



St. Luke Lutheran Church in Schaefferstown  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 9, 2021**  
**Blessing of Mothers, Graduates and Fields Worship Service**

Telephone Number - Office: 717-949-3375 churchoffice@stlukelutheran.comcastbiz.net  
Web-Site: www.stlukelutheran.org

**Our Guiding Story and Mission**  
The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

As the Body of Christ we proclaim the Gospel by serving and doing God's will  
in a manner that meets the needs of our changing world.

**HEALTH QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FOR ATTENDEES:**

**Please Do Not Stay If You Answer Yes to the Following Questions:**

1. Do you have a cough, fever or flu-like symptoms? (some flu-like symptoms could be: fatigue, chills, fever, muscle pain, cough, headache, sore throat) – **if yes, please go home and call your Doctor**
2. Have you had a COVID-19 test in the past 14 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**
3. Have you come in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**

**Stay at Your Own Risk If You Answer Yes to the Following Question:**

Are you over age 65 and or someone with any underlying health issues (diabetes, lung disease, hypertension, kidney disease or a decreased immune system)? – if yes, stay at your own risk

Being Mindful of Others: Masks, Distancing, and Other Mitigation Practices

So that we may be more safely worshiping together, we follow these additional steps with due diligence to mitigate the possibility of spreading illness.

All wear masks that cover both your nose and mouth.

All place folding chair at least six feet from anyone who does not live in your home

All use hand sanitizer upon arrival (dispenser is on the table by the stairway)

All take their bulletin home

Offerings are placed in the receptacle on the table by the stairway – Thank you!!

Only the leading musicians will sing

Passing the peace will take place with gestures – we will neither mingle or touch or shout

All bring a cracker or piece of bread from home on Communion Sundays (1st and 3rd Sundays)

**Welcome/Announcements**

**The Prelude**

**Opening Hymn LBW #551** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

### **Blessing of Mothers and Women Who Nurture Children**

On this Mother's Day, let us recognize that examples of women mothering children vary. There are those who give birth to children in the usual way, those who adopt, those who assume guardianship, those who foster, and those who nurture children as neighbors, as child care professionals, as well as teachers in our schools and Sunday Schools. May the women please rise that we may thank God for you and ask his continued blessings on you.

Let us pray. Gracious God, in love you have given us the gift of women who mother us. Grant to each of them your power and grace. Strengthen them in their mothering with tenderness and understanding, with compassion and joy. Endow them with wisdom and knowledge so that they might teach their and other children how to live and how to love; how to seek and pursue that which is right and true; how to turn away from all that is hurtful and wrong. Deepen their own faith that they might instill in their children a love for you that will sustain and keep them their whole life long. We ask this in Jesus name,

**C: 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.*

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

### **Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6**

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This 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.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: 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.*

Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I 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. You 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Hymn of the Day WOV #758**

""Come To Us, Creative Spirit""

Come to us, creative Spirit, in our Father's house; ev'ry human talent hallow,  
hidden skills arouse, that within your earthly temple, wise and simple, may rejoice.

Poet, painter, music-maker, all your treasures bring; craftsman, actor, graceful dancer,  
make your offering; join your hands in celebration: let creation shout and sing!

Word from God eternal springing, fill our minds, we pray; and in all artistic vision  
give integrity: may the flame within us burning kindle yearning day by day.

In all places and forever glory be expressed to the Son, with God the Father  
and the Spirit blessed: in our worship and our living keep us striving for the best.

Text: David Mowbray, b. 1938

Text © 1979 Stainer & Bell Ltd. and the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (UK), admin. in USA and Canada by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. For other territories © Stainer & Bell Ltd., 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3 1DZ, UK www.stainer.co.uk. All

**The Message**

**Prayers and Blessing for Graduates**

The 2021 graduates within our congregation are: High School– Adam Hentz and Haley Thunberg. If present, please come forward. Let us ask God, the source of all wisdom and knowledge, to bless these graduates and all who seek to continue their academic journeys as students and teachers. For students as they finish this school year and prepare for the next, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

For those who seek knowledge of the things of this world, that they may always pursue God's wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

For parents, the first teachers of their children, that their faith and love may be an example to us always, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

Lord God, your Spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways. Look upon Adam and Haley, and bless them in their endeavors. Let Adam and Haley enjoy their tasks, and take delight in new discoveries. Help them recognize that all of life is a classroom. Give them the desire to learn and do all things well. Grant that these, your baptized children, follow the example of Jesus Christ, who is for us the way, the truth, and the life, forever and ever. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

All these things we ask you nurturing God in the power of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

On behalf of this congregation's Worship and Music Committee, Adam and Haley will be presented copies of *My Utmost For His Highest* by Oswald Chambers and *Thich Nhat Han's Peace is Every Step*. May these books be close to you and become part of you, that through them, God, in a new way, may teach you his ways and lead you to the joys of his kingdom from this minute forward. If there is anyone we missed, we will mail them.

