



PLUM Worship

7th Sunday of Easter

Hope of Resurrection

May 21, 2023

3:00 p.m.

PRELUDE HE LEADETH ME

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEpQItm7v9g>

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

In Christ we have new life.

We live under the grace of God.

Let us put aside earthly temptations,

And commit ourselves to a life of love and service to all.

HYMN Lift High the Cross

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbcBXP4AIE>

REFRAIN

Lift high the cross

The love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore

His sacred name.

1. *Come, Christians, follow*

This triumphant sign

The hosts of God

In unity combine.

REFRAIN

2. *Each newborn servant*

Of the Crucified

Bears on the brow

The seal of Him who died.

REFRAIN

3. *O Lord, once lifted*

On the glorious tree

*As Thou hast promised
Draw the world to thee.*

REFRAIN

4. *So shall our song of
Triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified
For victory.*

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. Holy God, through Jesus Christ, we have been given endless grace and forgiveness. Make us see this not as an excuse to sin, but as all the more reason to live as you have called us. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Romans 6:1-14

Readers: Narrator 1, Narrator 2

Narrator 1: What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?

Narrator 2: By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?

Narrator 1: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Narrator 2: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Narrator 1: We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin.

Narrator 2: But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Narrator 1: We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

Narrator 2: So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Narrator 1: Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

Narrator 2: For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

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

LITANY

No matter what we do, God loves and forgives us.

Does that mean we can do whatever we want with impunity?

Of course not! We can do better.

Can we? Isn't it "human nature" to sin?

In Jesus, you are dead to sin. It doesn't have to rule over you anymore if you don't let it.

Well, you can't expect us to be perfect.

Everyone makes mistakes. But a mistake is different than a deliberate choice to do wrong.

So even though God forgives us, we're expected to do better.

You are dead to sin, and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

God, help us remember that we live to you, in all that we do and say.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:24

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

SERMON

Pastor Sue Devine

HYMN I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74kyfROS4q8>

- I heard the voice of Jesus say
Come unto Me and rest
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast.
I came to Jesus as I was
So weary, worn, and sad
I found in Him a resting place
And He has made me glad.*
- I heard the voice of Jesus say
Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one
Stoop down and drink and live
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived
And now I live in Him.*
- I heard the voice of Jesus say
I am this dark world's Light
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun
And in that Light of Life I'll walk
Till traveling days are done.*

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 liberation, by the death and resurrection of your son, Jesus Christ, we have been freed from the bondage of sin. Help us to walk as people of righteousness, rejecting sin and embracing new life in you. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

In the resurrection, Jesus redeemed not just humanity, but all of your creation. Teach us to value the natural world as deeply as you do, that we might strive for its protection and care. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

Inspire our leaders with a higher vision, and commit them to uplifting those society would prefer to forget, so that all people might flourish together. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

We bring before you all those in our community who are in need of your healing hand, (*especially*). Bring health and wholeness to all who suffer, those we know, and those we don't. God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

Make us blind to the differences that separate us from others. Teach us to love all your children no matter who they are. 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.**

For what else do we pray? [Silence]

God of life, **You hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving all the saints who have gone before us, who have taught us by their example to walk in the ways of righteousness. 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 told us that we cannot serve you and serve wealth. Accept these gifts we now offer for the purpose of serving you, and carrying out your good work of bringing peace and justice into the world. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior. **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

In Christ we have died, and in Christ we will be raised. He
invites us now into holy communion with him, in the
breaking of the bread and pouring of the wine, with the
promise of eternal life. Come with joy to the feast.

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 Shall We Gather at the River

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-pf-Jx19Lc>

1. *Shall we gather at the river
Where bright angel feet have trod
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?*

REFRAIN

*Yes, we'll gather at the river
The beautiful, the beautiful river
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.*

2. *On the margin of the river
Washing up its silver spray
We will talk and worship ever
All the happy golden day.*
REFRAIN
3. *Ere we reach the shining river
Lay we every burden down
Grace our spirits will deliver
And provide a robe and crown.*
REFRAIN
4. *At the shining of the river
Mirrors of the Saviour's face
Saints, whom death will never sever
Lift their songs of saving grace.*
REFRAIN
5. *Soon we'll reach the silver river
Soon our pilgrimage will cease
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.*
REFRAIN

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

COFFEE HOUR

May Bible Study:

We Cry Justice



Please join us this Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

To participate join by Zoom

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