



PLUM Worship
5th Sunday of Easter
Council at Jerusalem
May 2, 2021
3:00 p.m.

PRELUDE Redeemed

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/SRZI3J2DTC4](https://youtu.be/SRZI3J2DTC4)

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's salvation is for all!

All lands and all peoples.

No separation will stand

Between us and our sisters and brothers.

Let us praise the Lord of love,

Whose grace has redeemed us all.

HYMN My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

<https://youtu.be/rkMapZB8gMk>

- 1 *My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

- 2 *When darkness hides his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil.* Refrain
- 3 *His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.* Refrain 2x

- 4 *When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne!* Refrain 2x

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,

you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,

for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our
Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

Let us pray. Loving God, You showed your followers that
their salvation didn't depend upon culture or traditions,
but on the grace freely offered by your Spirit. Show us the
same open vision of mercy offered to all, regardless of
background or practice, for the sake of the whole world.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Acts 15:1-18

Readers: Narrator, Individuals, Peter, James

Narrator: Then certain individuals came down from
Judea and were teaching the brothers,

Individuals: Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.

Narrator: And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said,

Individuals: It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.

Narrator: The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them,

Peter: My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.

Narrator: The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied,

James: My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written, "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION <https://youtu.be/0k67nFHgvII>
Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 29-32

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

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

SERMON

MINISTER MANDY GILBERTI

HYMN There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

<https://youtu.be/A5LN1ZvwWfs>

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
that is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner
And more graces for the good
There is mercy with our Savior
There is healing in God's blood.*
- 2 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple
We would take Christ at his word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.
There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;*

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.
A brief silence.

You helped changed the minds of the early disciples, guiding them towards grace and away from legalism. Likewise keep us focused on your wide mercy and inclusion of all, instead of the trivial things that would serve to keep us divided. God of all, **Hear our prayer.**

As our Orthodox brothers and sisters celebrate the festival of Easter, revive our own joy at the news of your resurrection and fill us with the gladness of your promises. God of all, **Hear our prayer.**

You have made every one of us unique, and we each have something to bring to the body of Christ. Help us recognize and value our particular contributions and the things which make us different and important. God of all, **Hear our prayer.**

Unlock fixed minds and entrenched beliefs which focus on separation and keeping those with whom we differ at a distance. Show us the healing that needs to take place so that we can embrace all of ourselves, and thus embrace others. Send your Spirit's presence to those in need, especially... God of all, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, be with us during this discernment process of calling a new pastor. Open our eyes and our ears, Lord. You know what is best for the ministry of PLUM. Walk with us during this journey of discernment, so that we clearly hear and do what is your will. God of all, **hear our prayer.**

We honor Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria and all who stand firm in their beliefs so that your gospel can be proclaimed. Give us the conviction of our forebears in faith. God of all, **Hear our prayer.**

Grant confidence and zeal to members of our PLUM congregations that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. God of all, **Hear our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered.

Incline your ear to our prayers and fill us with power to begin living out our faith, by the power of your Son our savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for your congregation, please send it or deliver it to the church.

Let us pray. When we give of ourselves, you prosper our hearts. Receive and bless these gifts and use them and us for the ongoing work of your merciful kingdom, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in 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 in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as the Lord 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.

Take and eat the body of Christ given for you.
Take and drink the blood of Christ shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. **Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN **Nothing but the Blood of Jesus**

<https://youtu.be/j-J8PPbldHc>

- What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Refrain:

*Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;*

*No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

- For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.* Refrain
- Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.* Refrain
- This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.* Refrain

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE **This is Amazing Grace**

<https://youtu.be/cgsbaBlaoVc>

ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

COFFEE HOUR

TODAY – *Welcome!*

PLUM Bible Study returns in May

A 4-week study of the book of **Proverbs** will begin this week. Please join us **Tuesdays** at 1 PM or **Thursdays** at 7 PM via zoom.

FRIDAY – *Taize service via zoom at 7 PM.*

The call in line for PLUM Worship Services and Bible Studies:

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Zoom by phone: **(646) 876 9923 Meeting ID: 401 596 541**

PLUM Pastoral Team:

The Reverend John Gropp	412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry	412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine	412-496-4889
The Reverend Paul Koch	773-848-1470
Minister Mandy Gilberti	814-241-8150

If you are not already connected to one of our congregations and would like to support our ministry, please send donations to: **Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries, 405 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA 15110**