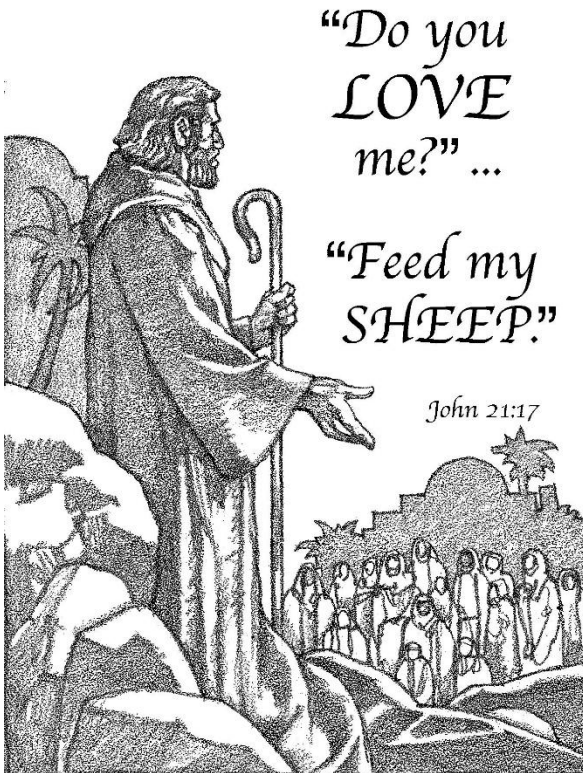


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

Peter and Paul, apostles

June 29, 2025



*Today we celebrate two great figures of the early church, Peter and Paul, who represent the spread of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and, according to tradition, were martyred on this date. The witness of Peter and Paul inspires us as we seek ways to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our contemporary context.*

## **PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES**

### **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*****Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation***

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from  
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!



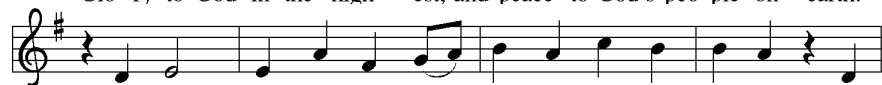
**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

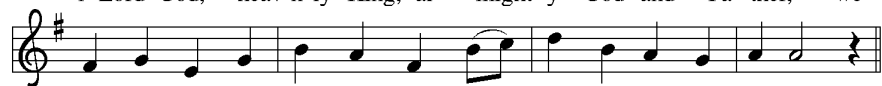
**C:** And also with you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

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



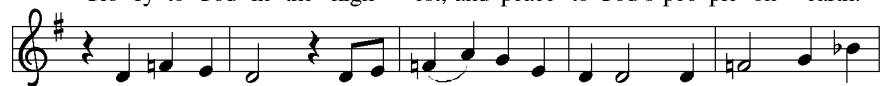
1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther, we



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



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



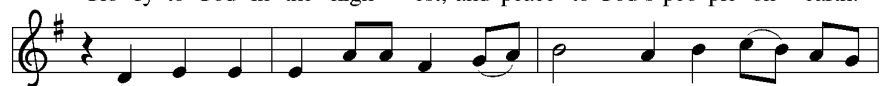
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



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



### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

*Sit*

### ***WORD***

### **FIRST READING: Acts 12:1-11**

*King Herod had James killed and had Peter put in prison, under heavy guard. In what Peter first believes is only a vision, an angel leads him past unseen guards, out of the prison, and to freedom.*

**A:** A Reading from Acts:

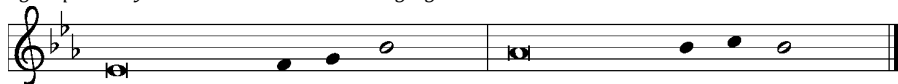
<sup>1</sup> About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup> He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. <sup>3</sup> After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) <sup>4</sup> When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. <sup>5</sup> While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

<sup>6</sup> The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. <sup>7</sup> Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. <sup>8</sup> The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." <sup>9</sup> Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that

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

**PSALM: Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7**

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*



stands the city | God has founded;

<sup>3</sup> Glorious things are spo- | ken of you,  
O city | of our God.

<sup>6</sup> Enrolling the nations, the | LORD records:  
“These al- | so were born there.”

