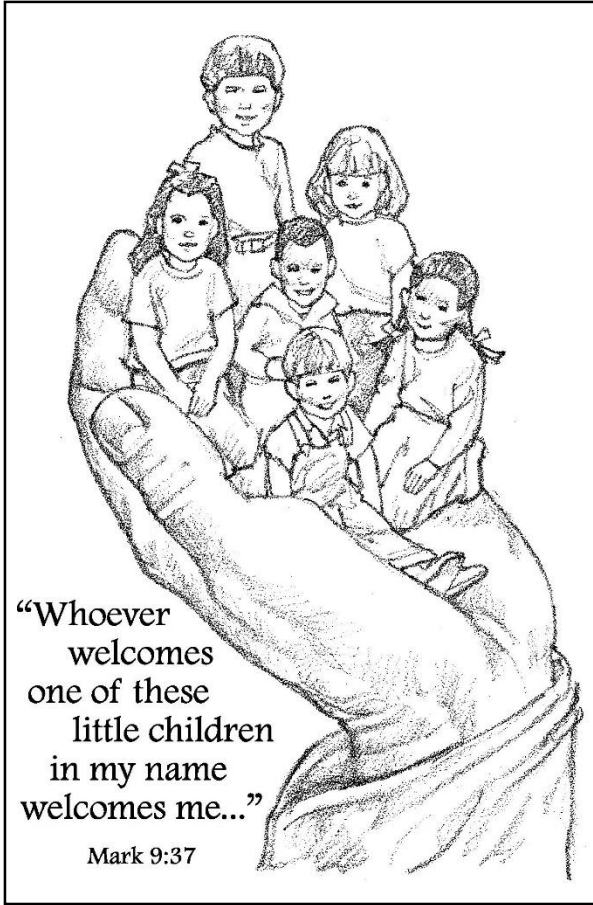


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Kneel

P: Gracious God,

C: 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.**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

Built on a RockLBW 365

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

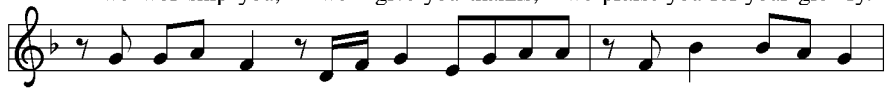
All



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.



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.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

A: A Reading from Jeremiah:

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 54*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*

God is my help - er; it is the



LORD who sus - tains my life.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.

- ¹ Save me, O God, | by your name;
in your might, de- | fend my cause.
- ² **Hear my | prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words | of my mouth.
- ³ For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have | sought
my life,
those who have no re- | gard for God.
- ⁴ **Behold, God | is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life. R
- ⁵ Render evil to those who | spy on me;
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.
- ⁶ **I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice**
and praise your name, O LORD, for | it is good.
- ⁷ For you have rescued me from | every trouble,
and my eye looks down | on my enemies. **R**

SECOND READING: James 3:13, 4:3, 7-8a*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.***[A]:** A Reading from James:

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle,

willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

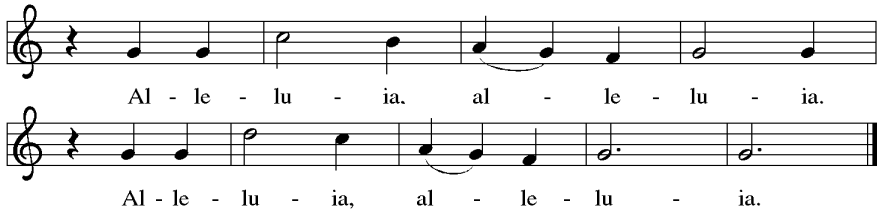
¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Cantor: God has called us through the proclamation of | the good news, that we may obtain the glory of our Lord | Jesus Christ.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the

house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON..... Janet Stroble, ALWL

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Children of the Heavenly Father..... LBW 474

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need.

After each petition:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

***Be Thou My Vision* Arr. Carlton Young**

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



bles - sing. 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 the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. 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: **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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so 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 him 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; 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: 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.

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: Jesus welcomes you to this table.
 Come, here is your God.

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.

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

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear - the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953
 Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928
 Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song, c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music (ASCAP).
 c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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:

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.

C: **Amen**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

C: **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness **LBW 469**

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Bill Reasner, Sally Congdon, Mike Gardner
Lay Assistant: David Bausinger; **Communion Assistant:** Sherri Holtzman; **Acolyte:** Brennen Hess; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter; **Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Linda Miller, Mary Schultz
Cantor: Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Bernard and Juanita Collins, by their daughter Sandy Ream and 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.

Bible Study is on Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

The Preschool Bingo Committee is asking for your help. On October 26, the committee will be having their 2nd Gift Card Bingo event. During this event there will be themed baskets for the Chinese Auction. Please consider donating a basket or items to make a basket to help us raise funds for our preschool. Thank you!

Harvest Home and Blanket Sunday is on Sunday, October 6, 2024.

The Mountie Backpack Program is ready for the new school year. Bagging is on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in Shaheen Hall beginning September 26th.

Please call the church office with names and addresses of college students or service members for *WELCA's annual mailing of cookie boxes* which will be packed and sent on **November 19th**.

Usher's Meeting: Current ushers and anyone willing to serve please plan on meeting in the Chapel following the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 29th.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Last-place Finish

Top-ten lists, sports rankings, grade point averages: it is human nature to want to measure ourselves against others. People love competition. At its best, it can motivate us to reach new heights. However, it can also bring out our worst instincts.

Jesus understood this when he caught his disciples debating their own standing. By placing a child in their midst, he overturned their expectations. In Jesus' time, children were very low in the social order. His act was meant as a shocking reminder that in the kingdom of God, to be the greatest means to take last place behind the forgotten, the outcast, and people the world rejects.

Who are such people in our world today? How might we reach out to them and invite them into the center of our own circle? This can sometimes be difficult or unpleasant because it means putting ourselves in the background and forces us to confront difficult truths about our world and our own hearts.

Of course, in the grand scheme of things, none of us is worthy to be in the middle of the circle. We are all flawed and broken. But Jesus welcomes us anyway. He takes all of us into his arms and declares us worthy. We do not need to measure up to receive God's love. Because of this, we are set free to love and serve others, especially the marginalized and the vulnerable, humbly putting others first and seeking to meet their needs.

Whenever we gather for worship, it is a sign that God's love is not a competition. We are all bathed in the waters of baptism. We all gather in a place of honor to be fed at God's table. Returning again and again to God's promises, we find our place at the center, with and among all God's beloved children.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**In the presence of our Lord
As we start our Sabbath Day,
Some people choose a place to sit
And then begin to pray
And others choose to read a hymn
And others read a Psalm
Preparing heart and mind and soul
In Worshipful, peaceful calm.**

**We certainly like to greet each other
And share our thoughts and news,
But maybe we could be more mindful
Of those who are in the pews.**

**We could use our smaller voices
Before our worship starts
Maintaining a reverent quiet
That speaks to our souls and hearts.**

**We need your help to lower the level
As we enter God's holy house.
We could all just talk in whispers.
Be as quiet as a mouse.**

Author Unknown

