



Sunday Worship  
Together on-line as a community of Christ  
Big Spring United Lutheran Church with  
Zion Lutheran Church, Newville  
**July 12, 2020**  
**SEASON OF PENTECOST LITURGY SUMMER 2020**

THE REV. MOLLY HAGGERTY



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

The *congregation*, or participants, *respond* with the lines in *bold type*.

## **PRELUDE**

*Lift High the Cross*

Larry Shackley

## **WELCOME**

I want to take a moment and welcome you here today. No matter where you are on your faith or life journey, you are welcome here. If you are young or old, or young at heart, or feeling old, you are welcome. If you are married or single or divorced, you are welcome. If you are happy or sad or anxious, you are welcome. If you struggle with your identity or are confident in your identity, you are welcome. If you are rich or poor, sick or well, you are welcome. You are welcome no matter what color your skin is. If you believe in God all of the time, some of the time or not at all, you are welcome. Come with your pains and sorrows. Come with your fear and brokenness. Come with a mind that is open and a heart that is ready to give and receive love and compassion. You are welcome in this community.

## **GREETING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

*(2 Corinthians 13:13)*

## **PRAYER OF APOLOGY:**

And now as in the tradition of our community, before we move toward recognition of our own faults, I want to offer an apology on behalf of the church. For the ways the church may have ignored you, judged you, and rejected you; for any pain, hurt, division, or betrayal the church may have caused. I am sorry. Nothing can undo the wrong you have endured; and I hope for you deep inner healing and peace.

## **BRIEF CONFESSION**

*We will hold a brief silence to confess our sins to God.*

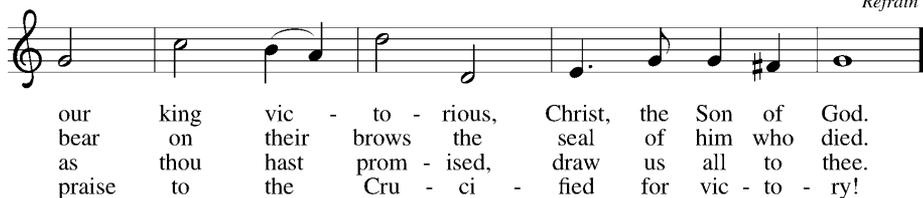
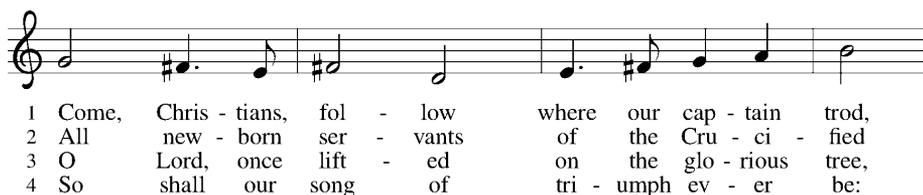
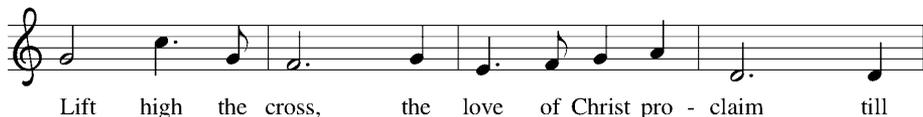
But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved . . . I pray, that according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. (*Ephesians 2:4-5; 3:16-17*)

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN (ELW 660)

## Lift High the Cross



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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## WORD

### **FIRST READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: READ RESPONSIVELY – PSALM 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## MUSIC OFFERING

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

Gaelic Tune

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### GOSPEL: JOHN 9:1-41

The Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly

been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

<sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

<sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON: Doug Nelson**

*Journey of Faith through the light,  
born blind but now I see.....*

*(Silence for a time of reflection)*

# HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 661)

## I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

### *Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

## **PRAYERS**

### **Come, O Holy Spirit by Henri Nouwen**

*Come, O Holy Spirit.*

*Come as Holy Fire and burn in us,  
come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within,  
come as Holy Light and lead us in the darkness,  
come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance,  
come as Holy Power and enable our weakness,  
come as Holy Life and dwell in us.*

*Convict us, convert us, consecrate us,  
until we are set free from the service of ourselves,  
to be your servants to the world. Amen.*

*We ask for your healing for those who are struggling with  
spiritual and physical health.*

*We ask for guidance in our business of work, family and  
government.*

*We ask for love and strength for those who suffer loss of  
others, jobs, friendships and connections*

*Hear what is on our hearts (brief silence). Take this from  
us so that we may find Christ's peace.*

*We thank you for your love, forgiveness and grace and for  
being all things for all people.*