6

**SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18**

*Paul has faithfully persevered in the mission the Lord had given to him. Near life's end he rests in the promise of eternal life, confident that the Lord who has rescued him in the past will bring him into the heavenly kingdom.*

**A:** A Reading from Second Timothy:

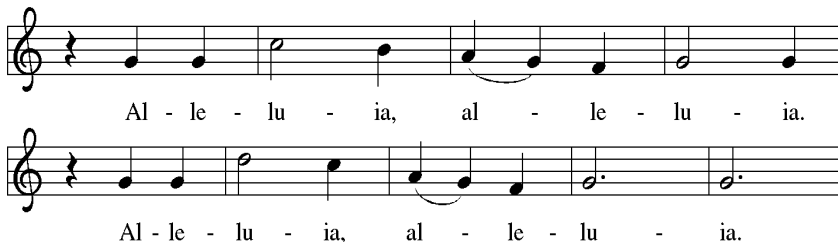
<sup>6</sup> As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

<sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Cantor:** This Jesus | God raised up, and of that all of | us are witnesses.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias

**GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62**

*Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.*

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

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

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord,

do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>59</sup> To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

**P**: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

**SERMON**..... Ray Huff, ALWL

Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Faith of Our Fathers**.....LBW 500



*Refrain*

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.  
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,  
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.

ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

## **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,**

**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.*

**Lamb of God.....Twila Paris**

*Women's Trio*

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.

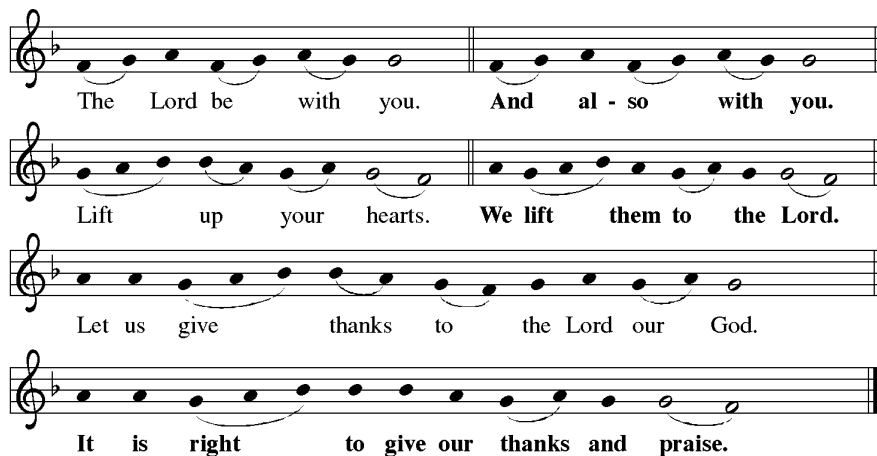
**OFFERING PRAYER****A:** Let us pray.**C:** Creator God,

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.

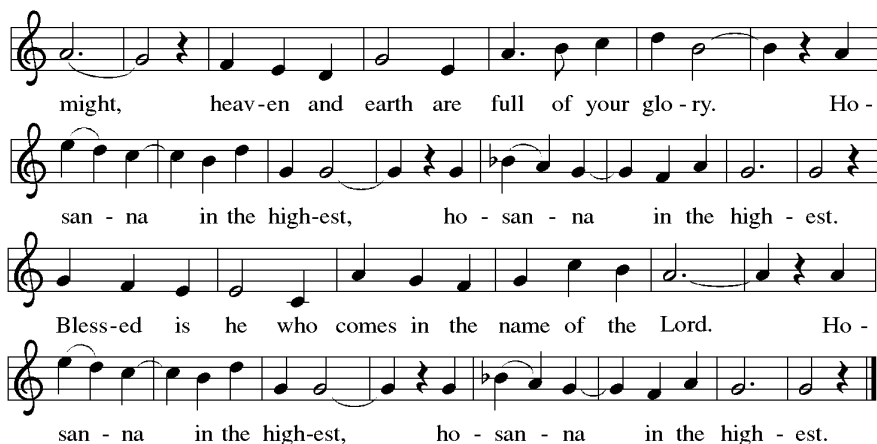
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them, even to the end of the age. And so, with the glorious company of the apostles, with the choirs of angels 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



### **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.

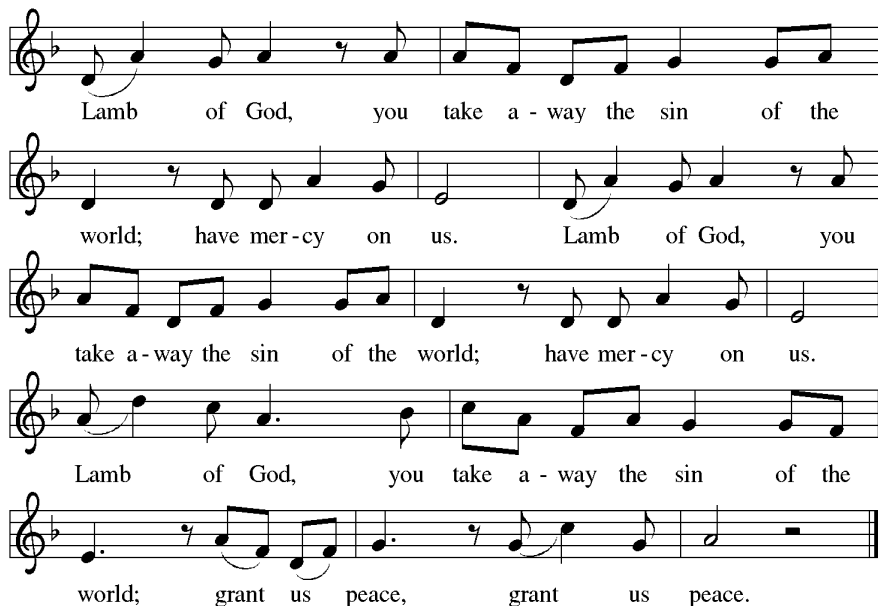
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The music ends with a double bar line.

