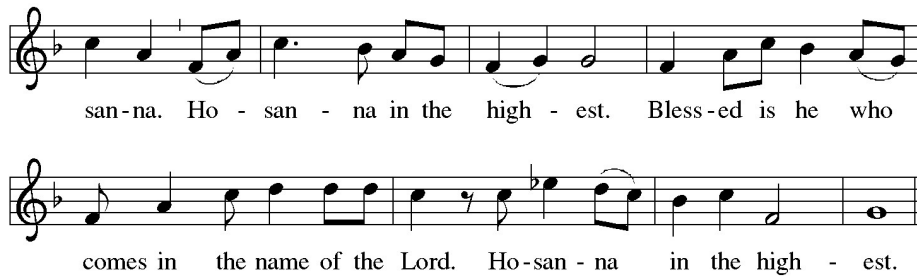
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -





## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** O God most mighty,  
O God most merciful,  
O God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise,  
call us to your table,  
grant us your life.
- P** When the earth was a formless void,  
you formed order and beauty.  
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,  
you sent them a child;  
When the Israelites were enslaved,  
you led them to freedom.  
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,  
and the psalmists cried out for healing,  
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.
- P** You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.  
He was born among the poor,  
he lived under oppression,  
he wept over the city.  
With infinite love, he granted the people your 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.*

- P** Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.  
**C** Amen.
- P** Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.  
**C** Amen.
- P** Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.  
**C** Amen.



**P** O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.  
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.  
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.  
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

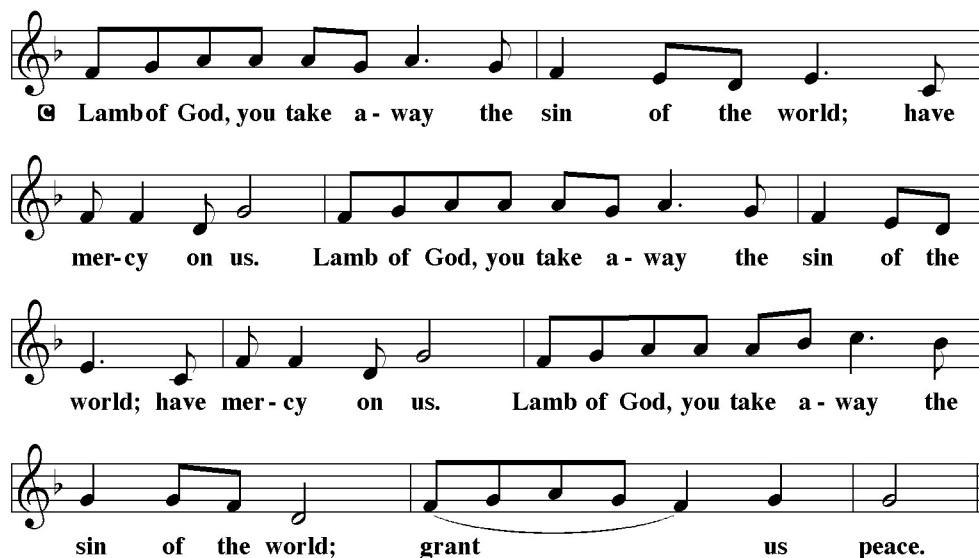
**P** O God most majestic, O God most motherly,  
O God our strength and our song,  
you show us a vision of a tree of life  
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.  
Grant us such life,  
the life of the Father to the Son,  
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,  
life in you, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**and the power, and the glory,**  
**forever and ever. Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI



**C** 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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread

**C** as once you were known to your disciples.

**P** Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

The congregation is seated.

## SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

## COMMUNION

*Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.*

*Please come forward by the center aisle.*

*Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.*

*Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it are in the center of the tray.*

*Gluten-free wafers are on the stand in front of the baptismal font.*

*Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.*

*If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.*

*This hymn text is the work of a distinguished British scholar and theologian of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The composer, about whom little else is known, named the tune after a famous bridge over Dunlap's Creek, located in Brownsville PA, 30 miles south of Pittsburgh.*

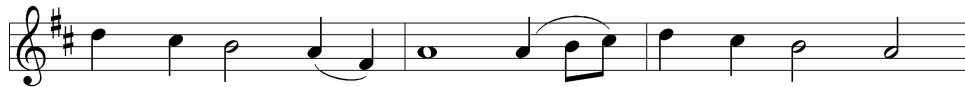
## HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

