

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



5 MAY 2024
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
10:30 am

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

5 MAY 2024

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Communion • LBW – Setting I • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – “Andantino Pastorale”

Filippo Capocci (1840 - 1911)

Please stand as you are able and face the font.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, ...
Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John...
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Voices Raised to You

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936


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GREETING


- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☒ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- ☐ The grace...be with you all.
- ☒ And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE


Refrain



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




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



All 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:

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

Please be seated.

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

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

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The believers from among the Jewish people who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

A Thanks be to God.

A Christmas carol in the midst of the Easter season? Absolutely!
These words by Isaac Watts are based on Psalm 98 and were originally meant as a celebration of the
Reign of Christ. Psalm 98 (used at Christmas) is used at several times throughout the church year
including on the feast of the Holy Cross in September.

PSALMODY: Psalm 98

ELW 267

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey God's commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey the commandments of God, which are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☐ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

Jesus said: ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in my Father's love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Smallwood
James Franklin Kelly and Hope Eyster Kelly Assoc. Prof. of Public Theology
at United Lutheran Seminary

Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953
 Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928
 Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song, c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music (ASCAP).
 c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Support those who run for public office. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us, especially Helen Roth. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be 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 offering is received for the mission of the church. Our offerings at Luther Memorial support our ministries as well as those of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Online giving may be done via our website: LutherMemorialOnline.org and using the “contribute online” button at the bottom of the page.

ANTHEM – “If Ye Love Me”
(John 14:15-17)

Thomas Tallis

*If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father,
And he shall give you another,
That he may bide with you for ever,
E'en the spirit of truth.*

Please stand in body or spirit as our collected gifts are brought forward.

OFFERTORY

ACS 933

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

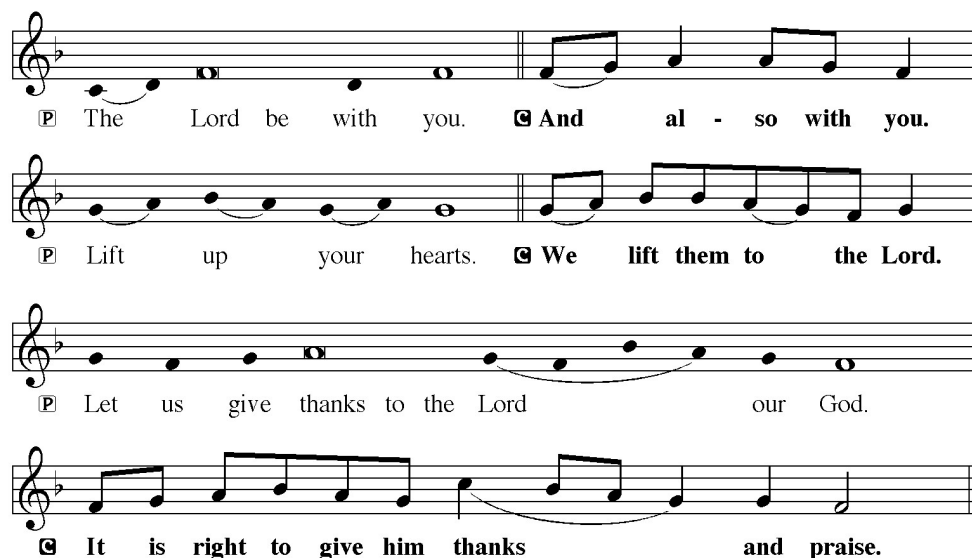
1 Day of de - light and beau-ty un - bound-ed, tell the news, the gos - pel
spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ
ris - en from the dead! Sing of the sun from dark - ness ap -
pear - ing; sing of the seed from bar - ren earth green - ing;
sing of cre - a - tion, al - le - lu - ia! Sing of the
stream from Je - sus' side flow - ing; sing of the saints in
wa - ter made ho - ly; sing of sal - va - tion, al - le - lu - ia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Risen One,...through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG



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

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

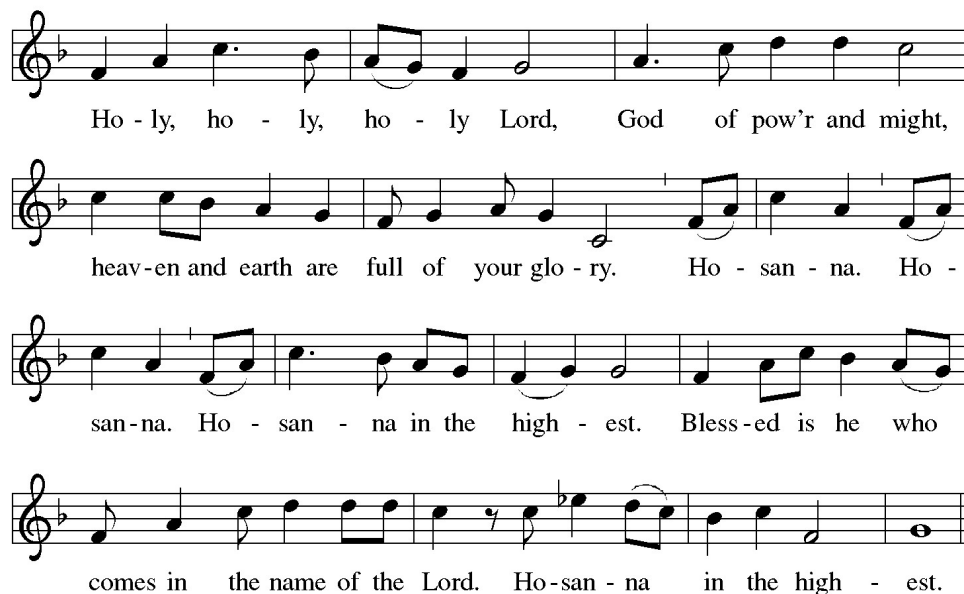
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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 -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, Sovereign of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only begotten, that all those who believe in Jesus should not perish, but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have prepared for us through the same Jesus Christ. Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in the holy Supper.

C Amen. Be known to us, risen Christ, in this meal, as once you were known to your disciples.

*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.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

☛ **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☞ Alleluia! Christ our Paschal Lamb is sacrificed for us!

☛ **Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

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

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.

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

White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.

Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.

As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.

*All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen

¡Aleluya! Cristo resucitó

Refrain/Estrillo



¡A - le - lu - ya! Cris - to re - su - ci - tó
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is a - ris - en.

de ma - dru - ga - da el do - min - go.
Bright is the dawn-ing of the Lord's day.

1 Fue - ron mu - jer - es al se - pul - cro. La pie - dra, un
1 Run, faith - ful wom-en, to the grave-side. Mar - vel, the
2 Rise, Mag - da - len - a, from your weep-ing; Christ stands be -
3 Gath - er, dis - ci - ples, in the eve - ning; sud - den - ly
4 Thom-as, where were you on that eve - ning? "I'll not be -

án - gel re - mo - vió; les di - jo: "Ha re - su - ci -
stone is rolled a - way! Hear from the an - gel, "He is
fore your ver - y eyes. Quick - ly re - turn to the dis -
Christ your Lord ap - pears. "Look, it is I, your wound-ed
lieve un - less I see." Christ comes a - gain, and ev - 'ry

Refrain/Estrillo

ta - do." Y al ir - se, les sa - lió el Se - ñor.
ris - en." Christ goes be - fore you all the way.
ci - ples; bear the good news: "He is a - live."
Sav - ior. Peace be with you, and do not fear."
Lord's day: "Touch me and see; have faith in me."

Text: Luis Bojos, b. 1937; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951

Music: SANTO DOMINGO, Luis Bojos, b. 1937

Text and music © 1974, 2000 Luis Bojos. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in the flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

TABLE BLESSING

- ☐ 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 CANTICLE

ACS 933

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

2 Day of de - light and beau-ty un - bound-ed, tell the news, the gos - pel
spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ
ris - en from the dead! Sing now of mourn - ing turned in - to



danc - ing; sing now the mys - t'ry, hope of our glo - ry;

sing with thanks - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Sing now of

fast - ing turned in - to feast - ing; sing the Lord's fa - vor

last - ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622
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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Shepherding God,...Jesus, our redeemer and friend.
C Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING HYMN

Go, Make Disciples

ELW 540



“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.

Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.

Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're

serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
 Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson
 Text and music © 1996 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

All are invited to gather at the green space for a blessing.

ROGATION BLESSING OF LUTHER MEMORIAL GREEN SPACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen. You stretched out the heavens like a tent; you divided the day from the night; you appointed times and seasons for work and rest, for tearing down and building up. You blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death: Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets; Mary, your mother; Peter, James, John, and all the apostles; and all the saints and witnesses in your church of ages past, in whom your Spirit spoke and moved. We give you thanks, O God, as we set apart this green space to your glory and praise. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

All may join in circumambulating the green space as it is blessed. When all have returned to their places, the Presiding Minister prays and blesses the assembly.

P Let us pray: Merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P ... ✠ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

A Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell

PREACHING MINISTER – The Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Smallwood

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Linda Swanson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Elaine Kern

LECTOR – Linda Melaragno

BREAD BAKER – Keri and Anna Cooney

USHERS – Sue Cappelletty, Mary Daniels, Jeanne Gaber, Pat Gilbert

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke

VIDEO STREAMING – Christy Adams



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my mother, Helen Roth, by her daughter, Donna Sedelmyer.

About our guest preacher: Dr. Smallwood has served as Postdoctoral Fellow and Associate Director of the Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative at Vanderbilt Divinity School since 2017. She has taught at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, Religious Freedom Center in Washington, D.C., Chicago Theological Seminary and Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR. She began her legal career with Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont in Charlotte, NC, where she also worked as a staff attorney for the Children’s Law Center. In 1989, she served as an Assistant District Attorney until she commenced her private practice that spanned more than two decades. Dr. Smallwood’s Ph.D. dissertation was entitled, *The Leprosy Effect: A Queer Womanist Pastoral Care Model*. Her areas of specialty are Womanist and Feminist Theology and Ethics; Black Church Tradition; Race, Gender and Sexuality; Emmanuel Levinas; Africana Pastoral Theology; and 20th century Theology; Comprehensive Examinations: Womanist and Feminist Theology and Ethics; Black Church Tradition: Race, Gender and Sexuality; Emmanuel Levinas; Africana Pastoral Theology; 20th c. Theology, Ethnography, Spanish, French.” Dr. Smallwood was licensed and ordained to public ministry while serving Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Lewiston, NC. She is a member at New Covenant Christian Church in Nashville, TN. She has published extensively, including book chapters “Race, Law, and Religious Freedom,” in *African Americans and Religious Freedom: New Perspectives for Congregations and Communities*, “Who Defines the Religious Narrative? The Old Guard Meets the Avant-garde in Nashville—The ‘It’ City,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Cities*, and is currently working on a book under review for publication, *The Bully Pulpit: Queer and Black in Church*. She has presented numerous papers and lectures and served as a panelist at Morgan State University, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Vanderbilt University, Children’s Defense Fund Proctor Conference, Chicago Theological Seminary and Oxford University, among others.

We would like to recognize our high school and college graduates. Please contact Norma in our church office by phone, 454-0106, ext. 221, or email, nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org, by Friday, May 24 with the following:

For our high school graduates, please share:

1. Name
2. High school they are graduating from
3. Future plans, college, service, etc.

For our college graduates, please share:

1. Name
2. College they are graduating from
3. Degree

Today’s Events

Annabelle Marilyn Cooney will partake of her First Holy Communion at the 8:15 service this morning. Please join us in the parlor following the 8:15 service for a reception honoring Annabelle’s First Communion.

Car washes will be held this morning and Sunday, May 19 following worship services; 9:00am and 11:30am. Our youth will be armed with buckets of suds to give your car a sparkling shine.

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.

Worship

A **festival service** celebrating the **Ascension of Our Lord** will be held at Luther Memorial on the evening of Thursday, May 9 at 7:00. All of the Erie County ELCA churches are welcome and Rev. Erik Young will be preaching. A reception will follow in our parlor.

Our prelude begins at 10:25 each week and flows into the 10:30am worship time. We hope that this will draw us together and into our time of worship. Please remember to be mindful of those around you and those worshipping at home by keeping conversations and visiting to the lobbies once the prelude has begun. Thank you.