**Offering:** Thank you for faithfully mailing your offering envelope or placing them in the container today.

### Blessing of Seed, Soil, and Rain

Praise be to God!

**C: O give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.**

Bless the seasons of planting and harvesting, O God.

**C: We call out to you to hear us.**

Scatter your blessing upon the face of the earth and its inhabitants,

**C: And rain your nurturing goodness upon all creation.**

Provide favorable weather that our labors may not be hindered nor the fruits of the earth fail.

**C: We call out to you to hear us.**

Bless our hearts, that in thankfulness we may give you praise, and joyfully share with others the blessings of your bounty;

**C: that we may walk before you in faith and love all the days of our life.**

*This soil is symbolic* of the earth of this community into which the seed is planted. This soil, created by God, contains all that is necessary to nourish the seed, that it may bring forth sturdy plants producing food. This soil will be watered by the rains of God. It will be warmed by the sunshine of God. It will be a home for the seed, that it may develop and burst forth an abundant harvest. This soil is holy earth and shall be cultivated and cared for as a holy gift of God.

*This seed is symbolic* of the various types of seed that have been or shall be sown and planted in this community. When sown it shall bring forth fruit and food so that all people may be nurtured and nourished, so that the wheels of industry may turn, so that life may be maintained. This seed is holy, for it contains God's holy gift of life.

***This water is symbolic*** of water sent from God in the form of flood and rain. It will help to sustain the soil and grow the seed. This water is holy, for it helps to sustain all that our holy God has gifted with life.

O Lord our God, author and giver of all good things, you have ordained the earth to bring forth food for all your creatures and human children. Bless the seed, the soil, the rain, and all the resources of the earth given for the good of all people and the furtherance of your creative Kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

Look with compassion upon us O Lord and bless the labors of the hands of your servants in all occupations; that the fruits of their labors may be the furtherance of the welfare of all humanity, and the furtherance of Christ's way of life in all the world. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

Grant unto us seasonable weather. Cause your sun to shine, and let your rain and dew refresh the ground, that the fruits of the earth may be matured, our gardens and fields may be filled with all good fruits, and that there may be an abundance of food. Grant that we may share the fruits of the earth none of your creatures and children will know hunger. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

We thank you for the seed of faith that you have planted in us, and we ask that, through your church's faithful witness to you in word and sacrament, the seed of faith may be planted in all people. Send your Holy Spirit to water the seed of faith in your people, that it may grow and bear the fruit of the Spirit, which is joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and love of you and our neighbors. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

Send your gentle healing rain and warming sun on those who grieve or are ill or dying, that they may be restored to us or drawn into your care as fruits like the first fruit, Jesus raised from the dead, to be eternally with you and your people, especially those we now name in voice or heart... (pause for speaking of names). Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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**

**Sending to Sow the Gospel**

**Benediction**

Let us go into the world in *Faith*.

**C Trusting God to lead us, trusting people to receive us.**

Let us go into the world in *Hope*.

**C: With God's presence before us and our dreams to carry us.**

Let us go into the world in *Love*.

**C: Serving with and loving God and neighbor; loving those in whom Christ lives, and laboring on behalf of and loving those for whom the risen Jesus brings the promise of new life.**

Let us go into the world.

**C: We go into the world in Faith, Hope, and Love.**

**Closing Hymn WOV #661**

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown  
that they might lovely be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow; but men made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way and his sweet praises sing; resounding all the day  
hosannas to their king. Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to run,  
he gave the blind their sight. Sweet injuries! Yet they at these  
themselves displease and 'gainst him rise.

They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away; a murderer they save,  
the prince of life they slay. Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes  
that he his foes from thence might free.

In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might have; in death no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing--no story so divine! Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine. This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683

**The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and our neighbors.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**The Postlude**

---

(Copying of Liturgy and Music covered by the following licenses: Augsburg Fortress copyright license #4439-L One License.net License #A-710139. Reprinted from *With One Voice*, copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #13882-W. Sundays and Seasons, copyright © 2012).