WOV 675

### We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 That, when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found:  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*With references to miracles in which Jesus fed gathered crowds and to the last supper, the first two stanzas fittingly begin with a past-tense phrase, "Loaves were broken, words were spoken."*

*Stanza three then brings us into the present tense, when Jesus is present to us in holy communion, just as he promised. The final stanza sends us into the future, as we leave worship to share the good news and serve our neighbors. Herman Stuempfle was a pastor and seminary president whose life of service included supporting day care, a homeless shelter, and prison ministry.*

ACS 966

## Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



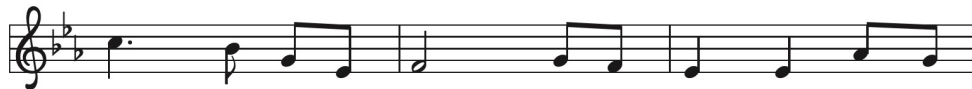
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007  
Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com). All rights reserved.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### TABLE BLESSING

☐ May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

☑ Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Gracious God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

*SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TEMPLE TALK

Stan Rose

### RECEIVING AND DEDICATING OF PLEDGES FOR PARKING LOT PROJECT

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

**P** The God of all,  
who raised † Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.

**C** Amen.

*This morning's hymn text, so appropriately tying the Resurrection with the progress of spring, is the work of a 20<sup>th</sup> century British poet and cleric, while the melody is a French carol.*

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 379

### Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

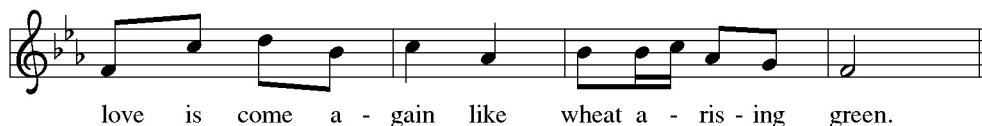


wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;





Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958  
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- A** Go in peace. Tell what God has done. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – "Now the Green Blade Rises"

Michael Burkhardt, John Carter

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### — SERVING TODAY —

*PREACHING* – Pastor Jay Mitchell

*GREETER* – Pat Young

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Liz Stroup

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Pam Masiroff

*LECTOR* – Ann Flick

*ALTAR GUILD* – Martha & Tom Klomp

*USHERS* – Mary Daniels, Pat Gilbert, Carl Moore, Betty Pletz



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of departed members of The Women of the ELCA.

**Front lectern flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of the April birthdays of Leo Hokaj, brother, and Emily Wojacki Hokaj, mother, by Ed Hokaj.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Dave Kinzig on the death of his mother, Joan Peters, who died Wednesday, April 12.

### Today's Events

**We welcome** Pastor Brian Riddle and guests from Thiel College this morning who will be sharing information on Thiel College.

**Children's Church** classes for PreK – grade 6 will meet this morning from 9:30 – 10:15am. Our final class will be held Sunday, May 21. We hope to see many smiling faces before we break for the summer.

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

**The Flying Squirrel** Trampoline Park, 1338 East Grandview Blvd., is where you'll want to be this afternoon. Bring the family and have some fun from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. Luther Memorial will cover the cost of 1 ½ hours of jump time. Families are asked to pay for jump socks (\$4) and any snacks purchased. Please RSVP to Sarah Prylinski at 814-882-1695.



## Where Is Pastor Jay?

**For the week of April 16**, you can drop in on Pastor Jay Monday from 11:00am-1:00pm OR Tuesday from 3:00-5:00pm at Ember and Forge (401 State Street). You may always meet with Pastor Jay by appointment: [JMitchell@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:JMitchell@luthermemorialonline.org) or by using: [calendly.com/TheRevJCM](https://calendly.com/TheRevJCM).

**Pastor Jay** will be out of the office for Continuing Education April 19-20.

## Worship

**The Prelude** brings us together for the beginning of our worship service each Sunday morning. Our worship time together concludes when the Postlude is complete. We ask that the chancel area remain unoccupied during these times of music as live video streaming continues through the entire worship service. Thank you.

## Ascension of Our Lord

A **festival service** celebrating the **Ascension of Our Lord** will be held at Luther Memorial on the evening of Thursday, May 18. All of the Erie County ELCA churches will be invited to participate and Bishop Lozano will be preaching. If you would like to sing in the massed choir for this service (*hymns, liturgy, psalm*) please contact Walt Gaber ([WaltGaber@gmail.com](mailto:WaltGaber@gmail.com), 814.602.2755). Information will be provided about the music and a single rehearsal to be held just prior to the worship service.