A **reminder** that our livestream runs from the beginning of the prelude through the end of the postlude. To maintain a worshipful space for those joining from home, please remember to leave the chancel area (the area around the altar) clear until after the postlude.

Worship Matters

Today, we (finally) bless our Green Space because this week we mark the **Rogation Days**. Stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The creation that God declared good is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship. Rogation Days are a way for the church to honor God for the gift of creation and to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of all people. Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word Rogation has its roots in the Latin word that means to ask or petition, and it comes from the ancient introit for the Sunday preceding the Ascension. In some places the celebrations of Rogation Days were quite elaborate and included processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God's blessing. Although Rogation Days are agricultural celebrations, they are not solely for rural congregations. These days underscore the dependence of all people, urban and rural, on the fruitfulness of the earth and human labor.

Where Is Pastor Jay?

Pastor Jay is happy to meet with you anytime, just let him know! However, if you would like to just "drop in" on him, this week you can find him at the Topsy Bean (2425 Peach) on Monday from 3-4pm or on Wednesday in the office from 10-11:30am. Any other time, just give him a call or send him an email!

Music Ministry

The final "Second Sunday Family & Friends Prelude" of the 2023-2024 season will be presented by the **Luther Memorial Concert Series** next Sunday, May 12 at 10:25 in the main church. The program will include **hymn arrangements and a trio sonata for flute, violin, cello and piano**. And we give a big "Thank You" to Linda Melaragno, Barb Moore, Bill Lasher, Bob Banks, Kara Partusch and the Mercyhurst Liturgical Dance Ensemble who have provided very musical and enjoyable preludes in recent months.

Christian Education

Sunday School and LYO will gather for class on Sunday, May 19 from 9:30 – 10:15am. This is our final class until Sunday School begins again in September.

Family Vacation Bible School – four wonderful evenings for children, youth, and adults will be held on Wednesdays May 22, May 29, June 5 and June 12. We will go into an amazing undersea adventure with **SCUBA** and discover what living water is really all about. Our evenings together will be from 5:30-7:00pm and begin with a potluck meal (main dish provided; please bring a dish to share), followed by a Bible message, craft, music and some great activities, too.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Deborah and Tuesday W/ELCA circles will gather for their General Meeting on Tuesday, May 7 at 12:00 noon in the parlor.

Magic Fingers Grace Group invites you to spend the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month with them for knitting, crocheting and any yarn project you may be creating. These are wonderful mornings of fellowship and laughter. Join us May 14 and May 28 from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

OWLS will head to the Penn State Planetarium on Wednesday, May 22 for a presentation by Jim Gavio on astronomy and our amazing universe. The presentation begins at 11:00am; carpooling is available by meeting at the church between 9:45 and 10:00am. Cost is \$3.50/person and permits will be provided for free parking on campus. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes or the church office by Wednesday, May 15.

CampBlast will be held at Camp Lutherlyn, Butler, Pa, on Saturday, May 11 from 11:00am – 4:30pm. Rain or shine, this is a day of fun for the entire family; archery, gaga ball, zipline, crafts, hiking, hay rides, kayaking, and so much more. The entire day is free. What a wonderful way to spend your day!

Support for our Youth

Your taste buds will thank you for dining at the Texas Roadhouse, 7475 Peach Street, on Tuesday, May 14. Stop in between 3:00 and 8:00pm and enjoy a delicious meal. Present your coupon, found at the welcome tables, and 10% of your bill will go to supporting our youth for their travel to the National Youth Gathering in July.

The Salt Spa, 101 Center Street in Corry, is offering **salt room** and **floatation therapy** sessions through June 1. A 45 minute session in the salt room is \$30. A 16 minute floatation therapy session is \$65. Our LYO will receive \$10 for each session booked. Sign-up sheets are located at the welcome tables and the church office; you will be contacted to arrange your visit.

Youth Event

Willy Wonka Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, May 17 from 5:30 – 9:00pm for youth in grades 5 and up. Join us for more fun and lots of chocolate! Please RSVP to Beth Keller or the church office.

