



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

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

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 | I Come With Joy

ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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, 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.

Amen.

FIRST READING | Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers 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 he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

PSALM 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing. R**

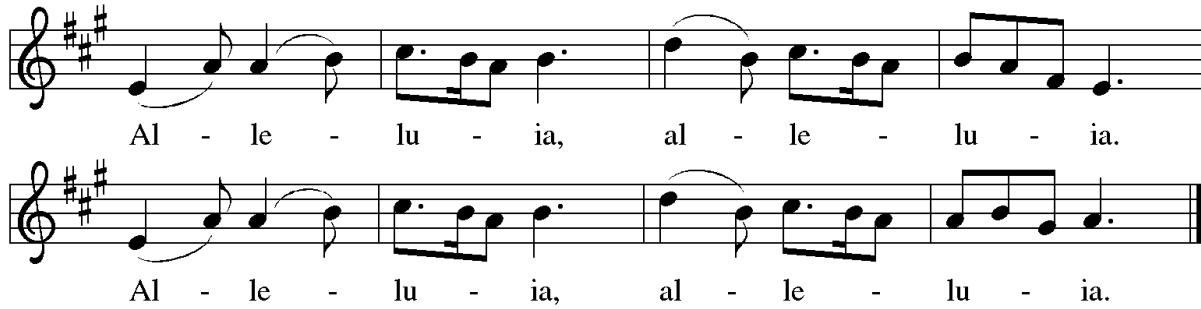
⁵Sing to the LORD ¹ with the harp,
with the harp and the ¹ voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound ¹ of the horn
shout with joy before the ¹ king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and ¹ all that fills it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers ¹ clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to ¹ judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peo- ¹ ples with equity. R



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL READING | John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

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

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

[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 his 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 him 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.**

MESSAGE |

Rev. Kelsey Green, Baltimore Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- What does this love look like to you in reality? Where have you seen it expressed?
- Where in your life is Jesus’ command to love one another clear and easy? Where do you find it challenging?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and lead us to unity under Jesus Christ. We rejoice with our LGBTQ siblings of the United Methodist Church and we continue to pray for full inclusion of all your children across the Church. Empower us to endure the hard work of change. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Awaken our world leaders from their foolishness, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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. We pray for Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Sharon and Erick, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Rosha and Ron, Buddy, Luke and Melissa, Jack, Amelia, Matt and Kelly, Michael, Noah, Landis, Trish, Roman, Pam, Jim, Charles, Joe, Katie and for all whom we now name.... God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation and the works of our community partners, that we may embody your love for our neighbors, our city, and the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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

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.
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.

