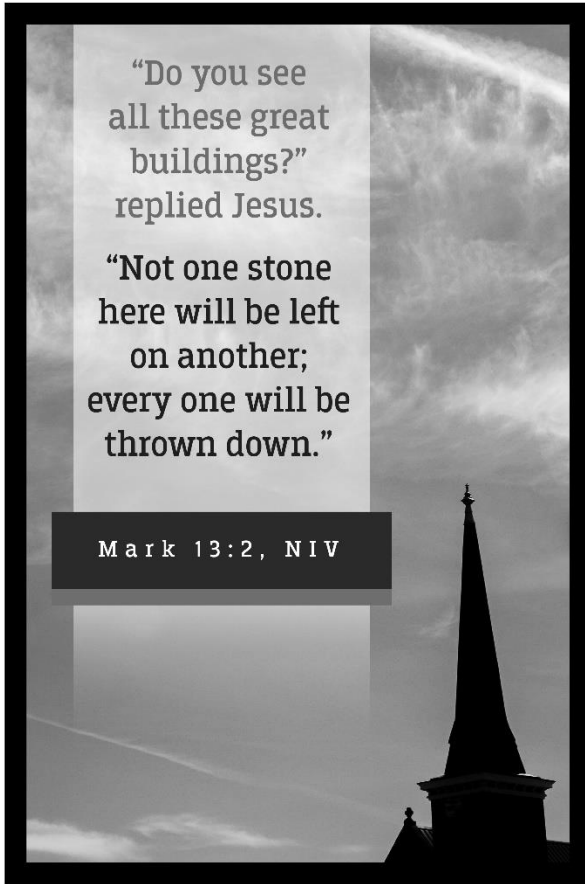


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

26th Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2024

26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our refuge,
our delight,
our beginning and our end.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come in truth before the one who loves us
and has freed us from our sin.

Kneel

P: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

C: **we confess that sin has taken hold of us
and we are complicit in its power.**

We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.

Unbind us and set us free.

**Lead us again to the waters of rebirth,
that we may live just and generous lives**

for the good of your world

and the care of our neighbors,

following in the servant way of Jesus.

Amen.

P: These words are trustworthy and true:
Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross,
swallowing up death forever.

For his sake, you are † forgiven

and God remembers your sin no more.

Let your heart be glad again,

and rejoice in your salvation.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies..... LBW 265

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.

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Daniel 12:1-3

The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.

A: A Reading from Daniel:

¹“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.

My heart is glad and my spir - it re-joic - es; my
bo - dy shall rest in hope.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good and above all other."
- ² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**
- ³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- ⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips. R**
- ⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
- ⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
- ⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
- ⁸ **I have set the LORD al-ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. R**
- ⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
- ¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**
- ¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are
pleasures forevermore. **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:11-25

Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.

[A]: A Reading from Hebrews:

¹¹ Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³ and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds,”

¹⁷ he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹ Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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: Be alert | at all times, praying that you may have the strength to stand before the | Son of Man.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: Mark 13:1-8

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ² Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit
SERMON.....**Pastor Amme**

Stand
HYMN OF THE DAY
Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow.....**LBW 355**

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

Sit

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Stand

Sung by the congregation.

“Grow, my children, as a flower bursts forth from seed.

Grow in understanding as my Word you will read.

Turn the pages of my story, learn how I’ve revealed my glory.

Watered by baptismal hope, on faith may you feed.”



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

After each petition:

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through 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

***Thee We Adore*.....Jean Pasquet**

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:

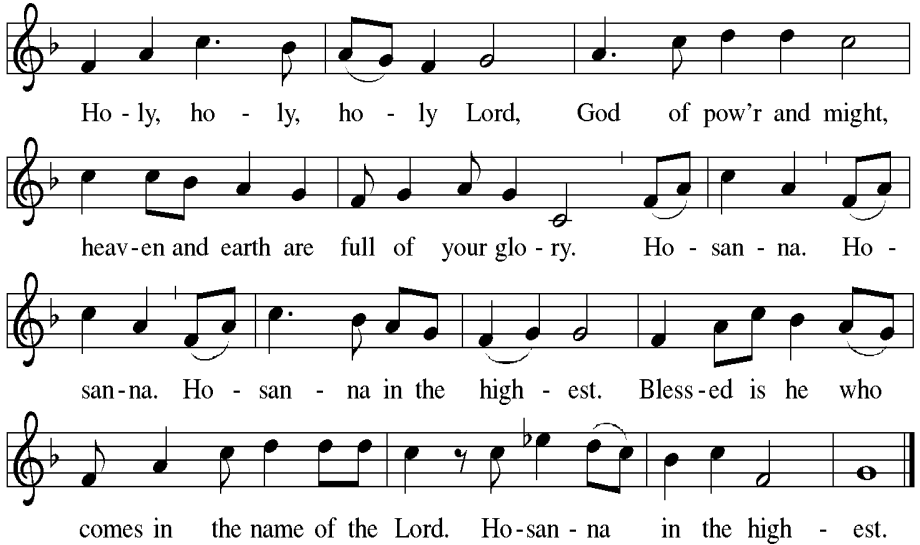
C: **Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
 you offered yourself in love for the world,
 and in this meal you nourish us with your life.
 Fill us with your abundance,
 that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger,
 trusting in your name.
 Amen.**

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.

