

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



TRINITY SUNDAY

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17, ESV

✠ Holy Communion ✠

The Holy Trinity

May 26, 2024

THE HOLY TRINITY



When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy.....LBW 165

APOSTOLIC 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.

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

HYMN OF PRAISE All Gory Be to God on High



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and
3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we
au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and
la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,
source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O
sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your
Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and
bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!
 lord - ship is our bless - ing.
 on us all have mer - cy.
 lives are in your keep - ing. A - men.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485–1550; tr. composite

Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

A: A Reading from Isaiah:

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
 the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched

my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;**

worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;**

the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. R

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,**

and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

⁷The voice | of the LORD

bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;**

the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

A: A Reading from Romans:

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

The Gospel is carried into the midst of the people as a reminder that Christ is present among us. Please face the processional cross.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

Cantor: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; God’s glory fills the whole earth.

C: **Repeat the Alleluias**

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON.....Janet Stroble, ALWL

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, Whose Almighty WordLBW 400

NICENE CREED

**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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.**

**With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.**

He 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**

Sit

SENIOR RECOGNITION

P: We honor our seniors who graduate at the end of this school year. The work of education is challenging, exciting, demanding, rewarding. It prepares us for new adventures ahead in further education or work or military service or into whatever direction our interests, our talents, or our curiosities move us and lead us. We pray that as our seniors step out into the paths into which the world carries them that God goes with them to bless them and keep them safe on their journey. The blankets that we present to our high school seniors symbolize our love and the love of our Lord that enfolds and embraces them as they go on their way.

P: Let us pray:

Lord God, Heavenly Father, as our seniors complete a milestone in education and in their lives, as they move out into new adventures in living and in developing who they shall be, travel with them to keep them safe on their way, but also to assist them in learning who they are and to guide them in becoming the person to whom You have given the talent and skills to become. Fill them with Your Spirit that the love of Christ would move them to share Your peace with all who cross their pathways in the diverse and varied world that lies before them. Be their strength in days of challenge and their joy in days of triumph; for Jesus' sake.

C: Amen

Sung to the tune of "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

C: ***Go, my children, in my love you'll always abide
Meet your future, looking on your past deeds with pride.
May your faith give you direction; may the Church be your
connection,
To the ways of Resurrection, grace undenied.***

Stand

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

After each petition:

P: Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

Anthem

The Apple TreeDavid L. Brunner

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

C: **Jesus, Bread of life,**
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

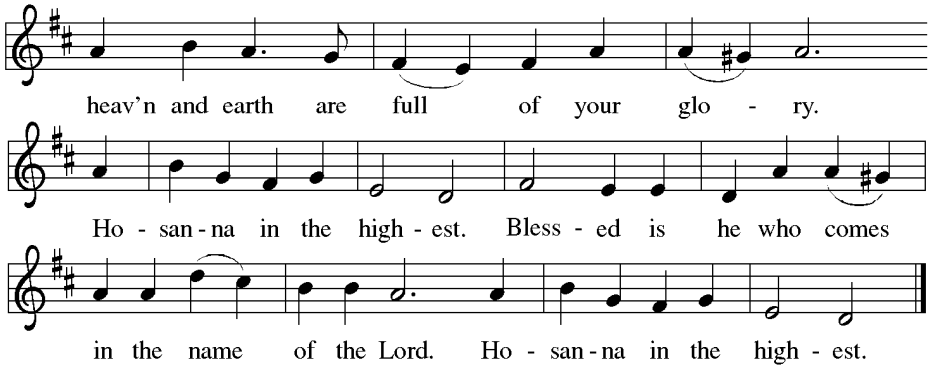
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: 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 upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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 and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

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

The communicant may say: Amen

COMMUNION HYMN

Father Most Holy..... LBW 169

ANTHEM

Irish Blessing (Until We Meet Again)..... Michael John Trotta

Stand

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

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen

The Congregation turns to face the processional cross.

SENDING HYMN

Holy God We Praise your Name LBW 535

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Mike Gardner, Bill Reasner, Sally Congdon;
Lay Assistant: Anita Bair; **Communion Assistant:** Georgette Copp;
Acolyte/Crucifer: Jonathan Hess; **Torchbearers:** Karrah Bair, Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Pam Eveleth, Yvonne Kaiser; **Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Pam Eveleth and Carol Hessert;

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lee Waltz on the 10th anniversary of his passing, by his family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. We hope to see you again.

This morning we welcome Janet Stroble, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Janet has received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and has been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist.

This morning the 'Ville Harmonic ensemble, from Montoursville High School will share their gift of music with us. The 'Ville Harmonic ensemble was first created in 2010, and in the decade since then, they have been honored to perform for the community and bring smiles to so many faces. 'Ville is the best of the best- students have to audition for membership and often rehearse before sunrise. This year, 'Ville has twelve students in grades ten through twelve under the direction of Mrs. Kirstin Gist.

Milestone Ministries: At today's service, seniors who are graduating from high school will receive knotted fleece blankets made by members of WELCA. This year we have three youth graduating from high school, Owen Sherman, he plans on going to University of Central Florida and major in Aerospace Engineering; Alyx Taylor, he plans on going to Pennsylvania College of Technology and major in Emergency Management & Homeland Security; and Sidney Brown, she plans on attending Lock Haven and will major in

A planning committee for the Gift Card Bingo benefiting the Preschool is scheduled for Monday June 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Jensen Lounge. Fresh faces, new ideas are welcome.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING
JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702
(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

How Can These Things Be?

Given the many heated encounters between Jesus and Pharisees, the term *Pharisee* has become, for some, another word for “enemy of truth” or “opponent of God’s promises for the world.” In communities where divisions over what is true and false, good and bad, have become iron-clad, often rankling relationships, it may seem familiar—even honorable—to hiss at Pharisees. But that wasn’t Jesus’ way.

Think first about people like the Samaritan woman at the well, or a centurion in Rome’s brutal occupying army, or a scandalous prostitute, or an executioner driving nails into Jesus’ flesh—people that might have been easily discarded. Yet Jesus related to them in compassion and mercy, not exclusion.

Then think of Nicodemus, meeting Jesus at night, calling him “a teacher who has come from God.” Nicodemus is a Pharisee but he is hardly an enemy of truth opposing God’s way in the world. Moreover, with one word, “we,” he includes other Pharisees like himself who wish to accompany Jesus in God’s kingdom.

The perplexing nighttime conversation that leaves Nicodemus in a state of wonderment—“How can these things be?”—leads to Jesus’ climactic revelation: “God so loved the world . . .” In the gospel’s original Greek, “world” (*kosmos*) indicates that literally every bit of the universe receives God’s mercy and compassion, saving us all from perishing into iron-clad division between who is in and who it out.

How can these things be? On this Sunday that celebrates the wonder of the Trinity, the answer comes from God the Creator, saying that creation is good; from God the Redeemer, teaching us to love the world as God loves it; and from God the Spirit, continuing to draw us into wonderment. That’s how this can be.

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