We will also present one of **J.S. Bach's Ascension cantatas** during the service. As in our previous Bach Cantata Vespers, this cantata will be sung in its original German and accompanied by a small orchestra. Much of the cantata is sung by soloists, with the chorus singing the first and last movements. If you would like to receive more information about the music and rehearsals for the cantata, please contact Walt Gaber immediately and plan to attend the **rehearsal today from noon to 1:15**.

## Opportunities for Fellowship

**OWLS** will welcome spring with a lunch on Tuesday, April 18 from 11:30am – 1:00pm in our church parlor. Please bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided.

**Magic Fingers Grace Group** is ready to hop into spring! Bring those beautiful pastels and join us the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00-12:00pm. We look forward to our wonderful mornings together knitting and crocheting on April 25. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes and let us know if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

## Supporting our Youth

**Silent Auction** bids will be accepted Sunday, April 23 – Sunday, May 7. A variety of items will be available in the parlor for your bidding. Bids may be placed throughout the week by

1. Completing a bid form and placing in the labeled box in the parlor or dropping off in the church office
2. Contacting Norma in our church office at [nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org) or 814-454-0106, ext. 221
3. Giving your form to Beth Keller

Be sure to check the bulletin board outside the parlor to see the current high bid for each item.

All proceeds from our Silent Auction will be used for our youth who will be traveling to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2024 and to help the church defer costs for our youth attending confirmation camp.

## Your Health

**Safe in Home services** will offer a class in fall prevention on Friday, May 5 from 10:00-11:00am. Learn about the many tools you can use to reduce your risk of falling and injury. This information is not just for seniors. If you assist an elderly relative, would like to be steadier on your feet, join us. Please RSVP to Linda Graffius, RN at [lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org](mailto:lgraffius@luthermemorialonline.org) or 814-454-0106, ext. 229 or to Norma Buerk at 814-454-0106, ext. 221.

## Outreach

**Volunteers** are needed to serve dinner to those in our sister congregation, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, on Thursday, April 27. Prior to Covid, congregations in our Erie Conference provided dinner once a month to approximately 40-50 people. Our volunteers will prepare and serve the meal and clean up following. Sloppy Joes are the suggested main course along with fruit and/or vegetable, bottled water and/or juice and dessert. The meal can be prepared at Luther Memorial and taken to Holy Trinity. Access to Holy Trinity will be at 4:00pm; dinner begins at 5:00pm. For more information, please contact Norma in the church office.

## Luther Memorial Academy

**LMA's Lego League** team has been invited to a FIRST Lego League tournament at Worchester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts June 9-11, 2023. This is a huge opportunity for the LMA team and they are proud to represent LMA & Erie County. To make this happen for our team, it is necessary to raise \$845 per student, which means a total of \$5,915 for the team. If you are aware of an area business that would like to sponsor our Lego League, please share the information with the school office. Every little bit helps & all donation and sponsorship can be mailed or dropped off in the school office. Be sure to make checks payable to LMA & earmark them for Lego League. Thank you.

## Items to Note

**Parking** in the lot across from 11<sup>th</sup> Street is not permitted. Please do not park in this area as your car will be towed. Thank you.

**In case of an emergency** please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.

## – PRAYER LIST –

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Cathy & Don MacGregor	C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	Mike Daniels
Paul Meucci	Dave Birkner	Torsten Carlson	Julie Sturm
Lynnette Gustafson	Richard Jeffords		
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Dennis & Lori Sander	Elayne Morphy	June Madurski	Edie Jackman
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Branden Jones
Mark Smith	Nichole Jones	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris
Jessica & Damian Ream	Elise VanDamia	Brendan Sauers	Meghan Kessler
Austin Coverdale	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg
Baby Archer Bardwell	Curtis Krick	Tom Braendel	Susan Brooks
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon	Debbie	Caitlyn Kessler	Michele Seifert
Ginger	Barbara Dennison	Diane Henry	Kate Collins
<b>Grief:</b>			
J. David Mumford family	Megan Bruno-Osborne	Joan Peters family	
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

**CALENDAR**

**MONDAY, APRIL 17**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20**                      6:30pm                      Choir Rehearsal

**FRIDAY, APRIL 21**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**                      10:00am                      Quilt Meeting

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023**  
**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Worship** with us at 8:15 and 10:30am.

**Silent Auction** will begin; stop in the parlor for the fun.

<b>SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Julie Ditz
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Loretta Deeds
Greeters	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Gina Snider
Counters	10:30am	Skip MacInnes, Liz Stroup