

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



“Return
to your **home**,
and **declare** how
much **God** has
done **for you.**”

Luke 8:39

✝ Holy Communion ✝

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 22, 2025



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Kneel

P: Merciful God,

C: you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen

P: You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!.....LBW 520





1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways; won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

APOSTOLIC GREETING

-  The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
-  And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



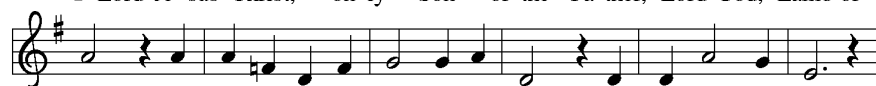
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain

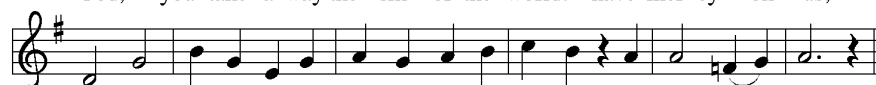
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 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.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



3 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.

I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will indeed repay into their laps
 ⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,
says the LORD;
because they offered incense on the mountains
 and reviled me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
 full payment for their actions.
⁸ Thus says the LORD:
As the wine is found in the cluster,
 and they say, "Do not destroy it,
 for there is a blessing in it,"
so I will do for my servants' sake,
 and not destroy them all.
⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
 and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it,
 and my servants shall settle there.

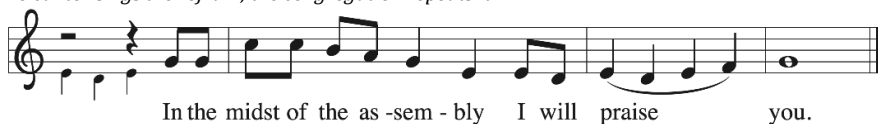
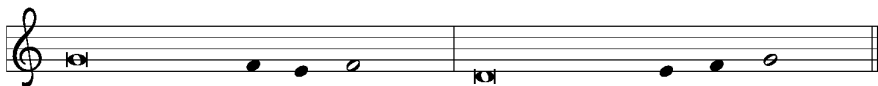
A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



*For the dominion belongs
to the Lord, and He rules
over the nations.*

Psalm 22:28

PSALM: Psalm 22:19-28*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.**Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*

- ¹⁹ But you, O LORD, be not | far away;
O my help, hasten | to my aid.
- ²⁰ **Deliver me | from the sword,**
my life from the power | of the dog.
- ²¹ Save me from the | lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have | rescued me.
- ²² **I will declare your name | to my people;**
in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you. R
- ²³ You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.
- ²⁴ **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;**
neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them;
but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.
- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.
- ²⁶ **The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live
forever! R
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- ²⁸ **For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**
who rules o- | ver the nations. R

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-29

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

A: A Reading from Galatians:

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Return [†] to your home,* and declare how much God has [†] done for you.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ Then Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man

of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”—²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit
SERMON..... Janet Stroble, ALWL

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY**God of Grace and God of Glory.....LBW 415**

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long - have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

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 into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the
wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

After each petition:

[P]: God of Grace,

[C]: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

[P]: Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, 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.**Stand***OFFERTORY***As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*


1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER**A:** Let us pray.**C:** Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
 and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
 and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all;
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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; 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 - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, 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, 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.