---

**Supply Pastor:** The Rev. Angela Hammer

**Soloist:** Sarah Kneller

**Lay Reader:** Mike DeLong

**Pianist:** Dr. Dave Deysher

**Worship Assistant:** Paula Benson

This Week at St. Luke

<u>Thursday</u>	Ascension Day
<u>Friday</u>	Deadline Newsletter
<u>Next Sunday</u>	<u>Note: New Time</u>
	8:30 AM Holy Communion
	9:30 AM Sunday School

\* \* \* \* \*

You can participate in St. Luke's worship online. The service is livestreamed on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran>, or on YouTube using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKROL7HVJEgtCMksioZwoA>. If you do not have internet access, you are welcome to attend in person following the Covid safety protocols we have in place. You will continue to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

*Thanks to all of you who are worshipping here at St. Luke in person or who have joined with us online. We continue to make improvements in our online outreach with better connections and upgraded hardware, software, and visuals to meet your needs. We need your feedback as well, both in how you receive and view the service, and your response to the message. We encourage you to comment on the message of the day. We also need volunteers to assist with the technical aspects of weekly livestreaming and all of the legwork and support this requires. If you are willing and able to serve in this way, please contact the church office at 717-949-3375 or [churchoffice@stlukelutheran.comcastbiz.net](mailto:churchoffice@stlukelutheran.comcastbiz.net).*

**A WARM WELCOME** to our supply pastor The Rev. Angela Hammer and all our visitors as we come together to share this day here at St. Luke.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented this morning by Donna Rhodes in Honor of all Mothers Past, Present and Future.

**Please keep in your prayers those who are ill, recovering, or shut-in, especially:**

John Adams, Claudia Addison, Brenda Boyer, Leon Boyer, Mechelle Lesher Bray, Amanda Cupernall, Alexandria (Lexxi) Ditzler, Cathy Dunkelberger, Earl Garman, Deb Glassmoyer, Peg Griffe, Bill Gundrum, Kim Lenhart Hale, John Hassinger, Dean and Sue Hettinger, Lilly Higgins & Family, Bill Hoffman, Richard and Nancy Hollen, June Kohr, Landon Kreider, Ruth Kupp, Betty Leedy, Delores Lesher, Richard Lesher, Ken Light, Donald and Sue McClure, Steven McCracken, Casey McGarvey, Dana McKinney, Maureen Marinkov, Dale Matthews, Harold (Spike) Moore, Brian Navarre, Barry and Tom Nolt, George Pastore, Kathy O'Roark, Gerald and Ruth Parson, Ronald Ream, Diane Reedy, Lance Rhodes, Al Shade, Barry Shriver, Linda Simmers, Lloyd Smith, Richard Strohl, Caitlyn, Gretta and Mike Stuber, Robert Todisco, Landis Wenger, Josephine Wenrich, Janet Wharton, Josie Williams, Eddie Wolfe, Marian Yoder, Dottie and Maggie Zartman, and Ashton Zohn.

**Pray for those who are serving in the military, especially:**

Christopher Ahnert, Timothy Beamesderfer, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, George Lesher, Jr., Greg Rocker, Matthew Sanders and Jamielee Ahnert Symes.

**Pray for congregations and ministries with whom we share mutual ministry:**

The congregations and pastors of the Heidelberg Ministerium and Lebanon Conference, Agape House, Lebanon Co. Christian Ministries, Lebanon Taizé Violence Intervention Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, Our Synod Bishop James S. Dunlop and his staff, and our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff.

**Please be in Prayer for and with St. Luke Vision to Mission Team** - Kit Ahnert, Richelle Deysher, Elaine Matternas, Judy Plummer, Scott Rights, and Todd Snyder.

**The 2021 Flower and Bulletin charts** can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have any questions concerning these charts please call the church office at 717-949-3375.

**May 2, 2021****Attendance** - 21**Offering** - \$2,245.00**Taize Service Attendance** - 11**Offering - Domestic Violence** - \$61.00

**OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED** to the Family and Friends of Elizabeth (Betty) Herr, a member of our congregation. Betty passed away Friday, April 23, 2021.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!!****High School**

Adam Hentz

Haley Thunberg - Haley will be attending Lebanon Valley College for a dual major in Special Ed/Elementary Ed.

Parents of **graduating students**, please let the church office know (717) 949-3375 if your children are graduating from high school, college or a trade school. Also, what their future plans might be or future job placement.

**The Monthly Ministry Emphasis** for the month of May will go towards **"The Lebanon Rescue Mission."** Thank you again for your continued support.

**St. Luke History Books** are available for \$20.00. Call Anna Mae Grubb 717-273-7035 or email at [mrgrubby@comcast.net](mailto:mrgrubby@comcast.net).

**Adult Sunday School Class:** If you are interested in small group discussions, please consider joining us Sunday mornings at 10:15 am in the chapel basement. We are currently doing a series titled **"A Thinking Person's Guide to Faith"** narrated by Adam Hamilton. Topics include 1) Science, Religion and the Rationality of God, 2) When Christians Get it Wrong, 3) Making Sense of the Bible and 4) The Love of God and the Logic of Hell. All are welcome. Masks and social distancing are required.

The **Book Club** will be meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00pm. We will be discussing the book **A Burning**, by Meghanns Majumdar. If anyone has any questions or would like to join in on the discussion please contact Richelle Deysher.