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

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

*Refrain*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The score is divided into three systems. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn, starting with a 'Refrain' label. The second system contains the third and fourth lines, with three numbered verses. The third system contains the fifth and sixth lines, ending with another 'Refrain' label. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef, providing harmonic support for the vocal parts.

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

5 Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

**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.

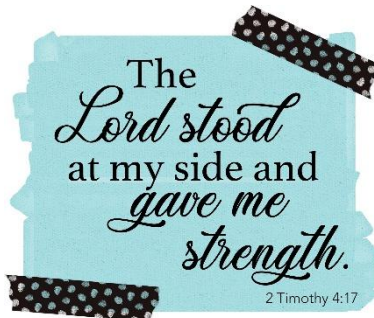
**C**: Amen

***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**     *Glories of Your Name Are Spoken..... LBW 358*

1 Glo - ries of your name are spo-ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;  
 2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring-ing from e - ter - nal love,  
 3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov-'ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear  
 4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a mem-ber am,

he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed you for his own a - bode.  
 well sup - ply your sons and daugh-ters, and all fear of want re - move.  
 for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
 let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in your name.

On the Rock of A - ges found-ed, what can shake your sure re - pose?  
 Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage?  
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,  
 Fad - ing are the world-ings' plea-sures, all their boast-ed pomp and show;

With sal - va - tion's walls sur-round-ed, you may smile at all your foes.  
 Grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.  
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.  
 sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil-dren know.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809

**DISMISSAL****A:** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.



**☑: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner

**Lay Assistant:** Carola Storrs; **Communion Assistant:** Candy Watkins

**Acolyte/Crucifer:** Brennen Hess; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower;

**Greeters/Presenters:** Carol Hessert, Pam Eveleth

**Cantor:** Bob Schweppenheiser; **Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

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

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Gary and Gladys Hilling's 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on June 30<sup>th</sup> with love by their children.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William and Charlotte Winter on the anniversary of their wedding in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd on June 29, 1944. Given by their daughters, Carol and Marilyn Winter.

**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 Ray Huff**, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Ray 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.

**Our June 30-Day Pack the Pantry Challenge** comes to an end this morning. **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 have participated in the 30-day challenge and who have recently brought in donations to meet our immediate needs!

**Thank you** to all who came and volunteered with VBS. **Approximately 40 + kids attended VBS.** Even though the week was extremely warm and wet, the children had a great time and looked forward to coming. If you didn't get a chance to see all the displays Kathryn Pratt and the volunteers who helped her did, take a walk through the Christian Education building and in Shebeen Hall while they are still

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**JARED GIST, ORGANIST**

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

**Moving in Love**

Participating in divisive discourse has become pervasive in this culture, particularly on social media platforms. Conversations regarding religion and politics can swiftly escalate into full-blown battles, and it can be challenging to remain cordial and reflective when confronted with false dichotomies and personal attacks around social issues.

In today's gospel reading, the siblings James and John quickly want to retaliate with violence and aggression against the village that rejects Jesus. However, he rebukes them for their fury. The brothers appear to have disregarded the fact that when Jesus commissioned them earlier with the other disciples to spread the good news, he instructed them that if they encountered rejection, they should merely "shake the dust off [their] feet as a testimony against [the rejectors]" and move on (Luke 9:5). Dusting off their feet was not only for the sake of nonengagement but also for their safety. What good would the news be if every rejection led to violence and war?

It's not easy to dust off our feet and move on when we are engaged in passionate debates. But how do we translate this action into a life-giving practice of discipleship? We practice this spirit of reconciliation during worship when extending peace to our neighbor. We engage in loving discourse when we pray and share a meal around Jesus' table.

Our engagement as disciples is steeped in the reminder that Jesus came to bring abundant life and love into the world. Finding ways to stay connected to one another while balancing the moments that call for dusting off one's feet and moving on is not simple or easy. Gatherings and connections within and outside of worship allow us to practice God's abundant grace and mercy, whether by stepping away or by moving in close for the sake of care and love for neighbor and self.

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