



God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

Individuals need to follow healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a cloth face covering... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed. [The Center for Disease Control] Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, and regrettably refrain from singing or speaking together through the service as a congregation.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 21st, 2020
Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com
FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

This Is My Father's World arr. John Innes
Piano/Organ duet with Audrey Christ and Beverly Kriner

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Hallelujah!
- 2 We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ. Hallelujah!
- 3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One. Hallelujah!
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing: Hallelujah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932. Text © John B. Geyer

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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 OF THE DAY

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING FROM THE CHURCH'S SCRIPTURES

Romans 6:1b-11

The assembly is seated.

^{1b}Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:24-39

The assembly stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

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The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

1 We are baptized in Christ Jesus,
we are baptized in his death;
that as Christ is raised victorious,
we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united

in a dreadful death like his,
we will all be reunited, for he lives.

2 In the water and the witness,
in the breaking of the bread,
in the waiting arms of Jesus
who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning
from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.

3 Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit,
ever three and ever one;
as it was in the beginning,
glory now resounds again
in a song that has no ending. Amen

Text: John C. Ylvisaker. Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker.

APOSTLES CREED

We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

God of the Church, we rejoice that after months apart you have brought many of us to gather around your Word, and to celebrate the promise that in this and every gathering in Christ's name, you are present among us. In Word and presence also be with those who cannot be with us this morning due to their vulnerability, and keep us mindful of our relationship with them.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Welcoming God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences in race and class might not overshadow the baptism that we share in the crucified and risen Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your earth shows us that life comes from death. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been ill for too long. Bring healing to this world that has been so wounded by the coronavirus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world. Revive and strengthen organizations and especially church ministries dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted simply for speaking or for being who they are. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comforting God, you care for the sick and strengthen the weary. We pray for all who tend those who are ill, especially people with the coronavirus, and we now raise in prayer before you both the sick and their caregivers... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reigning God, you bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for those who have died, increase our care for one another until we walk with them in newness of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The assembly stands. The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

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.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

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- 1 Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.

- 2 Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;
let water's fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.

- 3 Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.

- 4 Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one fam'ly with a billion names;
let ev'ry life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934. Text © 1979. The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave.

If you are worshiping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.

To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Charles Gurski, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Gemma Geary, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Denny Starr, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Ron Gill, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Sherry and Kim Zulick, Katharine Macnutt

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Drenzo, Bill Gordon, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Stefich, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Kay LeBoeuf, Nathan Resch

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

THANK YOU TO BEVERLY AND PHIL KRINER for being today's cantors.

GATHERING AGAIN FOR WORSHIP IS WONDERFUL! And yet regrettably we have had to make changes in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Drawing from governmental guidelines,

and Lutheran and ecumenical worship recommendations, our congregational leaders have developed health expectations for when we gather (Lk. 10:25-37 & 1 Cor. 12:12–13;13). Meanwhile these simpler services to which we return continue to center on both the Risen Christ's promise to be present whenever two or more are gathered in his name (Mt. 18:20), and the hearing of the faith creating and discipleship forming gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:17). Notably absent from our worship is singing by the congregation, choir, or praise team, because the act of singing has the potential to spread the virus both in great quantity and distance, even with masks. For the same reason, following church wide guidelines, we are not yet speaking congregational responses. Although some other congregations may use different practices, please know that we are following widely accepted health recommendations, and worship practices that we feel best reflect Lutheran theology and liturgy.

SPONSORS for flowers will be getting a phone call starting in July. If sponsors do not wish to buy flowers due to issues in picking them up or are not currently going to attend in person worship, you can opt to sponsor the Sunday bulletins in lieu of flowers. This way your memorial message can still appear in Sunday's bulletin. Also, new sponsors are always welcome for the flowers or church bulletins. Call the church office 570-385-2657.

HOLY COMMUNION will not yet be offered even though many of us hunger for its sacramental promise and Christ's presence. In this matter there are a variety of understandings and practices throughout the church, and even in the Lutheran Church, but we are listening to both the counsel of our bishop and the recommendations of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. At the present time we are not offering the Lord's Supper because although some of the concerns about distancing, masking and unmasking, and the distribution of Communion can be addressed, a Lutheran consensus has not yet emerged about how to celebrate the Lord's Supper safely and with theological integrity. When we do begin offering the Eucharist again, we will also need to find ways to extend the Lord's Table to include the larger number of people who are staying at home due to their vulnerability.

