

# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



**Life does not consist in  
an abundance of  
possessions.**

Luke 12:15, NIV

✝ Holy Communion ✝

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025

**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



*Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**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**

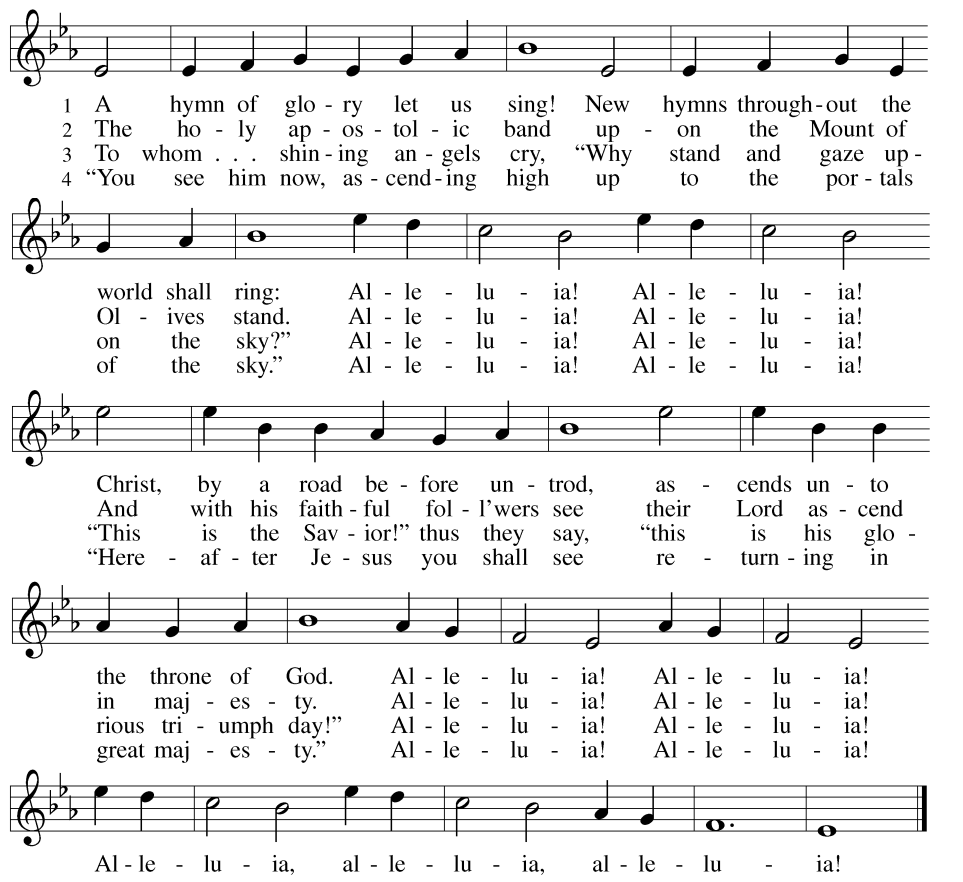
**[P]:** You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of ✠ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**[C]: Amen**

*Stand*

GATHERING HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! .....LBW 157



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of  
3 To whom . . . shin - ing an - gels cry, “Why stand and gaze up -  
4 “You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals

world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
on the sky?” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
of the sky.” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un - to  
And with his faith - ful fol - l’wers see their Lord as - cend  
“This is the Sav - ior!” thus they say, “this is his glo -  
“Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing in

the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
rious tri - umph day!” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
great maj - es - ty.” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

5 O Lord, our homeward pathway bend,  
that our unwearied hearts ascend.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Where, seated on your Father’s throne,  
you reign as King of kings alone.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 Give us your joy on earth, O Lord,  
in heav’n to be our great reward.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
When throned with you forever, we  
shall praise your name eternally.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623


**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.

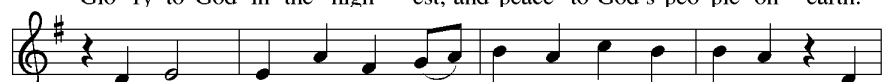
**G:** And also with you.

**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

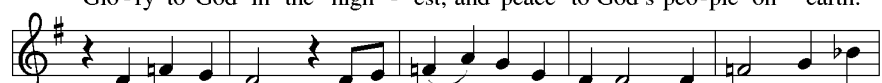


wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

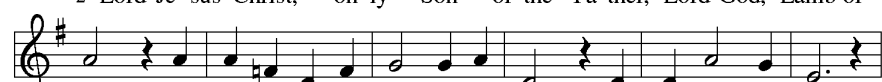
*Refrain*



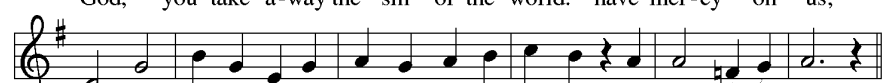
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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;

