

May 7, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

St. Luke Lutheran Church
35 Wilson Ave, PO Box 338; Gilbertsville, PA 19525

PRELUDE
Trumpet Tune

Mark Sedio; ©2017 Augsburg Fortress

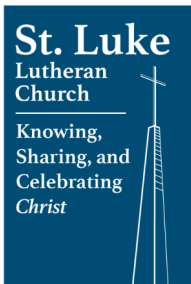
GATHERING/SENDING HYMN:
ELW 619 I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.; Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793.

HYMN OF THE DAY:
ELW 389 Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, ©1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company;
Music: T. Williams, Psalmody Evangelica, 1789.

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Director of Music

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stlukegilbertsville.org
610-367-9738

St. Luke Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking people and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

During the prelude, please use this time to quietly allow God to open your heart to his blessed presence.

WELCOME

Please rise in body or spirit.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit
Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

GREETING

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

GATHERING HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

ELW 619

Verses 1-4



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

Give us grace to love one another,

to follow in the way of his commandments,

and to share his risen life with all the world,

for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

A reading from Acts 7:55-60

⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me;**

make haste to deliver me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,

for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵My times are in your hand;

**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;

save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND READING:

A reading from 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to John 14:1-14

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are

going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

MESSAGE

Mike Romasco

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY **Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing**

ELW 389

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the
church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty especially in Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, and Gaza, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before

us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,

we give thanks for your gifts.

Reveal to us the Risen One.

**Send us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please rise in body and spirit.

BLESSING

Church, receive this blessing.

The God of all,
who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Verses 5-8

ELW 369

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Sundayandseasons.com



Lectionary for May 8-13

Monday – Psalm 102:1-17; Exodus 13:17-22; Acts 7:17-40

Tuesday – Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:5-12; Acts 7:44-56

Wednesday – Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:13-18; John 8:31-38

Thursday – Psalm 66: 8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12

Friday – Psalm 66: 8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38

Saturday - Psalm 66: 8:20; Genesis 8:13-19; John 14:27-29

Today's Worship Leaders:

Worship Leaders: Leslie & Michael Romasco

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Kathy Billger

Audio Video: Ron Ball

Ushers: Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow

Sacristan: Sandi Quicksell

PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:

- Valerie Schlegel, chest pains
- Cynthia Tadley, broken ribs (daughter-in-law of Marsha Staub)
- Bill Lowry, cancer (friends of Scott & Marsha Staub)

PRAYERS FOR those in grief:

- Family & friends of Darlene Weiss (former member of SSLC)

PRAYERS FOR those Needing Continued Prayers:

Bob Arobone

Tom Bucks

Kristopher Yoder

Jalen Gray

Larry Kuser

Sharon Smith

Bonnie Ritter

PRAYERS FOR those at home:

Charles & Gloria Christman

Jean & Bill Christy

Marie Geiger

Paul McFarland

Ruth Nice

Helen Penketh

Clayton & Ann Rhoads

Cookie Stasik

IN OUR PRAYERS: This morning in our prayers we remember the saints whose commemorations fall during this week:

May 8 Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, c.1416

May 9 Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church,
hymnwriter, 1760

Sponsors:

The communion elements and bulletins are sponsors by Ruth Nice in honor of her granddaughter Sarah's birthday.

Date	Week of May 7-13	Location
Sunday, May 7 5th Sunday of Easter	9:30 am Worship	Nave
Tuesday, May 9	6:30 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Choir Room Memorial Hall
Wednesday, May 10	1:00-4:00 pm CCR Shopping 7:00 pm Handbells	CCR Nave
Thursday, May 11	6:00-8:00 pm CCR Shopping 6:45 pm Council Meeting	CCR Green Room
Friday, May 12	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
Worship Leaders	Sunday, May 14	Sunday, May 21
Lector	Pat Hallman	Ron Ball
Ushers	Gary Fronheiser, Ron Hukari	David Girtton, Ron Hukari
Audio Video	Mike Ferraro	Ron Hukari
Office Volunteer	Pat Hallman (May 11)	Donna Biehl (May 18)
Sacristan	Sandi Quicksell	Sandi Quicksell

Worship and Stewardship			
<u>Our April Commitment</u>		<u>Our Generosity</u>	<u>Overage/Shortfall</u>
Budget	\$16,330	\$16,392	+\$62
Mission Support	\$680	\$ 503	-\$177

100th Anniversary Campaign

Pledges received year to date: \$96,430
Actual monies received to date: \$123,564

- Today is the **fifth Sunday** in **Easter**.
- Easter is a time to celebrate **new life** and **new beginnings**.

New Words

How many new words can you make out of the words **CHRIST IS RISEN**??

Write them inside this symbol for Easter. One example is done for you.

CHRIST IS RISEN

