

HOSPITALITY + WORSHIP + SPIRITUAL GROWTH + JUSTICE + COMMUNITY CARE



4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 17, 2018

10:30 AM Service of Communion

Rev. Karen Brau, Senior Pastor

Luther Place Memorial Church

1226 Vermont Ave, NW Washington, DC 20005 ♦ (202) 667-1377 ♦ www.lutherplace.org

Our Purpose

God's purpose for our congregation is to grow a Christ-centered inclusive community, led by the Spirit, that proclaims the Gospel's transforming love and grace and challenges injustice.

Our Guiding Principles

1. All of God's creation is sacred.
2. We listen to the Holy Spirit through worship, Scripture, and prayerful reflection.
3. We seek continuous transformation to become radically hospitable.
4. We invite all into the journey with Christ through reconciliation with each other and God.
5. We respond to injustice through loving service and courageous action.
6. We walk together in our celebrations and our struggles.

Our Vision

Luther Place will be a community that looks and feels like God's kingdom in its beautiful expansiveness, where all are called into relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. In this place we will use our gifts to act in the world and build the beloved community.

Worship attracts and gathers a range of people with various services and styles, engaging the community in a depth of traditional practices and creative endeavors.

Spiritual Growth is how we are formed as disciples of Jesus Christ, embracing scripture and all opportunities to engage the divine, and nurturing us to contemplate, study, and question our faith.

Justice is a public witness to our faith; we will continue our history of openness to what arrives, standing in solidarity and acting with people who are struggling in our community, country, and world.

Hospitality is how we—each of us—extend God's kingdom to a dynamic and diverse city, growing our community and engaging all of God's children, from the powerless to the powerful.

Community Care is how we sustain a vibrant community, our intentional practice of supporting and nurturing one another in all stages of life, in celebration and sorrow.

Welcome to worship at Luther Place!

Are you a guest? If so, here are some things you might like to know...

Please fill out a card to let us know who you are—we'd love to be in touch with you! The cards can be placed in the offering plate when completed. We are blessed by your presence and hope you will join us again.

We'd love to stay connected with you this week. The easiest way to do that is by following us on social media. You're welcome to take out your phones right now and follow us on facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. We also love hearing from you and this is a great way to keep up the conversation.

Parking is available **across the street in the Washington Plaza Hotel**. The garage has **two** floors available. Please ask an usher for a parking voucher. Your reimbursement of the cost of \$5 per use will be greatly appreciated. Additionally, we reserve the parking spots in the circle driveway on Vermont Ave. for use by those with mobility issues and their drivers. We encourage the use of public transportation; free bike parking is available inside the Vermont entrance to Luther Place.

A children's nursery is available before, during, and after worship. The nursery is located within the chapel by the entrance on N Street. There is a baby changing area in the nursery.

Children's church bags are located in the back of the Sanctuary. The activity bags are for kids of all ages; they include crayons, a coloring book, books to read, etc. Please help children use these materials for doodling rather than the gift envelopes and prayer cards.

Video Recordings of Worship Services are available on the Luther Place website: www.lutherplace.org/sermons.



In prayers and songs, the bold print is congregational response.
P= pastor; A= assisting minister; C= congregation.

Here at Luther Place, we love to sing! We like to explore a diversity of music, though much of it comes from the **Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal (ELW)**. This hymnal holds service music in the first half and hymns in the second half. The service music can be found with the small page numbers at the bottom of each page. The hymns can be found using the large numbers at the top of each page. We also use hymns from *This Far by Faith Hymnal (TFF)*, the Lutheran African American hymnal.

References to God in traditional prayers and hymns may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God. You are also invited to sing hymns or speak parts of the services, such as The Lord's Prayer, in your native tongue.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

We welcome you to worship today! If you are a visitor, please fill out a welcome card at the ends of the pews, and put in offering plate or give to an usher.

Confession:

P: Holy God

C: When we have had power, we forgot what it is for.

We raised ourselves further up.

We have not used our gifts to speak truth to power in love, to lift up the voices of those beaten down.

