

Weisenberg Lutheran Church
7645 Weisenberg Church Road
New Tripoli, PA 18066
Phone: 610-298-2437

CHURCH AT THESSALONICA
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Worship Service 9 AM
April 21, 2024

Welcome to worship at Weisenberg!

Please stand as you are able for all parts labeled (). Worship leaders [Pastor (P:) and Assistant (A:)] speak the plain text. The congregation (C:) responds with the words in **bold**.*

RINGING OF THE BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

PRELUDE *"Jesus Calls Us"~ Smith*

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

P: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

C: Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

P: At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

C: By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

P: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

C: Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

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

C: Amen.

***PEACE(ELW p. 241)**

Reconciled to God through Baptism & Confession, we share a the peace which passes all understanding with one another. Please share a sign of peace with your neighbor at your own comfort. Waves, fist taps, elbow bumps, or handshakes all extend Jesus' greeting of hospitality and peace!

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*GATHERING HYMN "O Zion, Haste" No.668

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,

to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,

one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain

Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,

tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923
 Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Welch, 1837–1901

***GREETING**

A: Christ is Risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

A: Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,

C: And on those in the tomb, bestowing life!

A: Christ is Risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

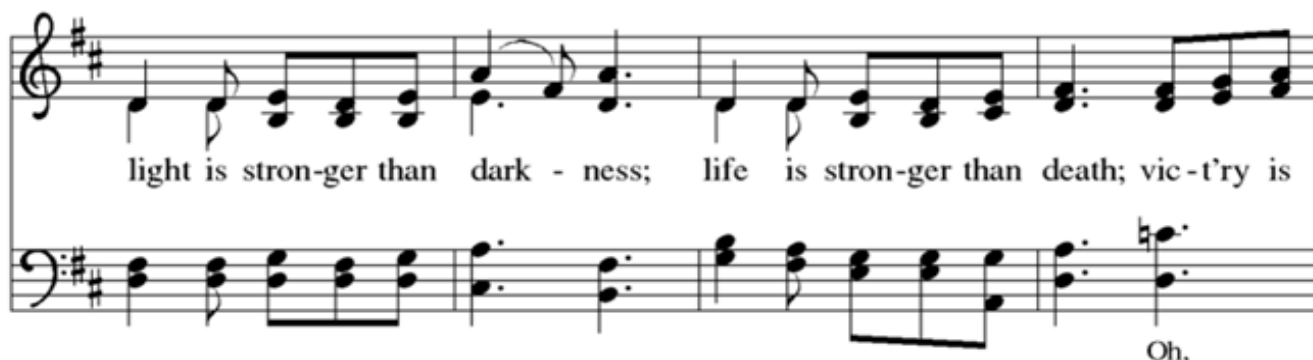
A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** "Goodness is Stronger than Evil" No. 721



Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;



light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is
Oh,



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is
vic - t'ry is ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Oh,



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.
vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931

Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949

Text from *An African Prayer Book* selected by Desmond Tutu, © 1995 by Desmond Tutu. Used by permission of Doubleday, a div. of Random House, Inc., and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd.

Music © 1996 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A: Let us pray. Holy God,

C: It is not always easy to live out the gospel in our daily lives. We are sometimes met with opposition or rejection when we stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized. Strengthen us by the example of the early Christians that we might persist in our call to bear witness to you. In and through Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM 90:1-6,13-17

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,

from age to age you are God.

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

¹³Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?
Be gracious to your servants.

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us
and as many years as we suffered adversity.

¹⁶Show your servants your works,
and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

FIRST READING Acts 17:1-9

A reading from Acts, the 17th Chapter.

^{17:1}After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

²And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, ³explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.”

⁴Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

⁵But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason’s house. ⁶When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, ⁷and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.” ⁸The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, ⁹and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

R:The Word of our Lord.

C:Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from 1 Thessalonians, the 1st Chapter.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

R:The Word of our Lord.

C:Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "We All Are One in Mission" No. 576



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

***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.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *"To God Be the Glory"* ~ Loree

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

"Built On the Rock" ~ Pethel (ASCAP)

***OFFERTORY HYMN** *"Create In Me" No. 186*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Holy Spirit,

C: who guided Paul to carry the good news of Christ to all the world, and who inspires us in our giving to support the life and ministries of this congregation, accept these, our gifts, for your good purposes. Amen.

***PRAYERS**

A: Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: O God, you sustained Paul and the early Christians through harsh opposition and persecution. Give us the persistence to do your work of justice even when we face strong pushback or personal risk. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: We human beings are the most adaptable creatures on earth, inhabiting even the most hostile of climates. Wherever we live, fill us with mutual love for the natural world around us, that we would

sustain the environments that sustain us. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: Open the minds of all who lead to new ideas and learnings from younger generations and other nations, that together we might solve the issues that negatively affect the whole world. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: Bring healing and wholeness to those recovering from injury or surgery, and to all whose health is challenged in any way, (*especially...*) God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: Comfort the victims of violence, especially gun violence, and bring healing to families and communities torn apart by it. Commit us to doing whatever is needed to end violence in our nation and our world. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: So many saints from Paul to the present have risked their safety, their reputations, and their lives for the sake of the gospel. Inspire us by their example to be willing to do whatever is needed to make sure your message of love and justice is carried forward. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: We place in your arms all for whom we pray, out loud or in our hearts, confident in your mercy and grace, through Jesus Christ, our savior.
Amen.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

***BLESSING**

P: It isn't easy to share the good news of Jesus.

