



**SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD** EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

SERVICE 3 of 3 | **MARY: THE CANTICLE LEADER**

Thank you for joining your brothers and sisters across the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod for this service. Bishop Kurt Kusserow and the synod's Conference Deans are joyful to share this service, and to provide a space for restoration and rejuvenation for the pastors and deacons of our synod during these difficult days.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Sundays after Pentecost

The Season of the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020

The Season of Protest Against
Violence Towards African-Americans 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

My Life Flows On in Endless Song, ELW #763

Sung by the Kusserow family.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pr. Peggy Suhr-Barkley, Dean of Conference One.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:7-11

Pr. Chris Hough, Dean of Conference Two.

PSALM 34:1-9

Pr. Ryan Pusch, Dean of Conference Three.

I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.
I will glory in the LORD;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.
Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.
I sought the LORD, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.
Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.
The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.
Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!
Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing that is good.

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Pr. Roger Steiner, Dean of Conference Four.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 1:46-55

Bishop Kurt Kusserow, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning, ELW #763

Sung by Churchwide Assembly 2019

CREED

Pr. Matthew Stabe, Dean of Conference Five.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pr. Ann Schmid, Dean of Conference Six.

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Almighty God, as we gather for worship this day in our sanctuaries and in our homes, our hearts sing to you in thankfulness and praise. Guide and direct your church throughout the world, that we may carry your love and saving word into all the earth, from north to south and east to west. Give your gifts of wisdom and discernment

to all leaders of your church. We pray especially for our bishops, Elizabeth and Kurt, for assistants Melissa and Peter, for pastors and deacons, congregation councils and call committees.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Creator God, shape us into good and faithful stewards of all you have made – of the earth and its resources, of the animals and plants, and of each other. Give us a reverence for the world we know and for galaxies we have yet to explore. Uphold and encourage those who suffer from flood and fire, from virus and pestilence. Lead us into ways of service and support for your children and the whole creation.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Righteous God, let the fires of your justice burn in the hearts of all government leaders in our country and throughout the world. Open the eyes of all people to injustice in all its forms – racism, sexism, ageism, and everything that separates and divides us one from another. Cast out fear and prejudice, and fill us with a longing for peace and the well-being of all people.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, plant your mercy deep within us. Open our hearts and hands to those who are weak and small in the eyes of the world. Use our advocacy and our resources to care for those who are hungry, homeless, or lack the necessities of life. We give thanks for the witness of Mary, the mother of our Lord. As you chose a woman who was humble and poor and young to give birth to your Son, so use us with all our weaknesses and limits to carry your love into every place where your people yearn for mercy and grace.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Gentle God, wipe away all tears from those who suffer this day in body, mind, or spirit. Hear the prayers of those who cry out to you for healing. Give your peace to those who are troubled. Comfort those who are dying, and their caregivers. With our voices and in our hearts we name before you those whom we hold in our prayers...

We give thanks for the skill and knowledge you give to health care workers and researchers and all who tend to your people.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Holy God, you have called and gathered us into your congregations by your Spirit. Enlighten us to the ministry you place before us, sanctify all we do in your name, and keep us ever in your care. Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

WORD OF THANKS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG

My Soul Does Magnify the Lord, ELW #882

Sung by Andrew Sabol.