

Weisenberg Lutheran Church
7645 Weisenberg Church Road
New Tripoli, PA 18066
Phone: 610-298-2437
Church Website: www.weisenbergchurch.org



GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT
PENTECOST/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
Worship Service 9 AM
May 19, 2024

Welcome to worship at Weisenberg!

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

RINGING OF THE BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

PRELUDE by Jubilant Ringers

"Fantasia on Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" ~ McChesney

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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.

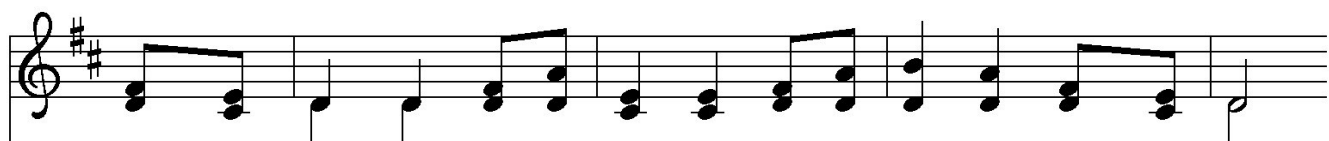
C: Amen.

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

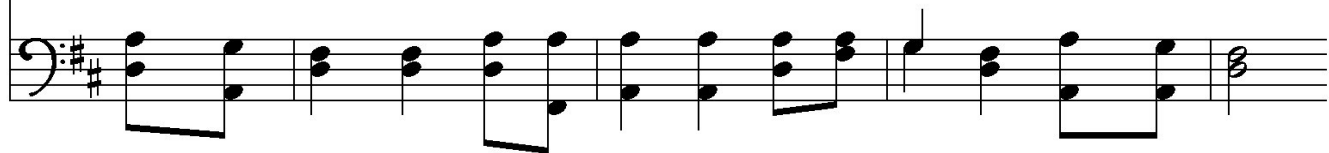
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

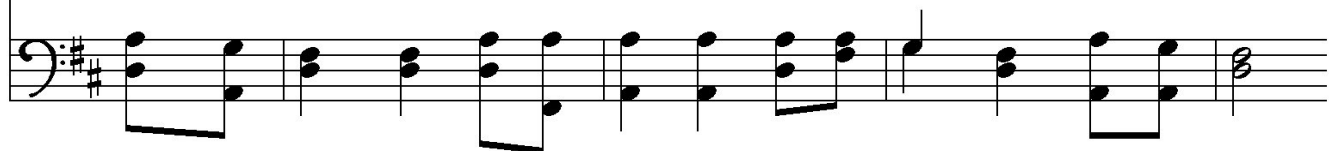
***GATHERING HYMN** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" No. 807



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



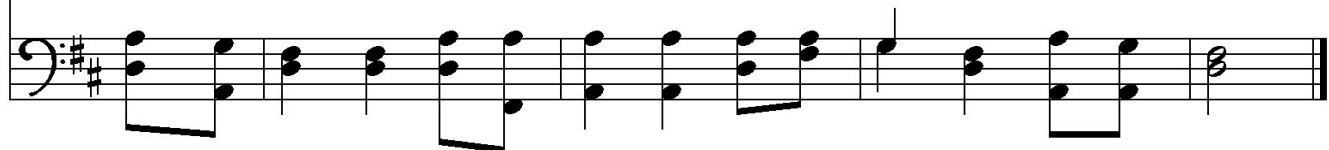
streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.



***PENTECOST LITANY**

A: God has given us the Spirit of adoption.

C: Our Advocate, our Comforter, the Lord, the Giver of Life.

A: The Spirit proceeds from the Son and the Father,

C: gathering us to worship and sending us to serve.

A: The Spirit speaks through the prophets,

C: equipping us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

A: The Spirit enlivens us to make disciples of all nations.

**C: Sent by the Spirit, we celebrate the resurrection life of Jesus,
and share this good news with all the world.**

A: Come, Holy Spirit: make your church One and Holy,

C: united in witness with the saints who came before.

A: Come, Holy Spirit: stir up the waters of our shared faith,

C: and nourish us by the gifts of Christ's body and blood.

A: Come, Holy Spirit: raise us up from slumber and death,

C: and equip us for the life of the world to come.