When we have been weak, we have let ourselves be told we were

broken beyond repair, and forgot the promise that each of us is Your child, made in Your image.

We have listened to the siren song of the world that says what we get is what we deserve.

We have forgotten your grace.

In this space, remind us.

P: Hear the good news! God has not watched from far away, but has come near to be with us, to free us from our pain, and to offer us new life. God has declared that we are not separate, but children of one family, united in Jesus our lord.

C: Amen. Alleluia!

***Gathering Song: ELW 532 Gather Us In**

Greeting

P: 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.

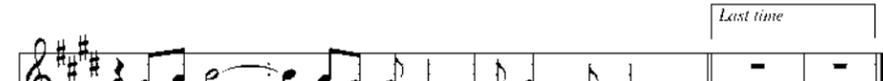
***Kyrie Dakota Road**

Refrain



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Last time



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the
 2 That we may live out your im -
 3 For peace in our hearts, that for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you

health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
 passionate re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
 peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
 cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;

for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
 that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
 for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play.
 that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood.

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
 from the lofty top of a cedar;
 I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
 from the topmost of its young twigs;
 I myself will plant it
 on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
 and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;

in the shade of its branches will nest
 winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know

that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,

I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree

and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;

I will accomplish it.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15(Read Responsively)

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
 to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²to herald your love in the morning
 and your faithfulness at night;

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

**⁴For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

**¹³Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;

**¹⁵that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him

no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

C: Thanks be to God!

***Gospel Acclamation: Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises**

Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our

bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness. *End*

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 4:26-34

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the

birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: *Seeds of Faith*

Rev. Karen Brau

Live-tweeting and posting on social media is encouraged! Please use #FollowingJesus #RealChurch and don't forget to tag @LutherPlace and @KarenBrau.

***Hymn of the Day: ELW 459 Wade in the Water**

Holy Baptism

ELW —front of book page 227

Joseph Grant Gardner

Parents: Karen & Sean Gardner

Response: Welcome, Child of God

Rain - drops, o - ceans, lakes, and riv - ers; wel - come, child of God.

Moth - ers, fa - thers, broth - ers, sis - ters; wel - come, child of God

When the world feels wide a - round you, when the dark of night sur - rounds you,

we are here to tend and guide you, Wel - come, child of God.

***Prayers of the People**

A: *(In honor of Father's Day, Patrick Reyes, author of Nobody Cries When We Die and a dad, offers a prayer for fathers of all kinds)*

A prayer for those on this Father's day who never were, want to be, couldn't be, are missing, are grieving fathers. For papis who were never around, were always there, feel the weight of unbalance, hold trust of ninos/as, create brave spaces, mourn the lack of safe spaces, are grieving the loss of children, are celebrating with family. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For children who wanted more from their fathers, received enough, know the whites of their father's eyes, Don't know the color of their birth father's eyes, Just that they have "his" eyes. For those who know every inflection, Of love, grace, disappointment, anger, For those who never heard the sound, Of that voice calling to do better, To make up, stand up, run, fight, stop crying, let the tears flow. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For those fathers whose love is an expression of generations of love, For those fathers who were not shown how to love in their lifetime, for those fathers who are learning every day what it means to be Pop, papa, papi, pa, padre, Dad, da, vater, daid, Abba. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for those who picked up the pieces from broken fathers. We pray for those fathers who pick us up when life shatters, when innocence and childhood give way to the violence of adulthood. Whose gifts of word so perfect, Hug so tight, Kiss on the head, Silent ear, Truth, Family myths, Exaggerated stories, Yes, dad jokes too. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For all those reflecting on fathers today, we pray together that we all know love in a broken world, fathers of all races, sexual orientations, circumstances, contexts, sizes and statures, work for love, know love, give love, receive love, from fathers here and in the above and beyond Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great. *Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: O Most High, just as the earth produces of itself and the harvest comes, you gather up your people from all times and places. Bring us along with those who have died (especially) into the lasting harvest of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***Exchange of Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Announcements

All events & announcements may be found in the back of the bulletin.

