



PLUM Worship

6th Sunday of Easter

God's Love Poured Out

May 14, 2023

3:00 p.m.

PRELUDE How Can I Keep from Singing?

<https://youtu.be/Wdpp2H5-qU>

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus calls us into his presence,

When we are tired and struggling.

Jesus promises us rest.

We find peace in Jesus' loving arms

HYMN How Great Thou Art <https://youtu.be/USM71JqV30o>

*1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;*

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!*

*2 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin;* Refrain

*3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin;* Refrain

*4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!*

*Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"*

Refrain

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!

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.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister
continues.*

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Loving God, You sustained the church at Rome
in their suffering through hope in the promise of your
salvation. Give us this same hope, and walk with us through
our own challenges, in Jesus Christ our savior. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Romans 3:28-30; 5:1-11

Readers: Narrator 1, Narrator 2

Narrator 1: For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

Narrator 2: Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Narrator 1: And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Narrator 2: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

Narrator 1: But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

Narrator 2: For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Narrator 1: But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:28-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 Brenda Henry

HYMN Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

<https://youtu.be/VyE5HwkYN78>

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.*
- 2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's commands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.*
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.*
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.*

APOSTLES' CREED

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

Standing in awe of your unfathomable grace, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of justification, even while we were still walking in sin, Jesus chose to die for us. We are humbled by your extravagant love, and offer our unabashed gratitude and praise. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

When one in your creation suffers, all creation suffers. Help us to be caretakers and comforters of all that you have made, healing instead of harming this world. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

We uplift to you all those who are persecuted for any reason by unjust governments and corrupt systems. Give them strength to endure their suffering and give us passion to hold leaders accountable for the well-being of all people. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

Healing happens when we open ourselves to receive your grace. Open us, and heal us in body, mind, or spirit according to your will, (*especially*). God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

Mothering God, every parent is important; the ones we are born to, the ones we adopt as our own, the ones we strive to be for our children or others' children. Bless all who walk in the role of mother or father, grandmother or grandfather. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

Lord, you know what is best for the ministry of PLUM. Continue to open our eyes, ears, and hearts, that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

We lift up all the saints who have gone before us, who have suffered until enduring produced hope. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

Confident in the promise of the resurrection, we lift all these prayers to you, saving God, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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. God, you have poured out your love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. In gratitude we offer these gifts, that the world might be blessed through them. Accept them for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. **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: https://youtu.be/VP_VmA9bB54

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

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the mystery of
our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

INVITATION

Through Jesus, God pours over us grace upon grace. In this holy meal we receive yet another outpouring of grace—the forgiveness of our sins through the body and blood of our savior. All are welcome to this table. Come and be fed.

Take and eat the body of Christ given for you. Amen.
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. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

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

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.

HYMN Because He Lives [https://youtu.be/ Wo0IPxg4xQ](https://youtu.be/Wo0IPxg4xQ)

*God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!*

Chorus

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

*How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he brings;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!*

Chorus

*And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!* Chorus
*And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

COFFEE HOUR

May Bible Study: *We Cry Justice*



Thursdays: May 4, 11, 18, & 25 at 7:00 p.m.

To participate join by Zoom

Participants are welcome to attend all or any session that fits their schedule.

The call-in line for PLUM Worship Services Bible Studies and meetings: 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 Dr. Alexander Sumo	614-218-6730

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