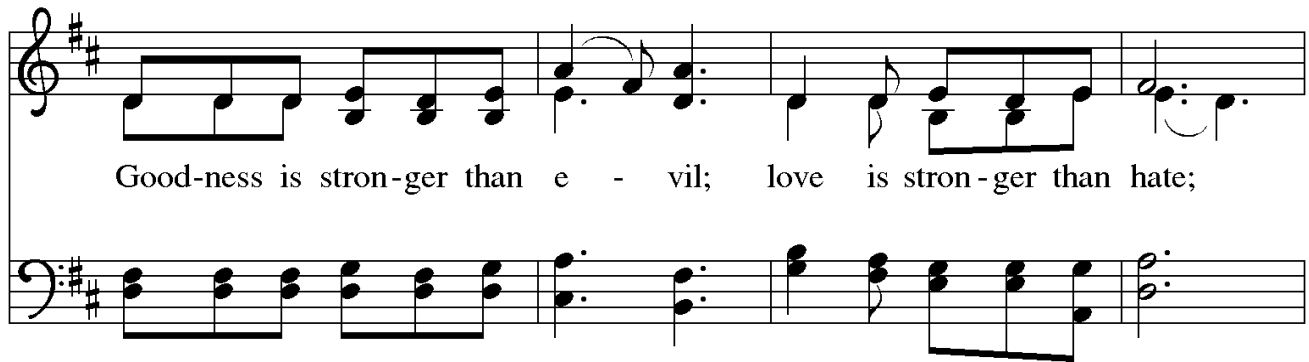
A: Come, Holy Spirit: fill the hearts of your faithful people,

C: and kindle in us the fire of your love.

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.

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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A: Let us pray. Holy Spirit,

C: By your power, the church came to be, and by your power, we continue to carry the good news of Jesus into the world. Inspire us to give the gifts you have given us in service to God, our neighbors, and the whole of creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PSALM 33:12-22

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³The LORD looks down from heaven,

and sees all humankind.

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches

all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵God fashions all their hearts

and observes all their deeds.

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,

nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷The horse gives vain hope for victory;

despite its great strength it cannot save.

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,

upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹to deliver their lives from death,

and to keep them alive in time of famine.

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,

our helper and our shield.

²¹Surely, our heart rejoices in you,

for in your holy name we put our trust.

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,

even as we place our hope in you.

FIRST READING Acts 2:1-4

A reading from Acts, the 2nd Chapter.

^{2:1}When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the

rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

R:The Word of our Lord.

C:Thanks be to God.

READING 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the 12th Chapter.

^{12:1} Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

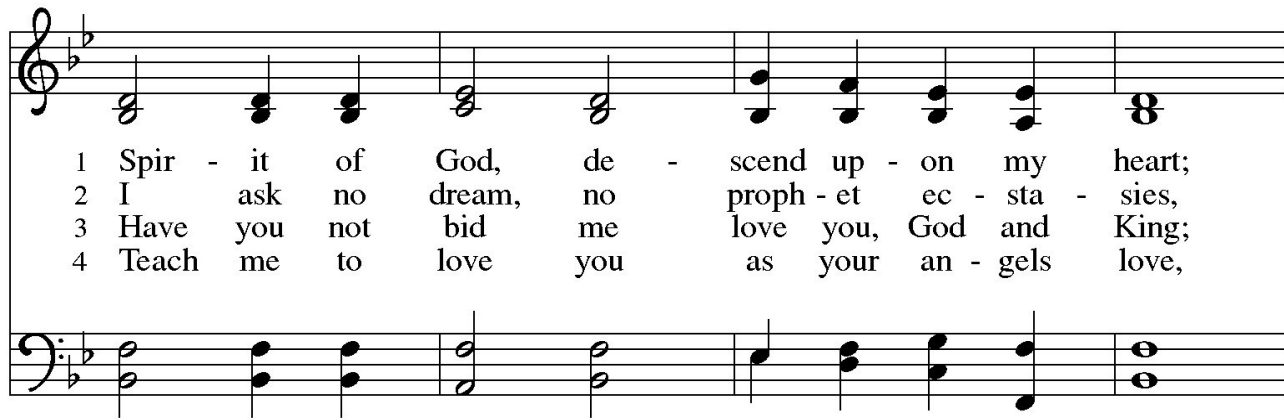
¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

R:The Word of our Lord.