Blessings the Youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering

Sarah Ralston, Nate Cooper, Caroline Eayrs, Trevour Jackson-Carpenter, Annika Miller, Ben Miller, Aidan Gateley, Alex Lopez, Eleanor Grant and Beyonnie Whitaker

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Today we bless and send these young people and adults as they leave for the ELCA Youth & MYLE Gathering and encounter the Holy Spirit in new and amazing ways, We know that...

Gathering Participants: This changes everything.

P: We thank the Holy Spirit for calling you to travel, worship, serve, learn, and play alongside 30,000 other participants and those you will meet along the way.

Gathering Participants: God's call changes everything.

P: In the Old Testament God told Joshua, "...the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." And in the New Testament, Jesus told his disciples, "...remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." We remind you, and ourselves, that God is speaking to us through these verses as well.

Gathering Participants: God's love changes everything.

P: The writer of Ephesians tells us, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." When you are challenged through this experience or when you doubt your strength and skills, remember that you are enough because of Christ.

Gathering Participants: God's grace changes everything.

A: We already look forward to welcoming you home. As you realize how God has used this experience to transform you, know that we, your faith community, are ready to hear the new hope you have for the world, our community and church. We hope that you will be open to sharing your stories with us and that we will be open to being changed by the stories you tell.

Gathering Participants: God's hope changes everything.

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, we thank you for calling these young people and the adult leaders who will accompany them to the ELCA Youth Gathering. As you have shown your love by sending your Son to live among us, we pray that your Spirit help those we send also be an expression of your presence in the world. We know and we thank you that...

C: Jesus changes everything. Amen.

Offering

Please feel free to put cash or check in the offering plate. You can also donate through a text donation by texting the dollar amount to +12028166673.

Offering Song: ELW 185 Create in Me a Clean Heart



Stewardship is the “heart” of living a Christian life. It is caring for all that God has entrusted to us. How do share your “heart” with others?

<https://lutherplace.org/stewardship>

*Offering Prayer

A: Merciful God,
you open wide your hand
and satisfy the need of every living thing.
You have set this feast before us.
Open our hands to receive it.
Open our hearts to embrace it.
Open our lives to live it.
We pray this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

MEAL

*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: Lifegiving God. We thank you, divine Seamstress For you never stop creating. From the dawn of time, to our mother’s womb, even in the age to come, Your creativity is as endless as eternity. Today you are knitting us your people Into a garment of many colors.

We thank you, Holy Spirit, For you do not allow us to grow complacent. You stir up dreams and visions within us Making us restless for a new Heaven and a new Earth. You clothe us with power to bring these dreams to life. In you, we are beginning to see all things anew.

We thank you, Christ our Savior For your wondrous transformation Word made into flesh. You challenge us with foreign experiences Teaching us that those we thought were strange and cut off Are members in your holy body.

Therefore, with Joseph and all of Israel’s children, With the confused disciples and the Ethiopian eunuch, With all who have shown us your way, All who have gone before us, And all those we gather with this day, We praise your name:

*Sanctus



1*

Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more

än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.

Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here

väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2

Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,

du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!

Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!

ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.
He took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to them, 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.

We remember that night Jesus spent with his friends, and we feel his presence with us now. We ask God, through the Holy Spirit to bless these gifts we offer and share, making them Christ for us, and making us into Christ's holy body. Together with all the church, we give you thanks: Creator, Redeemer, Spirit of love. Bind us together. Open our hearts. Grant us peace.

C: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Distribution

Communion (Eucharist) celebrated at Luther Place is open to all. Ushers will direct you to the correct station. We use two cups; one with wine and the other with juice. You may either dip the bread into the cup (intinction) or eat the bread first and drink from the cup. Gluten-free wafers are available on the altar. Return to your seat using the exterior aisles.

***Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . . God, you . . . take a-way the sin of the world; . . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . . God, you . . . take a-way the sin of the world; . . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . . God, you . . . take a-way the sin of the world; . . .

da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Communion:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

***Table Blessing** (Steven Shakespeare, Prayers for an Inclusive Church)

P: May we who have fed at Wisdom's table take her welcome out to where tables are reserved and doors are closed; may the Spirit drive us to break our bread on the altar of the world.

