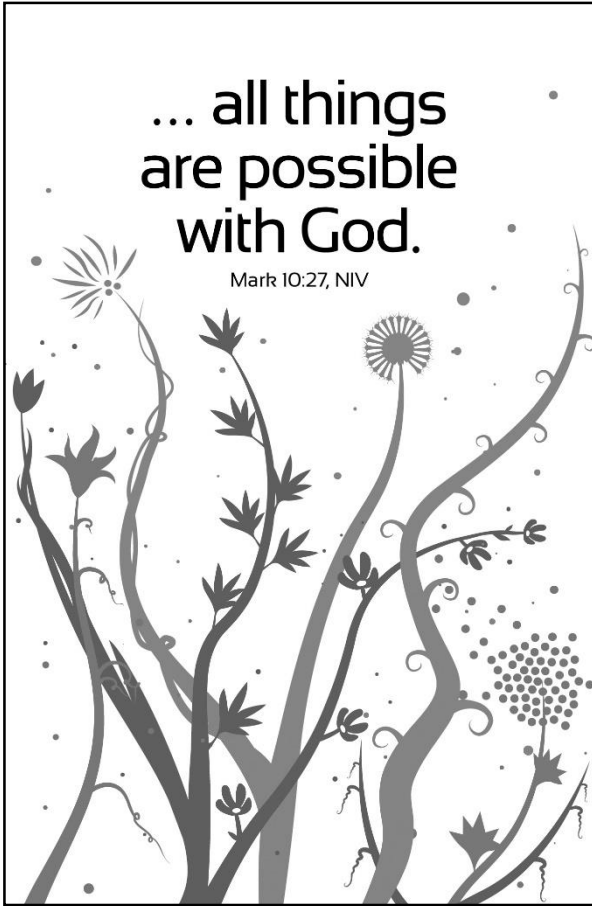


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE

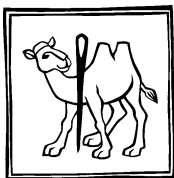


✝ Holy Communion ✝

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 2024

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

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

All Depends on Our PossessingLBW 447

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

ASSISTING MINISTER

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.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

A: A Reading from Amos:

⁶Seek the LORD and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

¹²For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:12-17

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it

So teach us to num - ber our
days that we may ap - ply our hearts to wis - dom.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.

- ¹² So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.
- ¹³ **Return, O LORD; how long | will you tarry?
Be gracious | to your servants. R**
- ¹⁴ Satisfy us by your steadfast love | in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad | all our days.
- ¹⁵ **Make us glad as many days as you af- | flicted us
and as many years as we suf- | fered adversity.**
- ¹⁶ Show your ser- | vants your works,
and your splendor | to their children.
- ¹⁷ **May the graciousness of the Lord our God | be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; pros- | per our handiwork. R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

A: A Reading from Hebrews:

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

Cantor: Blessed are the | poor in spirit, for theirs is the king- | dom of heaven.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but

God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

³²They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; ³⁴they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON..... Janet Stroble, ALWL

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Son of God, Eternal Savior LBW 364

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: Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world,
and the whole creation.

After each petition:

P: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in
the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

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

A Holy Sacrifice*..... **Pepper Choplin*

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 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

1 The Lord be with you. 2 And al - so with you.
 1 Lift up your hearts. 2 We lift them to the Lord.
 1 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 2 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.**

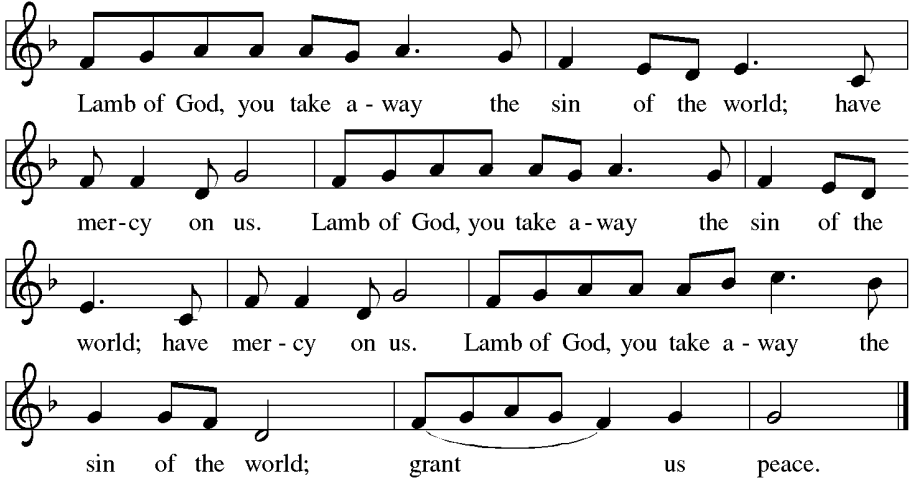
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

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.

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

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,
van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through -out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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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

O God of Every Nation..... LBW 416
(sung to the tune of hymn #495)

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Service Assistants

USHERS	Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Arch Watkins, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner
LAY ASSISTANT	David Bausinger
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Rhonda Koch
ACOLYTE	Karrah Bair
ALTAR GUILD	Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser
GREETERS/COMM. PRESENTERS	Gary and Connie Hess
CANTOR	Candy Watkins
FLOWER DELIVERY	Jody Fullmer

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my mother, Pat Michael, by her loving son, Dan Michael.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my father, Richard Michael, by his loving son, Dan Michael.

The Sanctuary Lamp burned in memory this week for Albert Kelley's birthday on October 6th, by his wife Marcella.

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 6:30 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!

The Mountie Backpack Program is looking for individuals to deliver the food bags on Fridays to all the schools in SWASD. Please contact Dianne Larson, 570-220-3702; Connie McLaughlin, 570-326-3618, or Mary Schultz, 570-772-8021. *Many hands lighten the load.*

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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

Beloved Worth, Not Wealth

Perhaps you are familiar with the idiom “worth one’s weight in gold.” The phrase means that someone is valuable because of their skills or what they can contribute. It can mean they are so good at their job that they are worth a high sum of money. This is a very old saying that points to how humans often determine the value of other humans.

The challenge Jesus presents to all of us is to see ourselves and others the way God sees us. We often see each other through the lenses that have been prescribed by our societal norms. We see the brand labels on our shoes and cars. We determine the amount of wages someone earns based on merit or years of experience. (See Matthew 20:1-16 for more from Jesus about wages and the kingdom of God.) Our society often assesses someone’s position in the world based on their money or job. In today’s gospel reading, is wealth itself what stands in this man’s way, or is it a symptom of wealth?

Our worth is not defined by wealth and riches, our skills, or our productivity; rather, it is defined by God. And God names each of us beloved. We are claimed, marked, and redeemed by God through Jesus Christ. Martin Luther shares that our job isn’t to earn this salvation; it is a free gift, and our job is to live in response to this gift and to nurture and share it with others.

Everything that we own is made by humans from materials created by God. Jesus instructs us to be generous with these gifts of God. We are to share these riches not according to human standards but God’s standards, and God names all beloved and worthy.

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