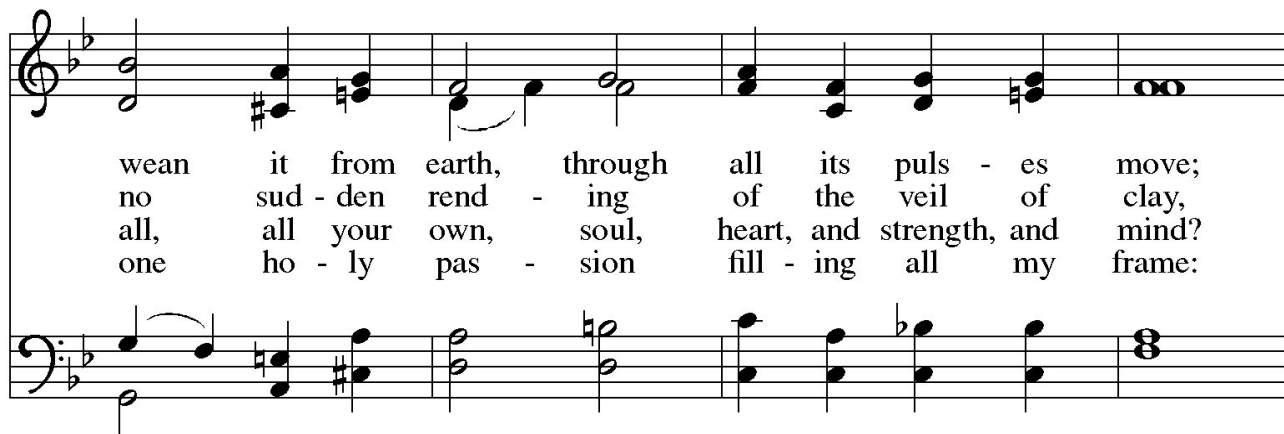
C:Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" No. 800



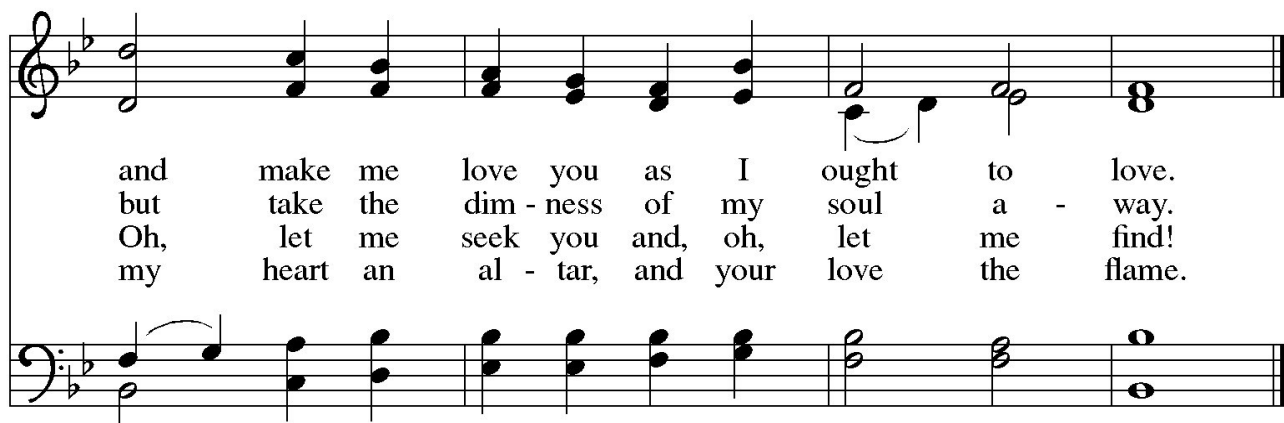
1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

***AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Presentation

A representative of the congregation presents those making affirmation.

I present the following, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism:

SHAELYN ELISABETH BRANNAN

KYLIE JANE FRIZ

MORGAN LILLIAN KURTZ

TRAVIS JAMES SCHULTZ

The presiding minister may continue with prayer.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

****Profession of Faith***

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the *Son* of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Affirmation of Baptism

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

(Sit)

Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The minister may lay hands on the head of the person and say: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in *your servants* the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in her/his serving, give her/him patience in suffering, and bring her/him to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

***PRAYERS**

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

A brief silence.

