



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.
In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
 Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
 Where despair prevails, grant hope.
 Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
 We ask this through Christ,
 who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.

ASPERGES | *The assembly may make the sign of the cross as water is sprinkled.*

GATHERING HYMN | Rise, O Sun of Righteousness

ELW 657



1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your
 2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your
 3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us
 4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the
 5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the



might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,
 word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim
 wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share
 heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:



show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958
 Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566
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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.**

PRAYER

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PSALM 68:4-10

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;

I AM is that name, rejoice before God! **R**

⁵**In your holy habitation, O God,**

you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;

but the rebels shall live in desert places.

⁷**O God, when you went forth before your people,**

when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹**You sent a bountiful rain, O God;**

you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰Your people found their home in it;

in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor. **R**

FIRST READING | Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Celtic Alleluia

No. 174

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

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

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL READING | John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

God is with you. **And also with you.**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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

MESSAGE |

Rev. Jim Muratore, Pastor

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- Consider times of transition in your life and how you experienced them. What made them challenging or easy? What did you learn from the experience? How have you emerged?...if you have.
- What does it mean to you that Jesus’ disciples should be “one”?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

God of harmony, as you drew your Son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Guide our bishops, Elizabeth and Bill, and weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice and to practice the same. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, migrants, and prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness. We pray for Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Buddy, Noah, Roman, Kristen, Pam, Jim, Quinn, Charles, Joe, Htet (Tet), Marie, Katie, Doug, the people of Ukraine and Russia and for all whom we name now. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and church council. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org. You can also sign up for automated giving. See Announcements at the end of the bulletin.

OFFERING PRAYER

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. Amen.

COMMUNION

The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

[P] The Lord is here

[A] God's Spir - it is with us

[P] Let us lift up our hearts

[A] We lift them to our God

[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right that we should always and everywhere give thanks and praise to you, O God, our Father and Mother, through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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:

**Holy, holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again. Christ will come again.

Breathe your Spirit on us, O God, and saturate these gifts of bread and wine in the presence of Christ, that as we await his return, we may grow to love one another. Let us be nourished by this sacrament, this visible sign of your + invisible grace, to live in your abundance.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
 your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
 Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
 for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

And so we have this meal. Simplicity and mystery bound together. And though we cannot fully comprehend its meaning, we share, we remember and we trust in the promise of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

Blessed be God forever!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is served by way of intinction. Come forward in a counter clockwise circle. Hand sanitizer is available at the altar for your use. A dab'll do! Receive the bread in your hand and dip into the cup. The clay chalice is reserved for gluten free recipients. If you wish not to receive you are welcome to remain seated or come forward with crossed arms to receive a blessing. ALL are welcome to come and receive without exception.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVC HIKE-A-THON | TODAY 2pm Wyman Park

Support the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and enjoy our Local Oasis! You can register at <https://myevent.com/lvchike/participants/baltimore>. This leisurely event is a fundraiser so invite a friend to join the hike and/or make a donation. The group will meet at Wyman Park Upper Field, 3701 Tudor Arms Ave Baltimore, MD 21211 at 2:00 and go from there.

HONFEST | June 10 & 11th

Be sure to come out for the annual street festival here on the Avenue! Both days, the church will be open for viewing and for restroom use. The courtyard is often used as a Kid's Zone, though plans are still in the works. This is the 30th anniversary of the event so it promises to be a special occasion! We will likely have the thrift shop open for both days of the event, if you would like to help manage the space and hospitality for all or part of the weekend you can talk with Pastor Jim.

COME AND SEE!!! So much is going on here at St. Luke's Church on the Avenue, please visit our website to view the calendar and explore links to activities happening every day! Visit us at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org or by scanning the QR Code below.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry during this strange and difficult time! You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>. or by scanning the QR Code below.



BENEDICTION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you;

May Spirit guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm;

May she bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders she has shown you;

May she bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

And may God bless you, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN | Go to the World

ACS 991



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

We live in times that are uncertain and surely not what we hope for.
How do we live in the interim? What convictions motivate us? To what?

Jesus had just told the disciples what they were going to do, how they were going to fall short of their convictions and their commitments.