

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

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Worship Service 9 AM
May 5, 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 *"Peace and Reflection"~ Warringer*

***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** "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.

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A: Let us pray. God of Love,

C: In Christ Jesus, you have set for us an example of what it means to love one another. By loving us, you teach us to love. Draw us back to your example again and again, that we might live with one another in mutual service, and carry your love into the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PSALM 71:1-6

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

²In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;

incline your ear to me and save me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;

you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

⁵For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,

my confidence since I was young.

⁶I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength;

my praise shall be always of you.

READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the 13th Chapter.

^{13:1}If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant

⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

R: The Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue" No. 644



1 Al - though I speak with an - gel's tongue, my faith, my
2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er
3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions
4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to



knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are
vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -
end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now
one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one



vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.
dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.
see: then we will see love face to face.
mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
Music: O WALY WALY, English traditional
Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

*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**

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

A brief silence.

A: Holy God, ground us in a profound understanding of the kind of love we are to have for one another, and help us to share that love with every single person we encounter, in the church and beyond. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Your love is not limited to humanity, and nor should ours be. Inspire us to lavish the same love and care on the natural world as you do. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: Give us all the patience, kindness, generosity, and humility we need to work together across political differences for the good of God's children throughout the world. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: Help all who struggle with physical, mental, or spiritual illness to know that they are deeply loved, that they might be comforted and strengthened in the healing process (*especially...*) God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: All love is reflective of your love, O God. Make us to stand in solidarity with all who express love and sexuality in ways our social norms would have us reject. Open our minds to see the ways you are present in every loving and committed relationship regardless of our own biases. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

A: We cannot number the saints who have modeled for us the kind of love Paul describes to the church at Corinth. In gratitude for their memory, make us to love as they did, until we are reunited with them in the divine love that has no end. God of new life,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

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 *"I Love Thee, My Lord" ~ Livingston, Jr.*

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM *"We Remember You" ~ Harrah*

***OFFERTORY HYMN** *"Let the Vineyard" No. 182*

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.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Loving God,

C: you demonstrate your love for us by providing for our needs. We return these gifts to you as a sign of our love for you, for one another, and for all of your beautiful creation. Use them for the good of all that you have made. Amen.

RITE OF FIRST COMMUNION FOR JOSEPH DIETRICH, CLARA HAHN, AND HARPER NEAL

Please be seated. At this time, those who are receiving Holy Communion for the first time and their families are invited to gather around the altar. The presiding minister begins with an introduction.

P: Jesus Christ's introduction of the Lord's Supper is found in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and in Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. St. Paul writes in I Corinthians 11:26 that, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." Sharing in this proclamation of faith with all the saints, we look to our ancestors in faith, and hear from them the

meaning of this great mystery we share.

P: What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

C: The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink.

P: Jesus took bread and wine and presented it as his body and blood to his disciples. The Christian church continues this sacrament to this day. What benefit do we receive from such eating and drinking?

C: The benefit which we receive from is shown us by these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." In the Sacrament, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

P: How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

C: It is not the eating and drinking that does this, but the words here written, "Given and shed FOR YOU for the forgiveness of sin." These words, along with the eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament; and whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: the forgiveness of sins.

Those receiving their First Communion and their family members face the congregation as the assembly stands.

P: Let us welcome all of God's children to this holy table.

C: We welcome you as a communing member of the body of Christ. Together we will explore the mystery and wonder of Holy Communion and accept Christ's gifts of grace and salvation that come to us through this holy meal. Join us in eating this bread and drinking from this cup as we proclaim our Lord Jesus' death until he comes.

P: Let us pray.

After the prayer, the congregation responds,

C: 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.

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 your saints, 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)

DISTRIBUTION

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

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

COMMUNION HYMNS

481—754—532—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: If I speak without love,

C: I create noise and chaos.

L: If I have great power and knowledge without love,

C: My abilities are meaningless.

L: If I follow all the "rules" for being a perfect Christian without love,

C: I gain nothing.

L: Love is the only thing God asks of us.

C: Love, the action, not the feeling.

L: Love, for the good of others, and all of creation.

C: Love, which never ends, and is the very essence of God.

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

C: Amen.

***HYMN** "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" No. 658

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

***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** *“Share His Love With All the World” ~ Watkins*

It was a joy worshipping God with you today!

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This Week

Sunday:	Price Bake Sale	
	Sunday School	10:30AM
	Book Discussion Group	10:30AM
Monday:	4-H Sheep to Shawl (basement)	6:30PM
Tuesday:	Lowhill Food Pantry- Receiving	9-11AM
	Softball vs. Calvary Baptist @ Velo North	6:15PM
Wednesday:	Secretary Office Hours	4:15-6:15PM
	Pastor Brandon Bible Study	6:30PM
Thursday:	Ascension of our Lord	
	Line Dancing	6:15–7:15PM
	4-H Sheep to Shawl (Basement)	6:30PM
	Worship Choir	7:30PM
Saturday:	Lowhill Food Pantry—Serving	9-11AM
Sunday:	Mother’s Day	
	Worship/Children’s Message	9AM
	Sunday School	10:30AM

Weisenberg Church Trivia: When were the beautiful stained glass windows installed in the sanctuary?

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.

Weisenberg Sunday School Picnic

Mark your calendars and tell your friends!

Saturday, June 1 - 4:30-9:30 pm- Class Act Productions from 5-6 & 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: 1956

Main Idea: Because we know Jesus, we are empowered to love in new and surprising ways.

One of the best scenes from the original *Mary Poppins* (1964) is when Mary is moving into her new home to serve as a nanny. She puts her bag on the table and begins unpacking it as she sets up her room, nonchalantly fishing out things like a hat rack, a mirror and a potted plant as the kids stare at her with mouths gaping open. When her back is turned, they grab the bag and stick their heads inside to see where all of this is coming from—where all of this fit. But they can't figure it out.

This passage from 1 Corinthians is basically trying to tell us that, because we know Jesus, we are able to love like we're carrying around a Mary Poppins bag. Because God loves us so deeply, we are empowered to love deeply, too, in ways that defy reality. Ways that subvert expectations. Ways that surprise other people. Ways that surprise us, even. From an invisible source, we are able to draw precisely what we need at any given moment. And while most things and most circumstances will pass away as time goes on for each of us, this Mary Poppins bag will not. We will be able to draw on love forever and ever and ever.

Paul uses a lot of language in this passage to talk about what love is and what love isn't. And he openly admits that even this over-the-top description is only a partial understanding of the full picture. The understanding we're capable of right here and right now. Perhaps a helpful approach to preaching on these verses would include a rewrite or paraphrase. If you had to describe this kind of steadfast, divine love he talks about, how would you do it? If you had to pull things out of your Mary Poppins bag, what would they be? Even if we're only seeing dimly, what is it that we're seeing? Even if we don't fully understand love, how do we feel it—experience it—seeing through in our everyday lives? And how can we ensure that the things we unpack from our Mary Poppins bags are the things we need to set up God's kingdom?

Scripture Summary: Paul writes to the early Church at Corinth with strong visuals and even stronger hypotheticals to argue that love is the single most important expression in the Christian life.