A: Holy Spirit, you fill us with life and breath and richly gift us with skills and abilities to be used for the common good. Open our eyes to all that we have to offer and fill us with joy in the giving of ourselves for the sake of others. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: You have gifted some of us with a passion for the vibrancy of the natural world, and others with the scientific curiosity and knowledge needed for its restoration and long-term viability. May we follow those so gifted and lend our hearts, hands, and voices to their vital work. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: You have gifted some with the ability to lead, and others with the gift to facilitate collaboration. May we follow those so gifted and support their efforts to bring peace and justice to the world. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: You have gifted some of us with skills in the medical field, and others of us with hearts for healing in myriad ways. May we support those so gifted that they might bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer, (*especially...*) God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: You have gifted some of us with the ability to prophesy, which is to speak your words of truth in the face of injustice and oppression. May we listen to the words of your prophets and heed their call to action on behalf of the marginalized. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: You have gifted so many of your saints in so many ways that have touched our lives and our faith deeply. May we remember them with gratitude until we again see them face to face. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: You have gifted us with the faith to trust in your promises, through baptism, communion, and our shared life of discipleship. Continue to nurture Shaelyn, Morgan, Kylie, and Travis, and all your saints, that we may always follow where your Spirit leads. 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.

C: Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *"In Christ Alone" ~ Getty and Townsend*

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

"Come, Holy Spirit, Come" ~ Kupferschmid

***OFFERTORY HYMN** *"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" No. 18*

Please stand and sing as our gifts are brought forward and offered to God for their blessing and use in Christ's ministry through the church.



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. God, our source,

C: you continue to shower us with gift upon gift each day of our lives. Accept now what we return to you and use our offerings for the healing and wholeness of all that you have made. Amen.

***DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C:Come, Holy Spirit.

P:Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C:Come, Holy Spirit.

P:With all your saints, your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P:People of God, behold what you are.

C:May we become what we receive!

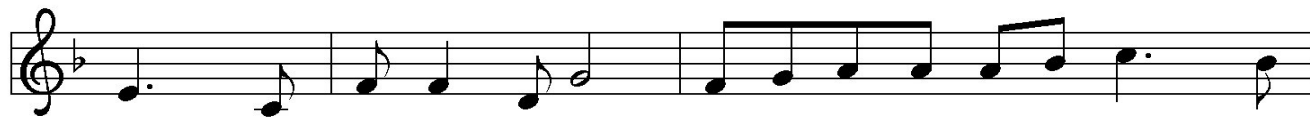
COMMUNION SONG: "Lamb of God" (ELW p. 146)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

Communion servants greet you with the following words:

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMNS

481—396—592—542

*TABLE BLESSING

After all have been fed and the table has been cleaned:

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

C: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God,

C: In the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

*BLESSING

P: Everyone has spiritual gifts.

C: These gifts of the Spirit are for the common good.

P: We don't always see ourselves as gifted.

C: We judge ourselves as less than others.

P: The Holy Spirit reminds us that each of us has something unique and important to offer.

C: If we are open to the Spirit's call, we can see how what seems humble is, in fact, of incredible value.

P: We are each invited to share ourselves and our abilities with one another.

C: We are each invited to embrace our abilities as precious gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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** "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" No. 400

1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's

cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,

past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;

there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

***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** “*Go Tell the World*” ~ Howell

It was a joy worshipping God with you today!

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This Week

Sunday:	Sunday School	10:30AM
	Raise Right Orders Due	
	Basket Raffle Drawing after Sunday school	
Monday:	Newsletter Items Due	
	275th Anniversary Planning Meeting	7PM
Tuesday:	Softball vs. Cedar Crest BFC @ Velo North	6:15PM
Wednesday:	Lowhill Food Pantry—Serving	10-12(noon)
	Secretary Office Hours	4:15-6:15PM
	Pastor Brandon Bible Study	6:30PM
Thursday:	Line Dancing	6:15–7:15PM
	Worship Choir	7:30PM
Saturday:	Lowhill Food Pantry-Receiving	9-11AM
Sunday:	Holy Trinity/Communion/Children’s Message	9AM
	No Sunday School	
	Raise Right Order Delivery	

Weisenberg Church Trivia: In what year was the air conditioning installed on all three floors of the original church building?