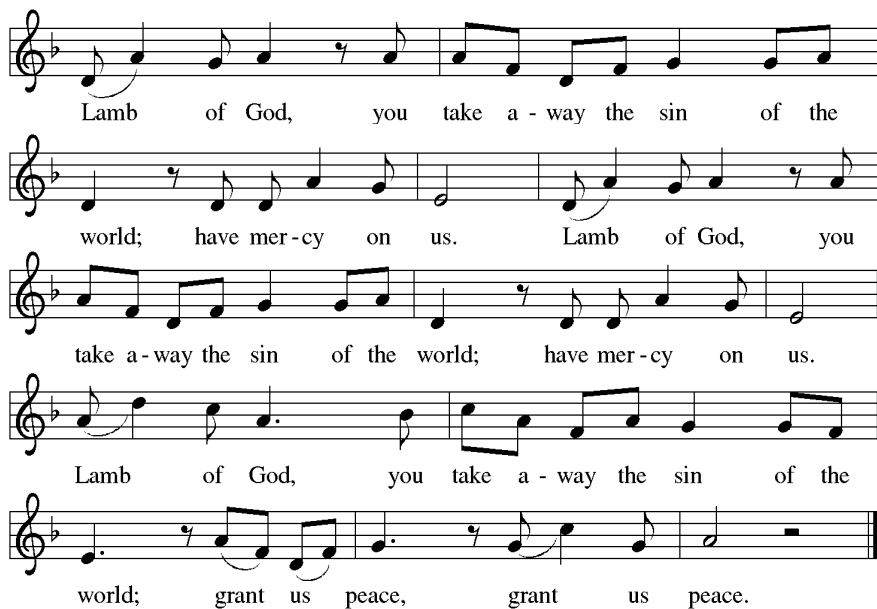
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

C: Thanks be to God.



The musical notation is written on five staves in a single system, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the words "Lamb of God" and "grant us peace".

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.

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

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds..... LBW 345



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole and
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my
4 By thee my prayers ac - cep - tance gain al -



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place; my nev - er - fail - ing
though with sin de - filed. The dev - il charg - es



heals our wounds, and drives a - way all fear.
hun - gry soul and to the wea - ry, rest.
treas - ure, filled with bound - less stores of grace.
me in vain, and I am owned a child.



5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877

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.

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen**

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

C: **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing..... LBW 260

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

DISMISSAL

- A**: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
- C**: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner
Lay Assistant: Kim Brofee; **Communion Assistant:** Mandy Feinberg
Acolyte: Doriann Morris, **Altar Guild:** Marie Welter, April Gardner
Greeters/Presenters: Paul Weaver, Jean Weaver; **Cantor:** Virginia Amme
Flower Delivery: Jody Fullmer

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dave and Fae Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. William Mansel, Mrs. Kathy Thomas and Mr. William Thomas by Robert G. Thomas and family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Rev. A. Bruce and Virginia Amme's 52nd wedding anniversary, by their children and grandchildren.

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.

VBS – “Magnified” discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things. Starts tomorrow, **Monday, June 23rd - Friday June 27th, 9:00 am – Noon**. Walk-ins are welcome,

Food Pantry Needs: Our June 30-Day Pack the Pantry Challenge continues! If you haven't yet picked up your list, you can get one in the narthex on Sunday morning or from the church office during the week, or you can download one from our web site:

https://messiahsouth.org/wpcontent/uploads/2025/05/Pack-the-Pantry_2025.pdf

Bring your filled bags to worship on June 29 so that we can celebrate together our offerings.

Monetary donations are welcomed any time of the year. Please remember to write “food pantry” in the memo line if donating by check, or on the envelope if donating cash.

Thank you to all who recently brought in donations to meet our immediate needs!

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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

Real Healing

Today we resume our journey through the Gospel of Luke. Luke has a clear agenda: to share the gospel to the ends of the earth—to whomever, however, and whenever the opportunity presents itself! Luke boldly declares that the gospel is the gift of healing offered for all creation.

It is with this evangelical and healing bias that we approach this scripture passage. The nakedness, the tombs, and the swine speak to a reality of a lack of ritual purity. The world is not perfect. Demons in turn remind us of the various pressures and temptations that surround and distract us from God's presence and holiness. The swineherds are confused. On one hand, a man is healed; on the other, they lose their livelihood when the swine throw themselves over a cliff. And all of this happens in Gentile land: Jesus shares the good news in non-Jewish lands and to non-Jewish people. Jesus is willing to enter the reality of life. Jesus is willing to enter the reality of *our* lives.

What better message for Luke to share than that Jesus meets this broken human being right where he is. No need to clean up beforehand. No need to be someone he is not. No need to play any games or wear different hats. He simply gets to be himself. Jesus meets him and shows him that he is seen, not only in his truth of the moment, but also in the fullness of his humanity.

Demons, be gone. Confusion, be gone. Peace enters. Love enters. God enters and envelops each of us in true healing. To know we are enough with God is the heart of healing. Then comes an invitation to share news of the healing Jesus does each day.

What has Jesus done for you today?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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