VIDEOS OF WORSHIP will be recorded each Sunday, and then uploaded to YouTube and our website (jerusalemlutheran.com) to be available Monday afternoon. The recording posted on the internet, and the bulletin and sermon mailed to those who do not have computer access, will continue so that the additional people who have health conditions and therefore should not gather with us for worship, are included in our weekly worship.

OUR CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE, the Worship and Music Committee, and the Church Council, have been studying, discussing and prayerfully discerning many documents and guidelines over the past several months. If you have any questions, please talk to them. The Task Force includes Deb Reed (council president), Donald Boyer (a retired school superintendent), Jane Mahoney (a retired nurse with experience in infection control), and Pastor Rowe. Please thank them for their hard work (often meeting weekly by video conference), and continue to pray for them.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE FEWER, YET STILL IMPORTANT! Instead of usher and greeters, we are using a handful of guides who have been trained in the safer practices that we have developed for gathering. In addition, assisting ministers will serve as lectors to maintain distance in the chancel and avoid sharing the same surfaces that cannot be disinfected between people. We may tweak these practices in the weeks ahead, and then we will invite more people to be oriented and serve as guides and assisting ministers. Please see Jane Mahoney if you are interested. Also, please see Audrey Christ if you would like to be a cantor.

SOUND BOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. We are currently looking for volunteers to run the sound board. Please contact Melissa Boyer if interested 570-789-1813.

PASTORAL VISITATION has had to change in this time of pandemic, even as we move forward. Consider this sobering recommendation from an ecumenical document developed by medical and pastoral leaders of the Methodist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Lutheran Church: “Until the threat posed by COVID-19 is truly gone, we do not commend resuming pastoral caregiving visits inside homes, hospitals, or nursing care centers except for very brief times and only when most necessary, such as near death. [Care-Filled... Life, p. 32].” Therefore, for mutual protection, with the support of our Church Council Pastor Rowe will not be visiting unless the need is dire. Phone calls will need to be used instead, and all of us will need to share in the mutual care for one another, especially those most vulnerable and close to us. Please feel free to call Pastor Rowe at 570-933-5511.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. Due to COVID-19, we will hand out Vacation Bible School packets through a Drive-Thru format. The packs will include materials for crafts, snacks, and bible stories. We will also be uploading interactive bible stories and songs through our website (jerusalem.lutheran.com). Please register for a VBS packet by visiting <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044da5ac2aaafa7-vbs>. Pickup will be Friday, July 24th, from 6-7 pm at the front entrance to the church.

CHILD CARE UPDATE. Happy Summer everyone!! JCCC is open again as of June 1. It has been a very gradual reopening. As the month of June has gone by, our enrollment numbers are gradually increasing. We are doing our very best to meet the needs of our families, and are using the CDC guidelines to keep everyone healthy and safe. Our summer will look a little different as we will not be taking field trips or doing swim lessons. There is the possibility of the Haven pool opening and we have permission to use the school district playground, softball field and picnic areas. We will be spending a lot of time outdoors as usual. A few preschool and older toddler slots are still available. We are looking to hire summer substitutes and full time in the fall. Stop by to see Mrs. Cappel for an application. Stay safe!

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES! If the Coronavirus has put stress on your marriage, you are not alone! Lutheran Marriage Encounter has scheduled a couple of Weekends this fall, and we believe that you will find that attending a Weekend will help you renew and revitalize your

marital relationship no matter whether your marriage is in great shape or if you could really use some help.

The Weekends currently scheduled are: September 18-20 at the Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster PA and

October 16-18 at the Olmsted Retreat in Ludlow, PA, an hour north of Pittsburgh. For more information, please see Joanne & Lloyd Wertz.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

For imminent danger call 911.

For crisis or mental health help call 877-9wehelp

Schuylkill Women in Crisis 570-622-6220

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-932-0313

Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255

Addiction 1-800-264-1290