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

During worship this morning, the following members of our second year catechetical class affirm their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation:

SHAELYN	Mentor, Patrick
KYLIE	Mentor, Amy
MORGAN	Mentor, Shelva
TRAVIS	Mentor, Harry K

We offer our congratulations as well as our prayers that these young people will continue to participate in the life of the church in response to God's grace. Please encourage them in their lives of faith. A special word of thanks is extended to the **catechism class teachers**, as well as the individuals listed above who have served as mentors, offering their support and encouragement throughout the program.

Weisenberg Sunday School Picnic—

Food 4:30—9:30pm each day

Live Music—Saturday, June 1 - Class Act Productions 5-6pm &

Valerie Borman & Fred Reith 6:30-9:30pm,

Sunday, June 2 Hymn Sing from 5-6pm & Steel Creek Band from

6:30-9:30pm

Vacation Bible School- June 24-June 28 6 to 8:30 pm 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 May newsletter. Please plan on joining us for underwater adventure! Please see Bambi with any questions. We are looking forward to a "Scuba" week!

Family Promise guests will be visiting Weisenberg June 9th through the 16th. As usual we will need food and drink supplies, but most of all we need Volunteers! Please try to find it in your schedule and your heart to help us during this week. The sign up sheet is waiting for you. If you have any questions, please ask Nancy, Joyce, Cindy, Jan or Pete. We will all be glad to answer them.

Graduation Sunday, June 9th—please let Pastor Brandon or Bev know of a family member that is graduating. We need their name, what school they are graduating from and what degree they are receiving, so that we may honor them during worship.

In anticipation of Marie's upcoming retirement as **Director of Music**, a job posting has been created to help in our search for this leadership role. If you or someone you know may be interested and gifted for this ministry, please direct them to our website, www.weisenbergchurch.org, for more info about how to apply.

The Ark Encounters Bus Trip is planned for July 29 - August 3, 2024. It will depart at 7:00am from the church. The trip will include 5 nights lodging, 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 5 dinners (one being a Riverboat Dinner Cruise). Tour includes: Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, Creation Museum, Ark Encounter, Guided Tour of Cincinnati, Kentucky Horse Farm, National Aviary, Molly's Trolleys Tour, Duquesne Incline and Miner's Memorial. Lot's of Fun with Games and Prizes. Price \$1325.00 PER PERSON (Double Occupancy). Please contact Eileen at dreinert2@aol.com for more details and to register for this amazing adventure.

TRIVIA ANSWER: 1997

Main Idea: Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit will find us and transform us in the most familiar, foundational places.

It's easy to focus on the imagery of wind and tongues in this passage, but we almost never focus on the imagery of the house these early Christians are sitting in together.

Houses were a big deal in the formation and growth of the church. For decades after Jesus's death and resurrection, Christian worship didn't happen in public. It didn't even happen in dedicated buildings. It was an ad hoc kind of thing, popping up in the various houses of believers and their families; in the dwelling places of seekers and their friends.

This was mostly because Christians were persecuted in those early days. Their faith marked them as strange, subversive, and sometimes even dangerous, because its central messages were threatening to the political powers that reigned. But even within the church, itself—even among believers—there was a huge spread of different interpretations of who Jesus was and what he came earthside to do. Dogma was newly forming and the Christian identity was springing up in a very eclectic, very organic way. So, conversations, debates, vision casting, and worship at the home-base level made perfect sense for the early church. It's where the early church made sense, for multiple reasons. It's where the church needed to be.

The Holy Spirit could have found the disciples and infused them with gifts for ministry anywhere. She could have used a public demonstration of this miraculous wind and these equally miraculous tongues of fire to lend some legitimacy to the Christian cause—to show off a bit. It's strangely beautiful that she chose to bring this Pentecost story to life in a home, instead. Perhaps the promise we can hear in this text today is that the Spirit will seek us out in the same kind of space—a foundational space where we're comfortable. A personalized space where we're genuine. A safe space where we can invite friends to join us. A space where we make messes—where we leave metaphorical dishes piling up in the sink and metaphorical speckles of toothpaste on the mirror.

Most importantly, the Spirit will find us in the place where we need to be to center on Jesus. And that's where she will baptize us. Transform us. Prepare us to make the impossible possible through spiritual gifts that build up our community. What would it look like for the Spirit to come to your house today? How would it feel to be baptized by the Holy Spirit at your home base?

Scripture Summary: Just as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples and jump-starts their ministry in the early church.