



The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

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

5th Sunday after Pentecost – July 5th, 2020

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

All Things Bright & Beautiful

arr. Diane Bish

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

Come, Join the Dance of Trinity

412

1 Come, join the dance of Trinity,
before all worlds begun—
the interweaving of the Three,
the Father, Spirit, Son.

The universe of space and time
did not arise by chance,
but as the Three, in love and hope,
made room within their dance.

- 2 Come, see the face of Trinity,
newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns
outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant
for human flesh and bone;
when fear confines the dance in death,
God rolls away the stone.
- 3 Come, speak aloud of Trinity,
as wind and tongues of flame
set people free at Pentecost
to tell the Savior's name.
We know the yoke of sin and death,
our necks have worn it smooth;
go tell the world of weight and woe
that we are free to move!
- 4 Within the dance of Trinity,
before all worlds begun,
we sing the praises of the Three,
the Father, Spirit, Son.
Let voices rise and interweave,
by love and hope set free,
to shape in song this joy, this life:
the dance of Trinity.

*Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953. Text © 2001 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com All rights reserved.
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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

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READING FROM THE CHURCH'S SCRIPTURES

The assembly is seated.

Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The assembly stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor James Covert

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Healer of Our Every Ill

612

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

Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

- 1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*
- 2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*
- 3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*
- 4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

*Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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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.

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations *especially the United States and Canada, celebrating their nationhood*. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from patriotism that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this congregation. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children's ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new 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 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*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

545

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.
- 3 Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Bradley Sowash

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 Dizenzo, 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, Casey Watson

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

THE BULLETINS are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of my wife's birthday, Doris Laubentine, by her husband, Ollie.

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Mel Schafer on his birthday by the Schafer family.

THANK YOU TO today's cantors: 8:00am – Audrey Christ and 10:30am – Lloyd Wertz.

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 FOR MONDAY, JULY 6TH are Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Shay.

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.

JERUSALEM'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TOTAL has reached \$191,275.53. Thank you!

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE for flowers for the following Sundays in July: Sunday, July 12th and Sunday, July 26th. 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.

LAST CALL FOR PHOTOS. The 2020 Jerusalem Church Directory will be printed with pictures and available to be picked up at church starting Sunday, July 19th. Please send in your photos to mail@jerusalemlutheran.com. Thanks!

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

STAFF AND LEADERS

Rev. David Rowe, *Pastor*: 610-987-9798(H), 570-933-5511 (C), pastorowe@jerusalemlutheran.com

Audrey Christ, *Music Director*: musicdirector@jerusalemlutheran.com

Tanya Cartwright, *Director of Faith & Families Ministries*: faithandfamilies@jerusalemlutheran.com

Rachel Kramer, *Parish Administrator*: mail@jerusalemlutheran.com

Jill McCloy, *Treasurer*: treasurer@jerusalemlutheran.com

Karen Ochenrider, *Financial Secretary*: karenochenrider@comcast.net

Gina Cappel, *Child Care Director*: jccckids@jerusalemlutheran.com

Mike Sausser, *Sexton*: linknomad@hotmail.com

Deborah Reed, *President of Church Council*: dreed1955@comcast.net