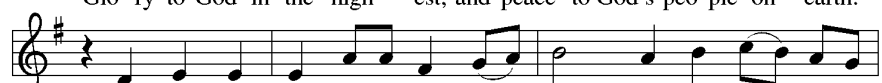


you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

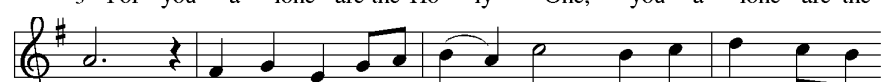
*Refrain*



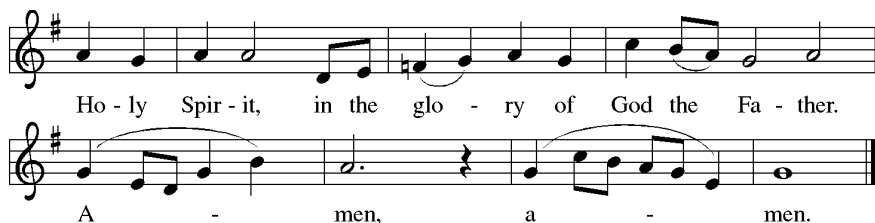
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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



### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**[P]:** Let us pray.

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**[C]: Amen**

*Sit*

### ***WORD***

#### **FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

*The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.*

**[A]:** A Reading from Ecclesiastes:

<sup>2</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

<sup>2:18</sup> I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, <sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup> So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their

minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

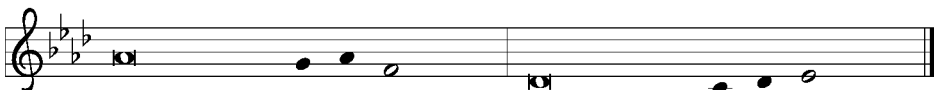
**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM: Psalm 49:1-12**

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



*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*



- 1 Hear this, | all you peoples;  
give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,
- 2 **you of high de- | gree and low,  
rich and | poor together.**
- 3 My mouth shall | speak of wisdom,  
and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.
- 4 **I will incline my ear | to a proverb  
and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp. R**
- 5 Why should I be afraid in | evil days,  
when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me,
- 6 **the wickedness of those who put their trust in | their own prowess,  
and boast of | their great riches?**
- 7 One can never re- | deem another,  
or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;
- 8 **for the ransom of a life | is so great  
that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,**
- 9 in order to live forev- | er and ever  
and never | see the grave.
- 10 **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they  
perish  
and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.**
- 11 Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from  
generation to | generation,  
though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.
- 12 **Even though honored, they cannot | live forever;  
they are like the | beasts that perish. R**

**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11**

*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

**A:** A Reading from Colossians:

<sup>1</sup> So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

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

**Cantor:** Blessed are the poor in spirit,\* for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias

**GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21**

*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

13 Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." 16 Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17 And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' 18 Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

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

Sit  
**SERMON**.....Pastor Zeiders

Stand  
**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
**Jesus, Priceless Treasure**..... LBW 457



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,  
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me  
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has  
can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be  
Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther, though the storms may





faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;  
 quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Sin and hell in con - flict fell  
 gath - er, still have peace with - in. Yea, what - e'er I here must bear,



I will suf - fer nought to hide thee, nought I ask be - side thee.  
 with their bit - ter storms as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
 still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.  
 Music: JESU, MEINE FREUDE, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

### **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:** In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.*After each petition:***P:** God of Grace,**C:** **hear our prayer.***The prayers conclude:***P:** Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.**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,

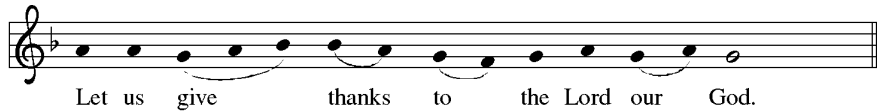
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.

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

that we may work for the good of all;

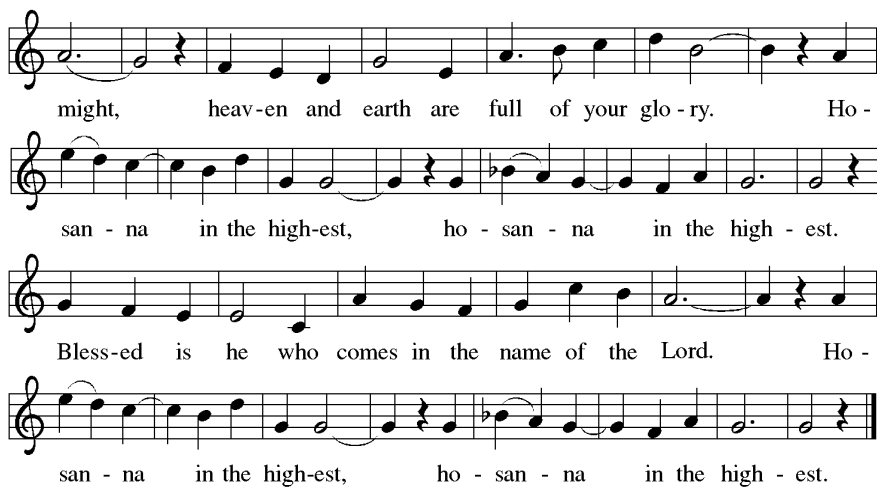
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen

**GREAT THANKSGIVING****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:





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.

