



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden



Sunday, September 8, 2024 | 10:00am
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Jim Muratore, Pastor

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Visit us on the web at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org for a full list of activities.
Friend us on Facebook. Follow us on Instagram.

Whoever you are, wherever you're from, whatever you believe, whomever you love...
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

St. Luke's Church is committed to being a House of radical inclusivity. We welcome you and we are glad for your company in worship today. If you are looking for a church home, please let us know! We are committed to helping you find a congregation to call home be that here or elsewhere. We invite you to inquire more about our community and leave your information on the podium near the entrance. If you would like to formally join our community be sure to connect with Pastor Jim before you leave.

We affirm the wiggles of children and have provided a space for them to play while they listen and see what is going on. Children are not "distractions" but beloved participants in the worshipping assembly. Feel free to move about the sanctuary as needed.

Instructions for the assembly can be found in *red italics*, responses for the assembly can be found in **bold print**. You are invited to participate at your level of comfort. There will be lots of singing. Some music is printed in the bulletin, but numbered hymns can be found in the red hymnal.

RESTROOMS for your convenience can be found on this level or at the top of the stairs.

OFFERING

You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal on our website. Visit churchontheavenuehampden.org or point your phone camera at the QR code below. Select the appropriate fund from the drop down menu, and the desired giving option. Thank you for your generosity!



WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, the ✚ Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

RITE OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence is held for the examination of conscience.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us.**

We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN | Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

ELW 716

GREETING

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

PRAYER

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING | James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146

¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

³Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there [|] is no help.

⁴When they breathe their last, they re- [|] turn to earth,
and in that day [|] their thoughts perish. R

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob [|] for their help,
whose hope is in the [|] LORD their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that [|] is in them;
who keeps promis- [|] es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to [|] those who hunger.
The LORD sets the [|] captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who [|] are bowed
down;

the LORD [|] loves the righteous. R

⁹The LORD cares [|] for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way [|] of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall [|] reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. [|] Hallelujah! R

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Alleluia (Taizé)

ELW 175

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is written in a soprano clef (treble clef) and the piano accompaniment is in a bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo and style are indicated by a 'Taizé' symbol. The lyrics are 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The first system shows the vocal line with a long note on 'ia' and the piano accompaniment with a long note on 'ia'. The second system is identical to the first.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé. GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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GOSPEL READING | Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

God is with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE |

Rev. Jim Muratore

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- What is your reaction to Jesus' comment to the Syrophoenician woman?
- Can you identify individuals or communities that may be/feel excluded, whether intentionally or unintentionally? Consider how our congregation might practice greater inclusivity of marginalized peoples.
- How should our individual and collective voices be utilized in these days?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response to each petition is: Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org. You can also sign up for automated giving. See announcements at the end of the bulletin.

OFFERING PRAYER


Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.

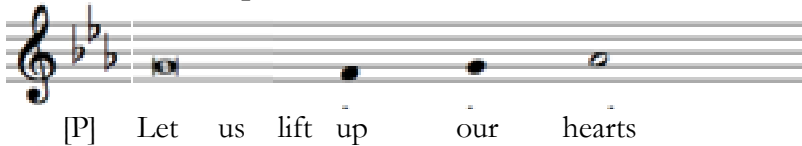
GREAT THANKSGIVING



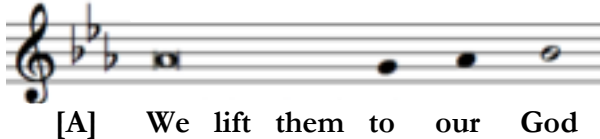
[P] The Lord is here



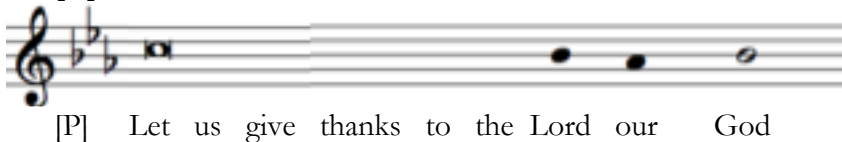
[A] God's Spir - it is with us



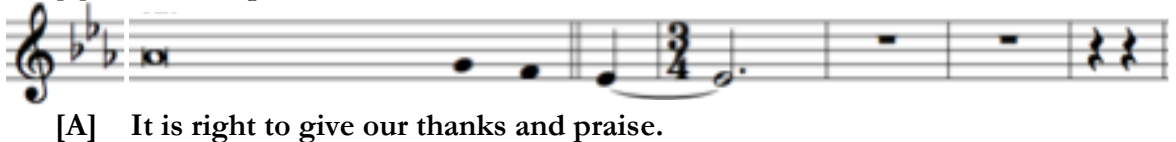
[P] Let us lift up our hearts



[A] We lift them to our God



[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God



[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, O God, our Father and Mother, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, Holy Lord,

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.*

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ + may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri-al
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

And so we have this meal. Simplicity and mystery bound together. And though we cannot fully comprehend its meaning, we share, we remember and we trust in the promise of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

Blessed be God forever!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION |

Communion is served by way of intinction. Come forward in a counter clockwise circle. Hand sanitizer is available at the altar for your use. Receive the body of Christ in your hand and dip into the cup. The clay chalices are filled with grape juice, and the metal chalices are filled with wine. The second station of chalices is reserved for gluten free recipients. If you wish not to receive you are welcome to remain seated or come forward with crossed arms to receive a blessing. ALL are welcome to come and receive without exception.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

God all mighty,
God most merciful
bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, ✠Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN | Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOILET BOWL RACES | Saturday, Sept. 14th 10:30am -1pm

Hampden's toilet races are back after a five year hiatus and will be raising money to support St. Luke's! The event next weekend will be held at Union Craft Brewing on the Union Collective Campus located on 1700 W. 41st.

SECOND ANNUAL SPAGHETTI BALL | DATE CHANGED November 2nd

Planning for the second annual Spaghetti dinner has begun. If you are able and willing to help with planning, please connect with Esteban Caballero or Kelly Hudak!

THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS

Sign up to volunteer in the thrift store! If you've never volunteered before, you can speak with Pastor Jim or Jan Borison after service, or connect with one of the many volunteers who have. We'd love to have you join the team!

COME AND SEE!!! So much is going on here at St. Luke's Church on the Avenue, please visit our website to view the calendar and explore links to activities happening every day! Visit us at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org or by scanning the QR Code below.

Thank you for your continued generosity! You can make a one-time or recurring gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>, or by scanning the QR Code below.



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Help us get to know you.

Use your phone!



NAME

EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS

I'm visiting for today I'm looking for a church home I'm a member

I would like to be contacted.

My preferred method of communication is: Call Text Email

How can we help?

I'd like to learn more about the church, or getting involved in the community

I need pastoral care or pastor visit

I want to volunteer with the Thrift Shop Drop-In program Garden

Food-Not-Bombs Baltimore Free Farm Baltimore Food Rescue

Other _____

Let us know any thoughts, comments, or requests you may have here.

Tear this page off, and place it in the offering plate, or hand it to the pastor after service.