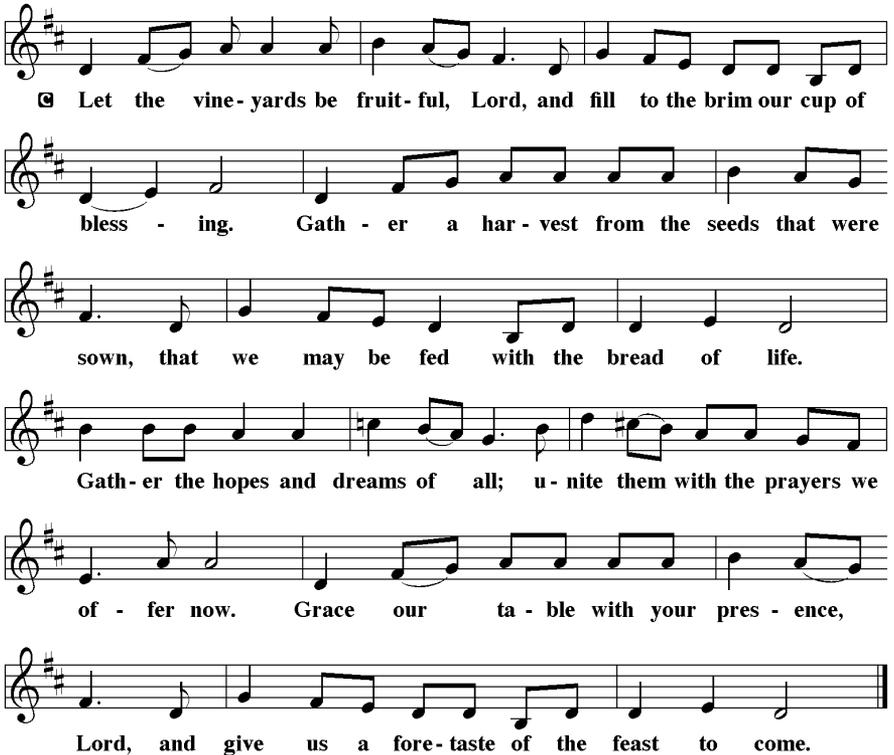
**Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

## THE OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN



☞ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **DEACON'S PRAYER**

In the scriptures, we hear the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remember the words that tell us "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.'

Again after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.'"

We are given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now to us through this blessed bread of life and cup of blessing our Lord comes so that we may be strengthened through our participation in the Body of Christ.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

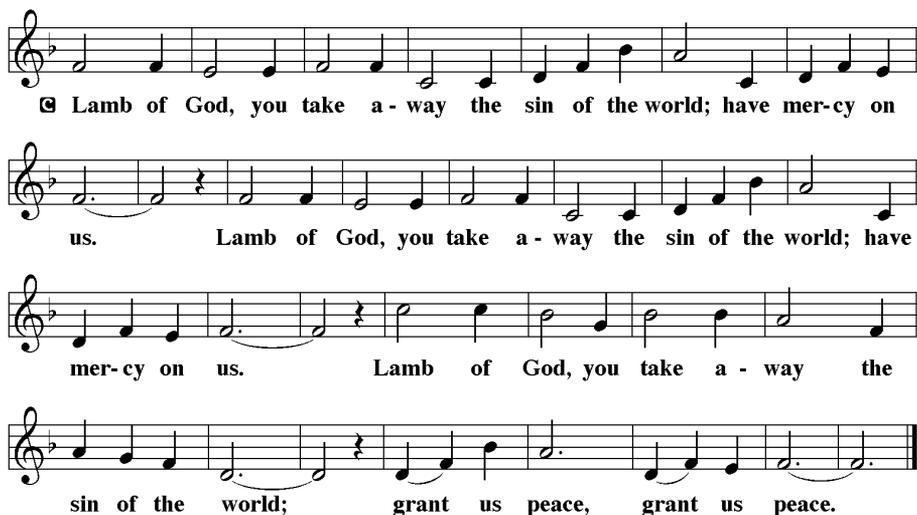
## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

## LAMB OF GOD



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The elements were given as you entered.

Please peel the top film and take your bread.  
The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

Open your cup by peeling back the foil.  
The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen**

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen  
you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus . . . May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (*Romans 15:5, 13*) in the name of Creator, Redeemer and Advocate.

**Amen**

### **BLESSING**

Go into the world in peace

Have courage

Hold on to what is good

Return on one evil for evil

Strengthen the faint hearted

Support the weak

Help the suffering

Honor all people

Love and serve the Lord

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Bless you now and forever

**Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*I Love to Tell the Story*

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

If you have any prayer needs, please reach out to us on our Facebook page or websites.

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