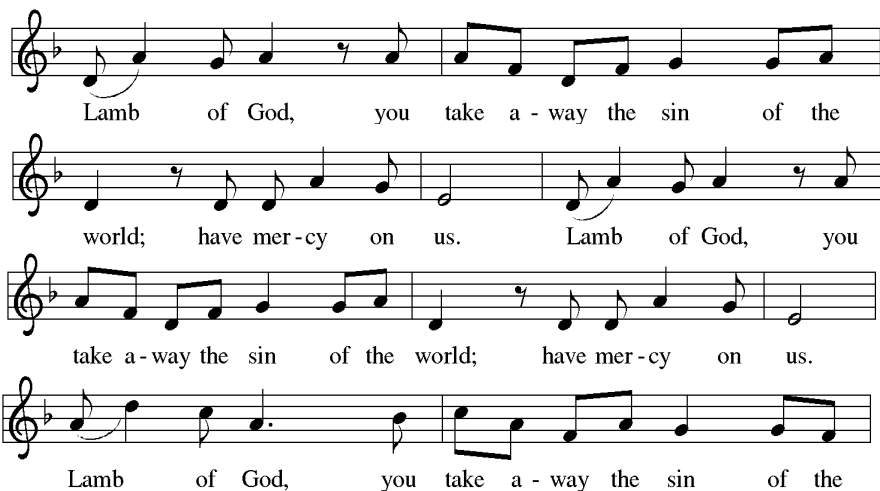
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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

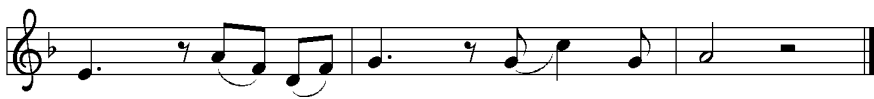
### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.



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**

***O Living Bread from Heaven .....LBW 197***



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!  
2 My Lord, you here have led me with - in your ho - liest place,  
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.  
4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.  
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;  
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.  
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve with ho - ly fear.



Oh, won - drous food of bless - ing, oh, cup that heals our woes!  
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,  
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,  
And when you call my spir - it to leave this world be - low,





My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, with prais - es o - ver - flows!  
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.  
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.  
 I en - ter, through your mer - it, where joys un - min - gled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1606–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

*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**

***We Know That Christ Is Raised.....* LBW 189**



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows


Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re-born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:

Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924  
Text © John B. Geyer.

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**



### **SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Susan Bryan; **Communion Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Acolyte:** Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower; **Greeters/Presenters:** Don and MaryEllen Rosenbaum; **Cantor:** Dave Bausinger; **Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

### **IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my daughter, Susan, on her birthday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, by Sylvia McCarty.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Helen Fila on the anniversary of her birthday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, by her husband, Carl and family.

### **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 Pastor Joel Zeider.** Pastor Zeider retired January 1 after 17 years as Pastor of St Matthew, Bloomsburg., and after serving congregations in Adams, Dauphin and Clearfield Counties. His wife Ruth & him live in Bloomsburg.

**Our annual Lutheran World Relief School Kits mission project** is under way. Our sewing crew have completed 773+ backpacks, 590 of which the Bible School children have strung. Last year, we were blessed to be able to fill 606 backpacks to send to children in need around the world. Let's see where the Spirit leads this year. Lists of the items we collect are available in the narthex or in next week's Messenger. Thank you for your help in this effort!

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

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

### **The Challenge of Money**

Jesus' parables about money continue to trouble his listeners to this day. In fact, they may seem even more challenging to today's Christians in North America, a culture so saturated with wealth and consumerism, than they were to our first-century counterparts. It can be easy to approach these parables by attempting to justify our behavior, to try to determine the exact point where desire becomes greed or where consumption becomes gluttony, often in an effort to retain what we already have. But this attitude transforms generosity and simplicity into a law rather than an act of true freedom initiated in the love of Jesus.

The parable of the rich fool reveals the absurdity of greed and its justification. Tomorrow is not promised, and the pathological accumulation of wealth and material goods seems silly, even cruel, in a world as unpredictable and challenging as ours. Freedom in Jesus releases us from the belief that we can secure our own future with wealth and possessions. It opens us to the radical generosity of God's neighborhood, where the security of our future lies in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and in the practice of self-emptying love for our neighbor.

It's fair to say that Jesus would make for a very challenging church treasurer. The fundamental economic posture of the gospel is one of redistribution and radical trust that, in community, God will provide everything we need. Parables like this one about the rich fool are meant to stretch and challenge our assumptions and actions. If the choices we make about money seem to come easily, that just may be an invitation to reflect on the grounds of our own economic practices. The self-emptying generosity Jesus invites us into will always feel risky, but we can take comfort in the assurance that God, who makes all things new, will care and provide for the common good and the flourishing of true community. Thanks be to God.

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