

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*Ascension Sunday*

Change is usually disruptive. We may grumble at first, but we wouldn’t have it any other way. It’s life, and we see it happening in the Bible. If we pay attention, it could be happening in our spiritual lives as well. By its very nature, the Gospel is disruptive.

**June 2, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music Hymnal 145 Morning has broken** (seated)  *Bunessan*

**Greeting**

Leader: Praise the Lord from heaven! Praise God on the heights!

**People: Let us praise the name of the Lord, who alone is exalted;**

**Whose name is above earth and heaven.** *Psalm 148:1, 13*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45 *Karle Erickson*

Alleluia! Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death

and brought life and immortality to the Gospel. Alleluia!

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**Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus prayed for his disciples, giving them into God’s eternal care.

**People: Jesus prays for us, giving us into God’s care.**

Leader: Know that you have been blessed with the love of the Savior.

**People: We live in that love and seek to serve God.**

Leader: Open your hearts and spirits now to hear God’s word.

**People: May our lives be open to God’s Spirit and reflect God’s love.**

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 610 We know that Christ is raised** (standing)  *Engelberg*

**Opening Prayer**

**God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Hymnal 393 Spirit of the living God** (seated)  *Living God*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**Sacrament of Baptism** (10:45) page 39

*Mackenzie Lee Whitfield,*

*daughter of Zachary & Laura Whitfield*

**Congregational Response:**

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

and include *Mackenzie Lee*  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** *Mackenzie Lee*

**with a community of love and forgiveness,  
 that she may grow in her service to others.**

**We will pray for her,  
 that she may be a true disciple,**

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

**The Sign of Peace**

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

Gathering Song

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 and music: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples**

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.

**Confirmation & Reception into Membership** 10:45 *Anastasia Carolyn Sunder*  page 33

**Congregational Response:**

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the Body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Liz DiPietro 10:45 Vera Jane Cornes

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

Acts 16:16-34 Paul and Silas in prison

**Response**

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**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.**

**Good News Acclamation:** (standing) *James J. Chepponis*

**Alleluia.** (sing 4 times)

Scripture Reading

**A Lesson from the Gospel**

Luke 24:44-53 The ascension of Jesus

**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 Praise Him! *Craig Courtney*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;

praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him, for His mighty acts.

Praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him!

I will extol the Lord, my God, and I will bless His name forever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. The Lord is righteous and holy.

The Lord is gracious and kind; full of compassion, slow to anger;

His tender mercies are over all His works; the Lord is good to all. Praise Him!

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

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**Hymnal 94** (standing) *Lasst uns erfreuen*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

adapt. © 1989 The U. Methodist Publishing House

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “A Disruptive Influence” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Worship & Song 3169 You feed us, gentle Savior** (stanza 1, seated) *Merle’s Tune*

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words . . .)* Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place we join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

***[Musical Setting B, U.M. Hymnal, p. 18-19]***

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words . . .)* As we affirm the mystery of faith:

***[Musical Setting B, U.M. Hymnal, p. 20]***

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words. . .)* Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, to all eternity.

***[Musical Setting B, U.M. Hymnal, p. 20]***

**AMEN.**

**Giving the Bread & Cup**

**Prayer following Communion (in unison)**

**Deep, flowing mystery of God, gentle, life-giving grace of God, we have immersed ourselves in**

**you. With Jesus, we trust your Spirit in us, and we hear your calling. By your summons, we rise, we follow, and we serve you, in the living, breathing spirit of Christ. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 605 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters** (stanzas 1-2, standing) *Beach Spring*

**Benediction**

**Hymnal 605 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters** (stanza 3, standing) *Beach Spring*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Marsha and Brian Roche in honor of their granddaughter, Anastasia Sunder, who is making her confirmation today.

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Judy and Bill Moeller in loving memory of their sons, Jimmy Dunbar and Billy Moeller.

**The flowers at the columbarium** are given in loving memory of Joseph Utzig, Jr., by his family.

**Greeters 8:30** Joeta D’Este **10:45** Jim and Linda Hoover

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir, conducted by Ryan A. Keeling, Director of Choral Activities at West Liberty University, Artistic Director of Voces Solis, and Assistant Conductor of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh.

**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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Acts 16:16-34**

16One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. 17While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” 18She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. 19But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. 20When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews 21and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” 22The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.23After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. 24Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. 27When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. 28But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” 29The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”31They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” 32They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. 34He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

**Luke 24:44-53**

44Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things. 49And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

50Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

Isabella (Langston) Field,

St. Alphonsus Medical Center, Boise

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore, Jean Boyer,

Mary Caldwell, John Dean,

Joseph Festor, Leon Grant, Jr., Dave Lewis

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Sara Mercer, Carol Van Sickle,

Jinny Sheppard, Ruth Seip

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

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

Sgt. 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 Zimmerman

**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 $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium arrangements, and $66 for the chancel flowers.

**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.

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JUNE 2 THRU SATURDAY, JUNE 8**

**SUNDAY 6/2**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

7 pm Do No Harm Welcome Center

**MONDAY 6/3**

7 pm Church Council Meeting Wesley

**TUESDAY 6/4**

11 am Staff Meeting Welcome Center

7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

**WEDNESDAY 6/5**

7:30 am Northside Meal Prep Asbury Kitchen

5 pm Homebuilders Potluck Wesley

**THURSDAY 6/6**

8:30 am Northside Meal Prep Asbury Kitchen

9 am Hands and Hearts Epworth

**SATURDAY 6/8**

8 am It’s a Guy Thing Wesley

10 am Food Distribution and Foodlift Free Market Food Pantry