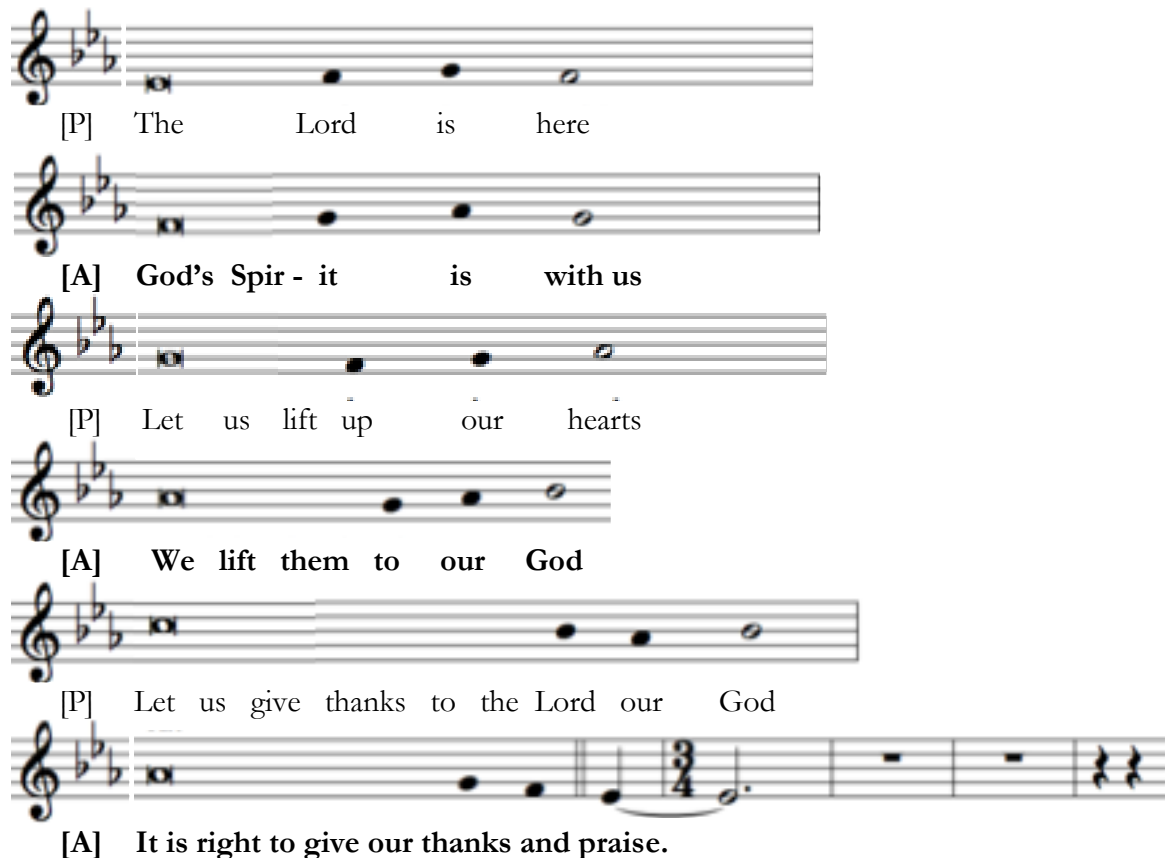
OFFERING PRAYER

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



The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of seven lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are: [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. The score includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests. The final line of music ends with a double bar line and a 3/4 time signature.

[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.

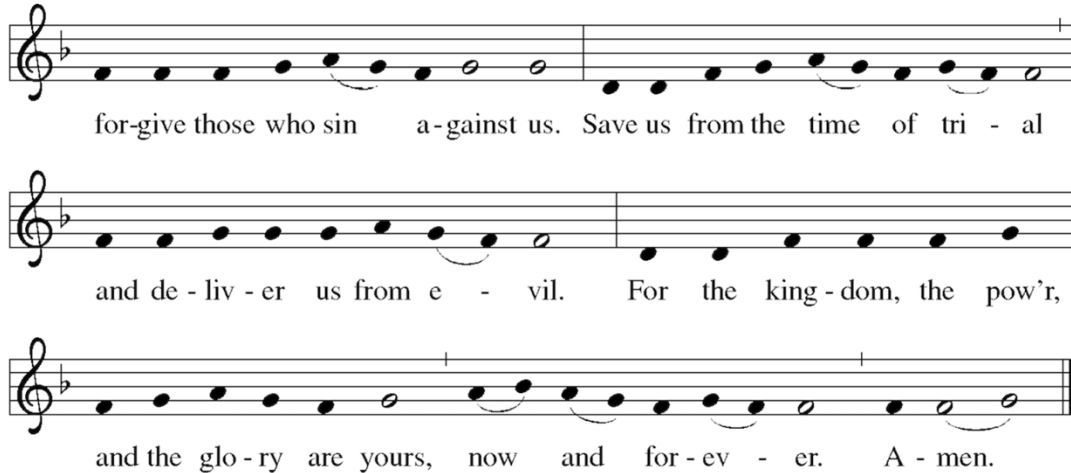
Christ will come again. Christ will come again.

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.**

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



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 counterclockwise circle. Hand sanitizer is available at the altar for your use. Receive the bread in your hand and dip into the cup. The clay chalices are filled with grape juice, and the metal chalices are filled with wine. The second station of chalices 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.

COMMUNION HYMN | I am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

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

BARD HIGH SCHOOL LGBTQ PROM @ ST. LUKES | Sat. May 11th 6pm-9pm

The students from Bard High School will be putting on an LGBTQ Prom this coming Saturday. Those who have expressed interest with supporting the event should confirm with Pastor Jim early this week at churchontheavenue@gmail.com.

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 | Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

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