

# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



John 13:34

✝ Holy Communion ✝

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
*Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

???.....???

*Ville Harmonic Ensemble*

*Stand*

**THANKSIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

**P:** In the name of + the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection,  
and called to live the baptized life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

**P:** Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

**P:** We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**


**P:** We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path,  
rejoicing in the Spirit’s power.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**


**P:** Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,  
that our every day is shaped by these waters  
that give us our very lives in you.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**C:** Amen

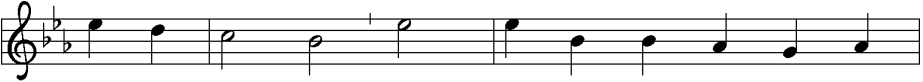
**GATHERING HYMN**  
*Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* .....LBW 175




1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright  
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more  
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye  
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -




ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:  
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:  
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!  
per - nal an - them ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!




"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,  
"Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal  
Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs  
Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



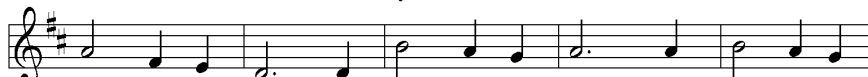
pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:  
Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:  
strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:  
Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**APOSTOLIC GREETING****P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!**C:** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**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****A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.**C** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

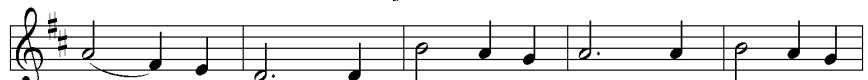
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



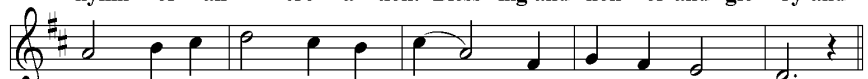
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



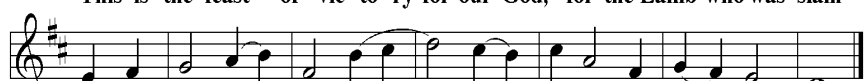
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY****P:** Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen*Sit***WORD****FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18**

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

**A:** A Reading from Acts:

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder

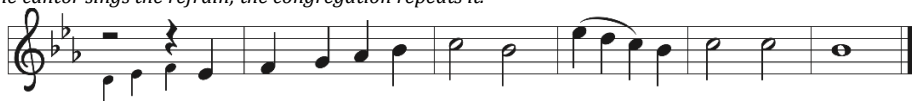
God?"<sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

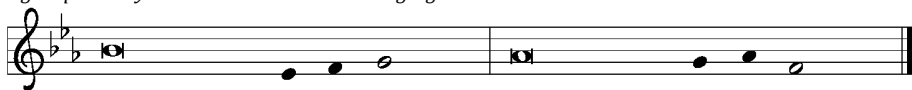
**PSALM: Psalm 148**

*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*



The splen-dor of the LORD is o - ver earth and heav'n.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*



- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.
- 2 **Praise the LORD, | all you angels;**  
**sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
- 3 Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- 4 **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,**  
**and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
- 5 Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they | were created,
- 6 **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,**  
**giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R**
- 7 Praise the LORD | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- 8 **fire and hail, | snow and fog,**  
**tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
- 9 mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- 10 **wild beasts | and all cattle,**  
**creeping things and | flying birds;**
- 11 sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- 12 **young | men and maidens,**  
**old and | young together. R**

- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name <sup>l</sup> of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over <sup>l</sup> earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for  
all <sup>l</sup> faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near  
the LORD. <sup>l</sup> Hallelujah! R**

**SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6**

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

**A:** A Reading from Revelation:

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

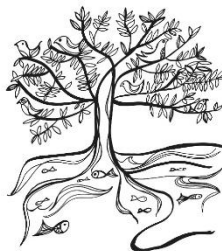
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

**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:** Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

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

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

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

<sup>3</sup>  
**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

SERMON..... Pastor Amme

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy  
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in  
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -  
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy

hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.  
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -  
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in

bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

**NICENE CREED**

**C:** 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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*A brief silence is held after the introduction.*

**P:** God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition:*

**P:** Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen 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**

???? ..... ???

