**March 18, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Prayer is more than praying our way out of trouble; it is praying ourselves into the will of God. Instead of asking God to "save me from this problem," or "deliver me from this mess/stress/distress," Jesus teaches us to ask God to "glorify your name in this action." It’s our choice – either we can try to pray our way “out of a thunderstorm,” or we can pray our way into the glory of God.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 8:30 **Worship & Song 3104 Amazing Grace/My chains are gone** *My chains are gone*

 **Hymnal 265 O Christ, the healer** (stanzas 1 and 2) *Erhalt uns Herr*

 10:45 You are mine *David Haas, arranged by Lloyd Larson*

**Greeting**

Leader: You who are righteous, rejoice in the Lord and be glad!

**People: All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!** *Psalm 32:11 (CEV)*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45Psalm 19: 14 *Karle Erickson* Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts

 be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, Our rock and our salvation.

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We, who live in the shelter of the Most High . . .

**People: Let us come and trust in our God. God’s word us near us, on our lips and in our hearts.**

Leader: We, who trust in God’s promises . . . let us come and rejoice in the power of the Spirit.

**People: The Holy One is our refuge and our strength. We have come to worship the One who calls us!**

*Deborah Sokolove*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 578 God of love and God of power** (standing) *Unser Herrscher*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**O merciful God, in compassion for your children**

**you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world.**

**Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share of the evil**

**that made it necessary for him to suffer and to die for our salvation.**

**Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation**

**to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life.**

**And give us a true longing to be free from sin,**

**through the deliverance won by Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

*Joseph Newton, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.*

**Silent Prayer**

**Hymnal 408 The Gift of Love** (stanza 3)*Gift of Love*

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.**

 **Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.**

**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**Sacrament of Baptism** 10:45 *Baptismal Covenant II, UM Hymnal #39* Logan Bernard Veschio, son of Pamela and Bernard Veschio

 **Pastor:** Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life

 and include Logan Bernard now before you in your care?

 **People: With God’s help we will proclaim the good news**

 **and live according to the example of Christ.**

 **We will surround Logan** **with a community**

 **of love and forgiveness,**

 **that he may grow in his service to others.**

 **We will pray for him that he may be a true disciple**

 **who walks in a way that leads to life.**

**The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

 Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: And also with you.

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong. WORDS & MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the Sanctuary near the end of the service

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Handbell Anthem** 10:45Were you there *arranged by Kevin McChesney*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Judi Phelps 10:45 Chris James

 A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 Jeremiah 31:31-34 A new covenant

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

 **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. Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation Alleluia** (sing 4 times, standing) *O’Carroll and Walker*

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 John 12:20-33 Jesus speaks about his death

 **Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 *Abraham Kaplan*

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindess have mercy, O God.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Create in me a new heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. *from Psalm 51*

**Doxology 587**  *Tune: Tallis’ Canon, Hymnal 682*

**Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;**

**bless thou the work our hearts have planned.**

**Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;**

**the rest, O God, is in thy hand.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “Pray Your Way In” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**The Apostles’ Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again 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.**  *The Apostles’ Creed (ecumenical version)*

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 265 O Christ, the healer** (standing) *Erhalt uns Herr*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar and in the chancel** are given by Steve Stockton in memory of loved ones.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Promise Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; the Grace Notes; and the Chancel Choir with soloist Kathleen Whittaker; Mary Paine, piano; Jennifer Barnabei, flute; and Richard Minnotte, drums.

**Acolytes** Cary Young and Hannah Baker **Cross Bearer** Jim Young

**Greeters 8:30**  Erma Henry **10:45**  Brad, Laura, Emily and Evan Shoff

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**This Afternoon:**

**A Service of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**March 18 4 pm MLUMC Sanctuary**

***Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power (Exodus 15:6)***

Join us in our sanctuary for a special Service of Prayer for Christian Unity today, Sunday, March 18 at 4 pm. We are once again grateful for the support of our cosponsors for this event – St Bernard’s Roman Catholic Parish. Music for the service will be a cooperative effort between our two music departments. You won’t want to miss it!

The theme for the service will be “Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power” (Exodus 15:6.) This song of Moses and Miriam is the motif of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018. It is a song of triumph over oppression.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $30 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $60 for the chancel.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Today’s Scriptures**

## Jeremiah 31:31-34

31The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**John 12:20-33**

 20Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” 22Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” 29The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” 30Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.32And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Stephen Hahn, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Fred Siersdorfer, Friendship Village

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

Carolyn Dagg, Earl Killian,

David Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

 Jinny Sheppard, Betty Trout

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick

PFC Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimm

**Sympathy, Rev. Earl Killian**

It is with a deep sense of personal loss that we announce the death of our dear friend and colleague in ministry, Rev. Earl Killian. Earl was a faithful servant of Christ, first as partner in ministry with his beloved wife Debbie, then as father to his dear daughter Grace, and finally as pastor and spiritual adviser to United Methodists throughout Western Pennsylvania. In recent years, he provided invaluable assistance as a volunteer pastoral presence here at MLUMC, leading Sunday School classes and Bible studies, and serving as co-coordinator of our Confirmation program for youth. He will be sorely missed.

The funeral service will be in our sanctuary tomorrow, Monday, March 19 at 11 am. A luncheon in Asbury Center will follow. Condolences may be sent to Debbie and Grace Killian at .

 The Killian Family

 961 Castle Shannon Blvd.

 Pittsburgh, PA 15234

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, MARCH 18 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 24**

**SUNDAY 3/18**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 11:45 am Youth Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

 11:45 am Endowment Presentation to Kerygma Welcome Center

 4 pm Service of Prayer for Christian Unity Sanctuary

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury Center

 6:30 pm Eagle Board of Review Various

**MONDAY 3/19**

 11 am Earl Killian Funeral Sanctuary

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Community Events and Outreach Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 3/20**

 6 pm Final Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

**WEDNESDAY 3/21**

 9:30 am Lenten Study, “Messiah” Wesley Hall

 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Asbury Center

 7 pm Koinonia Evening Circle Welcome Center

 7 pm Trustees Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 3/22**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 3/23**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

**SATURDAY 3/24**

 10 am EGGstravaganza Asbury Center