C: The "good news" doesn't always sound good.

P: Following Jesus is never the easier path.

C: It is a call into a life of working for the good of others.

P: Many people only want to hear that they are loved and that no effort is required of them.

C: God does love us in this way, and it is beautiful.

P: But it is the beginning of faith, not its ending.

C: In gratitude we are inspired to take the hard path to bring the gospel of justice and equity to all who suffer.

P: The good news of Jesus will not always be well received.

C: We trust that God is with us as we answer the call.

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

***HYMN** "This Little Light of Mine" No. 677

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

***DISMISSAL VERSE** “*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*” No. 536
*Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.*

***DISMISSAL**

P: Christ is risen, alleluia!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Christ is risen from the dead. Go in peace. Share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God!

***POSTLUDE** “*When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder*” ~ Turner

It was a joy worshipping God with you today!

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000764. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprint with permission under One License #A724297. All rights reserved. Reprint with permission under CCLI #11175107. All rights reserved.

This Week

Sunday:	Music Ministry Listening Post	10:30AM
	Sunday School	10:30AM
Tuesday:	Audio/Visual Meeting	6:30PM
	4-H Livestock Leader Meeting (basement)	6:30PM
Wednesday:	Secretary Office Hours	4:15-6:15PM
	Pastor Brandon Bible Study	6:30PM
Thursday:	Line Dancing	6:15–7:15PM
	4-H Sheep to Shawl (basement)	6:30PM
	Worship Choir	7:30PM
Saturday:	Lowhill Food Receiving	9-11AM
Sunday:	Worship/Children’s Message	9AM
	Sunday School	10:30AM

Weisenberg Church Trivia: What year was our first flower chart started and committee appointed?

Lottery Calendars for May are available at a cost of \$10 to help raise funds for the Samaritan Fund, which benefits a member(s) or family in need. Please see Eileen Reinert or Nancy Kressley.

We have added something new this month to **Weisenberg Fire Dept** hoagie sale. For a trial we are taking orders for The Nesting Box ice cream sandwiches along with our hoagies. The deadline to order is Sunday April 21, pick up is May 2. The order form is on the table in the social room. Contact person Emma. Thank you.

Weisenberg Sunday School Picnic

Mark your calendars and tell your friends!

Saturday, June 1 - 4:30-9:30 pm- Music by Valerie Borman and Fred Reith 6:30-9:30 pm

Sunday, June 2 - 4:30-9:30 pm- Hymn Sing from 5-6 & Music by the Steel Creek Band from 6:30-9:30 pm

Vacation Bible School- VBS is quickly approaching June 24–June 28 6 to 8:30 pm for ages 4 years thru 6th grade. We would love to see our numbers grow again this year. The registration form for participants and volunteers can be found on the table in the social room and in the April newsletter. Please plan on joining us for underwater adventure! Please see me with any questions. We are looking forward to a “Scuba” week! ~Bambi

Trivia Answer: 1945

Main Idea: Rejection does not have to alter the strength, the consistency, or the nature of God's love that we strive to bring into the world every day.

This passage from Acts is a bit bizarre, not just because it touches on some explicit conflict, but also because it feeds into a kind of bigger-picture mismatch in the way that many of us understand Paul's early ministry. We have context clues in our 1 Thessalonians text and in some other portions of the New Testament that suggest that Paul's involvement in Thessalonica was quite significant—that he spent a good amount of time establishing the church there. But this story is the only one we have, the only one we hear. And it's a far cry from a success story as we tend to think of evangelism.

What's most important for us to remember here is that Luke's target audience in the Book of Acts is people who are already following Christ—not people he thinks need to be convinced to follow Christ. That means we should think of his purpose as witness instead of apology; his voice as matter-of-fact instead of forming an agenda. Luke isn't actually making any one, central theological claim in this text. He is simply relaying the fact that, in a life of faith, you might encounter disagreement. Discomfort. Rejection. People might not like you because they associate you with something they cannot possibly get behind. And realistically, some of this friction might be high stakes enough that it is scary. That's because faith is such a foundational and visceral piece of our identities—the most baseline determiner in our day to day lives.

Implicit in this observation is a call to resiliency. A charge to keep going. Especially when we read this portion of Acts alongside Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, we understand that persecution is nothing to revel in. It's nothing we should feed or give energy to. It's simply something we can anticipate. And because we can anticipate it, we can easily sidestep it to keep our focus on what is most important: proclaiming God's love and making room for the Holy Spirit to do her work and to call us into it alongside her.

Our main learning today is that we need not be distracted or discouraged by how others might perceive us. We already know that we're facing a mixed bag of reaction. In Christ, we are liberated to focus, instead, on how others might be loved by us, might be served by us. In Christ, we are liberated to focus, instead, on what is truly important. And that is kingdom-building work.

Scripture Summary: As Paul and Silas travel through Thessalonica and attempt to grow the early church there, they are met with dramatic resistance. Their story combined with Paul's letter to the Thessalonians shows us why that might not be such a bad thing.