*Ville Harmonic Ensemble*

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*

**C: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**OFFERING PRAYER****A:** Let us pray:**C:** Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again,

breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,

that we may live as your risen body in the world.

Amen

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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

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

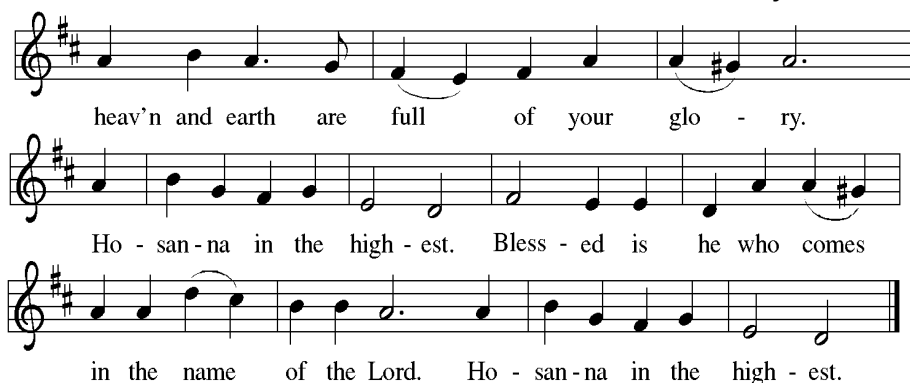
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

**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.

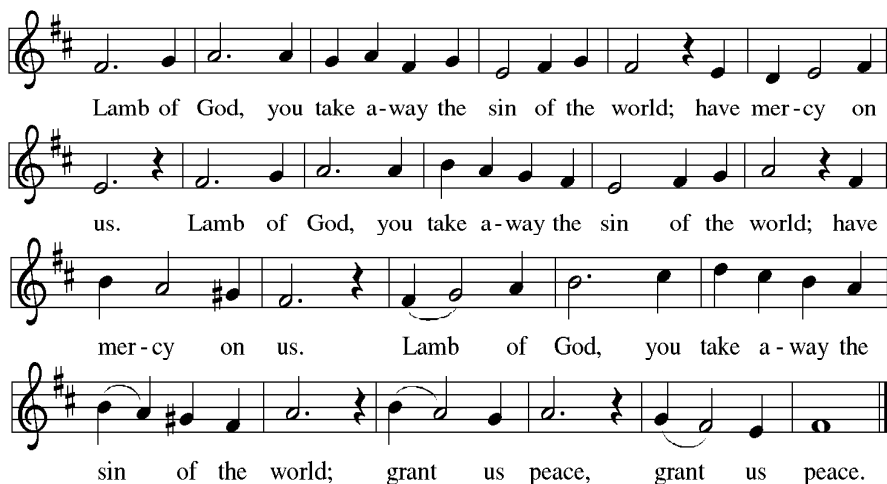
Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.

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

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

**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*

**ANTHEM**

???? ..... ????

*Ville Harmonic Ensemble*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

***Where Charity and Love Prevail*..... LBW 126**

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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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.

**A:** Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory,  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.

**C:** Amen

**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

***SENDING***

**BLESSING**

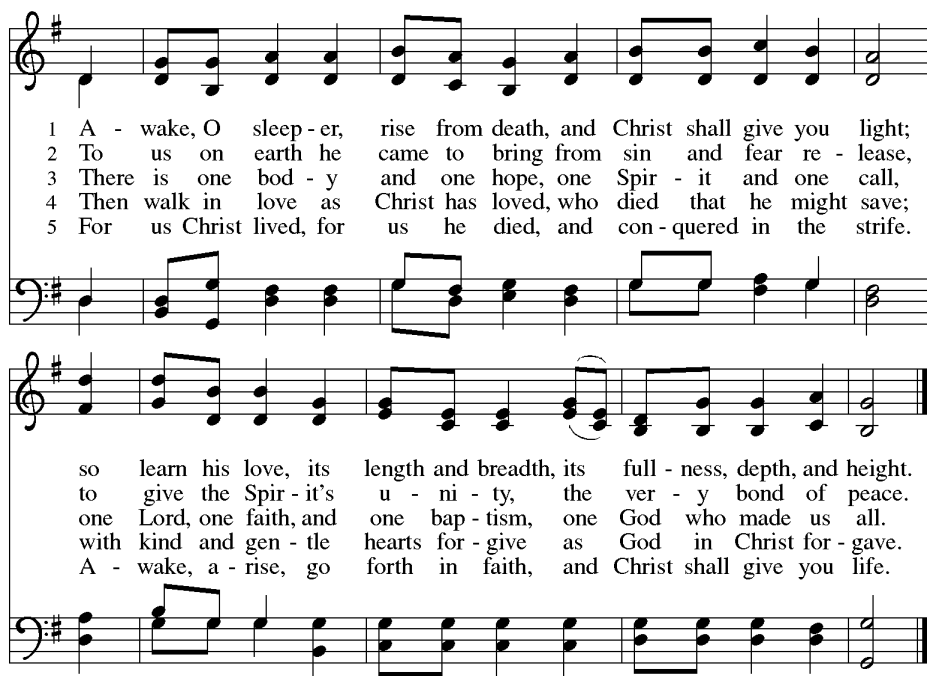
**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C:** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**P:** The triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.

