

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA

Celebrating the 6th Sunday of Easter
A Service of Word & Sacrament

5/9/2021



**You did not choose me
but I chose you.**

Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. If you are at home you can find a print copy of this service available on our website at www.chrismhamilton.org. Please print a copy of this bulletin so you might follow along with the video of our service if worshipping at home: share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers.

Call and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Visit us on our website: chrismhamilton.org and check out our Facebook page.

Today's service: *This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

Altar flowers are given in honor of our mothers, by Bonnie and Roger Wrazien.

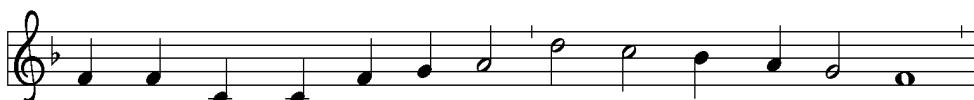
PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: C Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: C Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: C Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

The musical score consists of two parts: "Hymn of Praise" and "Glory to God". Both parts are set in common time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written on a single staff with a treble clef.

Hymn of Praise:

- Refrain: "Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est; glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth."
- Chorus: "Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry."

Glory to God:

- Refrain: "Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est; glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth."
- Chorus: "Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer."

Three measures of rests are indicated above the first section of the "Glory to God" chorus. Measure groups are marked with brackets above the music: "3" over the first three measures of each section, and "3" over the first three measures of the "right hand of the Fa - ther" section.

C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

 I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

 C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

ACTS 10:44-48

Reader: A reading from the 10th chapter of Acts.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Read Responsively

PSALM

Psalm 98

Cantor: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

All: **O Lord, you have made | known your victory,**
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the
nations.

Cantor: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the |
house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

All: **Shout with joy to the Lord, | all you lands;**
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

Cantor: Sing to the Lord| with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

All: **With trumpets and the sound | of the horn**
shout with joy before the | king, the Lord.

Cantor: Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

All: Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who
comes to | judge the earth.

Cantor: The Lord will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity.

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 5:1-6

Reader: A reading from the 5th chapter of First John.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

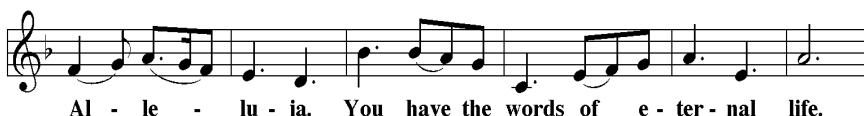
⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL**John 15:9-17**

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



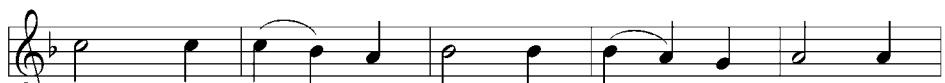
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us us thy
ev - ery trou - bled breast; let us all in -
all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly see re -
spot - less let us be; let us see thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.
turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in



bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; end of us faith,
as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise
heav'n we take our place, till we cast thee
as our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

NICENE CREED

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: 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

Assisting Minister: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. . . .

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church.
Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches.
Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise.

Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering especially . . . Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

God of life we give thanks for those who are celebrating birthdays this week including John DeVivo, Megan Cameron and Crystal Paynter, continue to bless them in your love. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Offering

Offertory At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing v. 1, 5

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious king,
who has washed us in the tide
flowing from his wounded side. Alleluia!

- 5 Mighty victim from the sky,
hell's fierce pow'r beneath you lie;
you have conquered in the fight,
you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

BIBLE DEDICATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Preface

Minister: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Minister: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by this Holy Communion we may know
the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

All: Amen

Lord's Prayer

Minister: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**All: 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,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion

Minister: The risen Christ invites us to this table.

All: Let us come, eat and be satisfied.

Communion

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Ushers will bring the prepackaged wafer and grape juice to you. Please open the packet – but do not take the wafer or juice until the pastor has indicated in order that we might commune together.

Lamb of God

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

Refrain

sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
rod and to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
in your pre- cious blood, my Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

After all have returned to their places.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Almighty God, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

BLESSING

Minister: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Assistant Minister	Ann Super
Reader:	Megan LaBar, Payton Shillady and Mary Phillips
Cantor:	Andy Porter
Keyboard	Gail Haydt
Announcements	Dan Courtright

Please Remember in Prayer: Gary Kapostas, Sandy Haney, Henry McCool, Ruth Ann Helriegel, Otto Lange, Faith Kapostas, Ron Schlegel, Evelyn Seidof David Danneberger, Lisa Weiss, Joan Blobner Ed Hunsicker and Dumitru David.

Congratulations! To all our young people who are receiving their first communion today. May the presence of God's body and blood bring them closer to all the Saint's that have gone before us! Today's first communicants are: Megan LaBar, Keegan and Brooke Henning, Mary Phillips, Chase Potochnick, Payton Shillady and Madalyn Marshall.

Community Meal will be held on May 16th from 4pm-5:15pm, we will be serving pulled pork, mac & cheese and a vegetable. Please call the church office 570-992-4085 and leave your name and number of meals you will be needing.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Blood Drive, May 29th 8:30-3:30pm, to schedule a time call 570-994-2819 or GIVEaPINT.org, sponsor code 1358.