C: Amen.

Communion Song: ELW 471 Let Us Break Bread Together

***Prayer after Communion**

A: May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Sending Song: ELW 841 Lift Every Voice and Sing**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, we pray for:

Rita Lewis for continued healing. Rose Shaw continued healing. For all who suffer with mental illness.

Congregational Offering

May 2018

Budgeted: \$35,000

Actual: \$28,185

YTD as of 05/31/18

Budgeted: \$218,000

Actual: \$206,681

Pastor Karen Sabbatical, September-November 2018

Pastor Karen will go on sabbatical later this year. Please see website for a blog on Sabbath Care!

Adult Spiritual Formation, 9:15 am - We explore, "Windows into the Beloved Community." Please join us in the Library.

NYG Mandatory Pre-Meeting, June 17, 1 pm - This meeting, and send-off lunch and blessings with families will be hosted at Luther Place.

WIN Transit Call to Action, June 18, 1 pm - If you are able to participate, please join this public hearing on DC transit services. Contact Pastor Karen to participate.

20s/30s Happy Hour, June 21, 7 pm - Join the 20s/30s group in celebrating LGBTQ Pride Month at our June Happy Hour, where will be discussing the gifts of sexuality and gender identity as part of God's creation. Meet us at Baan Thai, 1326 14th St NW, Second Floor. Contact Collin Bradley: collinbradley45@gmail.com

Sacred Commons Gardening — Occasional Thursday night and regular Sundays after worship! Please meet Ed Miller at the back of the Sanctuary and bring your own gloves if you have them.

Summer Break—no 1st Sunday Breakfast for July and August—we will restart this ministry of fellowship and hospitality in September

Support ArtSmart Summer Camp

Our annual summer camp is just around the corner. Camp needs lots of food and art supply donations. Please consider donating items—list can be found on our website. ArtSmart Summer Camp is a community-based summer camp for children in the Logan Circle neighborhood that otherwise do not have access to summer enrichment programs. ArtSmart camp focuses on the arts as a way to build community, inspire learning, and encourage big dreams. You can text give or place donations in the offering labeled “ArtSmart.”

SoulFiesta—Community block party—Sunday, July 22 (notice this year we are testing out hosting it on a Sunday!) Our annual block party is intended to build community across unlikely relationships within the neighborhood and congregation—join us after worship for fun including food, games, music, and arts. If you would like to help please contact Kristen at Kristen@lutherplace.org.

Make sure you stop outside on 14th Street & look at the newly painted Pride Doors. Please post a picture on social media and tag #RainbowAffirmation #GodsDoorsAreOpenToAll #RainbowHospitality

Worship Volunteers:

Greeter/Ushers: Dena Berglund & Donna Mank

Assisting Minister: Krista Martin

Reader: Teresa Kenney

Communion Assistants: Elizabeth Ellis, Michael Sonnenberg, Amanda Lindamood, & Kate Wulff

Counters: Chelsey Christensen & Tara Hogan

Friends of the Feast: Michael Sonnenberg

Live-Broadcasting: Patrick Callahan

Staff Lead: Bianca Vazquez

Luther Place Staff

Rev. Karen Brau, **Senior Pastor**

[seniorpastor@lutherplace.org]

Xavier Williamson, **Congregation Administrator**

[operations@lutherplace.org]

Kristen Kane, **New Connections Coach**

[kristen@lutherplace.org]

Bianca Vazquez, **Steinbruck Center Director**

[steinbruckcenterdirector@lutherplace.org]

Sarah Johnson, **Steinbruck Center Learning Coordinator**

[steinbruckcenter@lutherplace.org]

Krista Sickert-Bush,

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

[youthandfamilies@lutherplace.org]

Israel Avila, **Property Manager**

[property@lutherplace.org]

Roni Lopez, **Custodial Assistant**

[custodian@lutherplace.org]

Justin Fitch, **Music Director**

[music@lutherplace.org]

Nancy White, **Office Volunteer**