**C:** Amen



**SENDING HYMN***Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*


1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,  
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,  
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**DISMISSAL****A:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.**C:** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**POSTLUDE**

### **SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee  
**Lay Assistant:** Carol Waltz; **Communion Assistant:** Georgette Copp  
**Acolyte:** Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Marie Welter, April Gardner  
**Greeters/Presenters:** Michael and April Gardner;  
**Cantor:** Member of the 'Ville Harmonic Ensemble  
**Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

### **IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones by Cindy and Denny Bennett.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Carol Hessert's birthday, May 21, by her daughter Pam.

### **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.*

**The Eucharistic Ministers** will be sent out this morning.

**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 nine through twelve under the direction of Mrs. Kirstin Gist.

**Please join us on Wednesday evenings for Bible Study and fellowship at 6:30 p.m.**

**This morning we will celebrate Messiah Lutheran Preschool's 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary** Please join us in Jensen Lounge for a coffee hour. The preschool will be opened for anyone wanting to walk through and observe our school as it serves today's families.

**In addition to wearing red on Pentecost Sunday**, Messiah will be decorating the chancel with *red* geraniums. *If you would like to sponsor a geranium, please submit the order form to the church office by June 4<sup>th</sup>.* Those who order geraniums may pick them up immediately after the Worship Service on Pentecost, Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, or on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Call the church office at (570) 326-9171 if you have any questions.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> will be the **last day for Sunday School** until the fall. Enjoy the summer and we hope to see you at VBS! Kathryn Pratt

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

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### **The Deceptive Simplicity of Love**

As the Gospel of John portrays Jesus, the rabbi often speaks in cryptic terms, and his teachings in today's reading are no exception. "The Son of Man has been glorified"? "Where I am going, you cannot come"? (John 13:31, 33). The disciples must have heard Jesus' instructions about love with a sigh of relief—finally, clear words. They are given a new commandment, to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them. All they must do is love each other, and everyone will know they're Jesus' disciples.

One wonders how long it took before the disciples realized just how complicated this was going to be. If we're honest, we have to ask, have we figured it out in the past 2,000-plus years? After all, Jesus' love often mystifies us. Whom does he love? The leper. The tax collector. The outcast. The rich young man. The person living with addiction. The collections agent. The teen who just tagged your wall with spray paint. The wealthy CEO.

Suddenly, this loving doesn't look so easy.

The context of this week's passage makes it clear that Jesus isn't averse to speaking truth in love. Just before today's exchange, Jesus signals to Judas that he knows what he's up to. Just after, he cautions overeager Peter that despite his best intentions, he too will betray Jesus. Love isn't syrupy and bland, slathered across our world in rosy hues that cover up injustice or hard times.

Love is a commitment. Love extends outward from Jesus, through us, to bring everyone whom Jesus loves into the communion of saints. That means Judas, and Peter, and the graffiti tagger, and the CEO—and you. Us. Every person, in every pew, and every child of God who couldn't identify a pew if they skinned their shin on one.

Each of our communities is a little different. Our everyday "each other's" are different too. But the good news is, "each other" always includes everyone—even us.

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