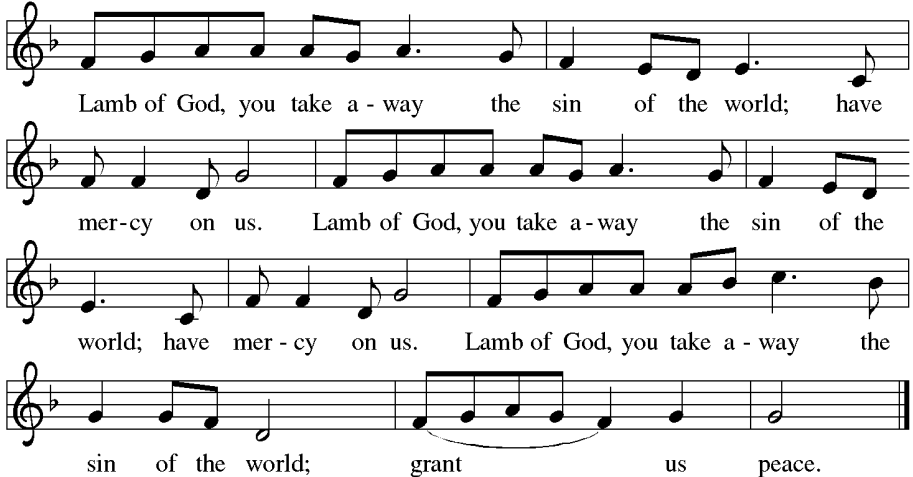
Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Behold, God is making all things new.
 Take your place in the new creation.

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 *My Lord, What a Morning*

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
 2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

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:

Faithful God,
you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink
in the body and blood of your Son.
Now send us out to labor with you,
in service to the world you have made,
and among the people you have made your home,
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

SENDING OF THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

P: Gracious God,
loving all your family with a mother’s tender care:
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth.
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom
we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of
your Son we may all know the comfort of your abiding
presence.

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: The Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

Jesus, Still Lead On..... LBW 341

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ

Lay Assistant: Janet Stroble; **Communion Assistant:** Sherri Holtzman

Acolyte: Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser

Greeters/Communion Presenters: Yvonne Kaiser, Rhonda Koch;

Cantor: Candy Watkins; **Flower Delivery:** Marilyn Winter

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones by the Carol Armstrong family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Richard and Dorothy Yeager, by their daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Stosh Wisniewski and grandchildren, Kyle and Jenna.



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 as a part of our Milestone Ministry, Bibles will be presented to the children that were not able to be present at our celebration picnic in September. This Bible is a gift from the congregation to mark the important steps along their pathway to faith as part of our Milestone Ministries. When a child is baptized, parents make a promise to “place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.” In keeping with this promise, the Bibles will be given to the parents, who will then be asked to place them in their children’s hands. Please remember our children in your prayers.

The Eucharistic ministers will be sent out this morning.

Council Report – 131 West Southern Avenue Property. As you are aware, the congregation voted to sell the property at 131 West Southern Avenue at a special congregational meeting. While the property has been used numerous times by staff and Family Promise, there was no clear path for its future. Council has spent untold hours since the meeting getting the property prepared for sale. Projects included vacuuming water that leaked into the basement each time it rained to removing bees that infiltrated the second floor apartment.

After numerous showings and meetings with our real estate agent, we finally received an offer in mid-October. After several offers and counters, we agreed on a selling price of \$200,000. The Property Committee reviewed the offer, and based on the home inspection and list of deficiencies, felt it was a good offer. The proceeds of the sale will be invested for future projects at Messiah. Council would like to thank all who worked on the property over the years that got us to this point.

This Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30 pm will be the last Bible study for the year. We will start back up in January 2025.

The Advent Kids in Mission will be held on December 7th and as always, we'll need some help. If you are able to help please let me know. More information will follow. Thank you for your support. Kathryn Pratt 570-244-6964

Official Notice is hereby given of the Annual Congregation Meeting to be held on Sunday, December 8th. This meeting will be held immediately after worship. Please plan on attending. **The nominees for Congregation Council 2025** are Joanie Jackson, Al Cole and Ron Yeagle.

White Gifts & Christmas Food Basket Project has begun!

Recipients of white gifts and food baskets have been identified. If you know a family that could benefit from receiving white gifts or a food basket, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

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

Holy Presence

In Jesus' day the temple in Jerusalem loomed large, both as a central physical structure in the city and as a powerful symbol of God's presence among the people. It was a major part of Jewish religious life of the time, and the location where it stood remains important for many people today. The disciples would certainly have found it unsettling to listen to Jesus forecast the temple's destruction. Would it really fall? How could such an important place ever be lost?

We often look to buildings, institutions, and societal structures for stability. But even our surest foundations can fail, and often do. Jesus reminds us that though stability comes and goes, we are not alone amid the changes. When the world comes apart at the seams, when we don't know what will happen next, God accompanies us through it all. Though wars continue, though death is near, Jesus responds, "Do not be alarmed." We are not alone! Through all the endings and beginnings of our shared human life, God goes with us.

When God gathers us around the font for baptism, we are reminded of how Divine Presence has been with people throughout the ages. The words often shared as water is poured into the font recall scenes from the great flood, the deliverance of the Israelites at the Red Sea, and John baptizing Jesus. God has shown up, again and again! These promises of God's presence are still for us, every day that we live. Whenever we find ourselves interacting with water, we have the chance to be reminded that God has claimed us as beloved, and still carries us through life's hard moments. How might you remember your baptism today? Where is God's presence most important for you?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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