



*The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.*

**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.*

**Commemoration of the Day: Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202, Sunday, June 28, 2020**

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972**  
**570-385-2657 \* [www.jerusalemchurch.com](http://www.jerusalemchurch.com)**  
**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*Arioso*  
*How Great Thou Art*

*J.S. Bach*  
*arr. Gregg Sewell*

*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.**

## GATHERING HYMN

## *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

# 843

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

*Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955. Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

## 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

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## READING FROM THE CHURCH'S SCRIPTURES

**Romans 6:12-23**

*The assembly is seated.*

<sup>12</sup>Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under

law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 10:40-42**

*The assembly stands for the gospel.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>40</sup>“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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**

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

**# 618**

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

1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow'ful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

- 2 Open now the crystal fountain  
where the healing waters flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
shield me with your mighty arm,  
shield me with your mighty arm.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.

*Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.*

## **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 companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festal shout of praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire healthcare workers, scientists working for a vaccine, and truly essential providers to work toward the health and well-being of all people throughout the world during this pandemic. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Raise up voices of justice to seek not only to prevent the deaths of people of color, but also to bring about fairness throughout society. Rally your church to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely, or abandoned, especially all whom we now raise in prayer before you... Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other and the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died, especially Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. 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 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 assembly stands. 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**

*Give to Our God Immortal Praise!*

**# 848**

1 Give to our God immortal praise!

Mercy and truth are all his ways.

Wonders of grace to God belong;

repeat his mercies in your song.

- 2 God sent his Son with pow'r to save  
from guilt and darkness and the grave.  
Wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.
- 3 Give to the Lord of lords renown;  
the King of kings with glory crown.  
His mercies ever shall endure  
when lords and kings are known no more!

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748.*

## **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 Steficheck, 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 today's cantors:*** 8:00am – Mary Rowe, 9:15am – Lloyd Wertz, and 10:30am – Rebekah CdeBaca.

***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.

**COUNTERS CHECK YOUR SCHEDULES**, please start reporting into the office to count offerings on Monday mornings about 9:15 am. Any questions, contact Jill McCloy.

**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](http://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 ([jerusalemlutheran.com](http://jerusalemlutheran.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.