Luther Memorial Academy

LMA Spring Program will be held tomorrow, Monday, May 6 at 6:00pm. Stop down for a very enjoyable program, view the artistic talents of our students and have some lemonade and cookies. A book fair, provided by Werner Books, will be open in the library following the Spring Program for a little shopping.

Bethany Outreach Center

Are you a Golfer who enjoys a Good Scramble? Join us at the 7th Annual Harbor Ridge Open, this year in Support of the Bethany Outreach Center! Join us **Sunday, June 30 at 10:00am** at the Harbor Ridge Golf Course, 3730 Harbor Ridge Trail, Erie. Highlights of this “Fun” Fundraiser:

- Several (last year we had 16) Teams will compete in two 9-hole “Scramble” Rounds
- 9 optional “Fun” Skill Contests, such as Hole-In-One, Closest-To-The-Pin, etc.
- ***Even if you’re not a golfer***, you can still enjoy the Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Pull-Tab Prizes/Games in the Club House during and after golf
- Hot dogs and drinks at the turn
- All Proceeds go to support the Bethany Outreach Center
- Cost is \$320 per Foursome

To sign up see the registration information at the Bethany Outreach Center website (www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org). Call, text, or email Eric Hedlund if you have any questions, at (814) 898-1233 or (814) 722-7732 or eric@bethanyoutreachcenter.org.

Items to Note

In case of an emergency and unable to reach Pastor Jay, 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. Thank you.

– PRAYER LIST –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Phil McAfee	Cathy Beck & Jim
Matt & Jessica Kinzig & family	Diane & Bob Giannelli	Winnie Lyons	
Friends and Family:			
Kate Collins & family	Lily	Marlo	Amy Roschy
Jessica Bulos Grubb	Sherry Johnson	Heather Keaster	Russ Wiest
Nikki & Ayden Moyer & family	Paul Gustafson	Thomas Cocis	Jonah Allgeier
Jenny Hallgren	Tony B.	Betty M.	Betty Peters
Katja Mestrom	Stephanie Volland		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

Readings and Commemorations This Week

May 6 – Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 7:1-11; I Timothy 6:11-12

May 7 – Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 11:1-17; I Timothy 6:13-16

May 8 – Dame Julian of Norwich, anchoress, renewer of the church, 1416 – Psalm 27:5-11; Hebrews 10:19-24; John 4:23-26 -- *When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.*

also May 8 – Victor the Moor, martyr, 303 -- *Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.*

May 9 – THE ASCENSION OF JESUS – Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53 – *The evangelist Luke was a talented storyteller, and his narrative presentations of the life of Jesus have become normative in the Christian church. An example is the chronology that Luke, and only Luke, give to the resurrected Christ. Forty days, the unit that repeatedly in the Bible signifies sacred time, marks the period that Christ was seen by his followers after the resurrection. This forty-day unit has led much of the church since the fourth century to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord on a Thursday, the fortieth day after Easter.*

May 10 – Nicolaus Ludwig, Count von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, 1760 (transferred) – Jeremiah 4:1-10; Psalm 46; I Corinthians 3:11-23; Mark 10:35-45 -- *When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.*

May 11 – Psalm 47; Deuteronomy 34:1-7; John 16:4-11

C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, MAY 6	6:00pm	LMA Spring Program
TUESDAY, MAY 7	12:00pm	General Meeting/Deborah & W/ELCA Circle
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8		
THURSDAY, MAY 9	8:30am	First Grade/Mother's Day Celebration
	5:30pm	Handbells
	7:00pm	Ascension Worship Service
FRIDAY, MAY 10		LMA Closed
	5:30pm	Club 50
SATURDAY, MAY 11	10:00am	Julia Hospice Meeting
	12:30pm	Eagle Scout Ceremony & Reception

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship services at 8:15am in Faith Chapel and 10:30am in the main church.

Second Sunday Family & Friends Prelude begins at 10:25.

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Kate Martin
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lectors	10:30am	Amelia & Kelley Lang
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	(<i>1 needed</i>)
Video Streaming	10:30am	Sarah Prylinski
Counters	10:30am	Jonathan Gaber, Nick Lang
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Sue Cappelletty, Linda Ditz