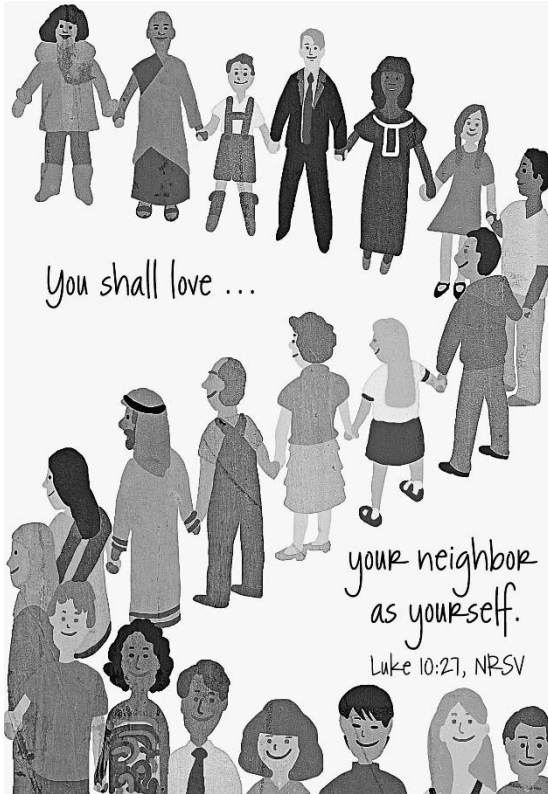


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 13, 2025



## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.*

### 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*****Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*.....LBW 551**

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!



Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1933

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

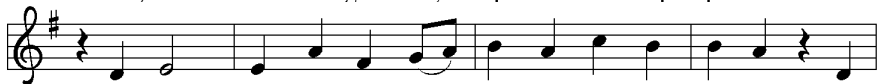
**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**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***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*

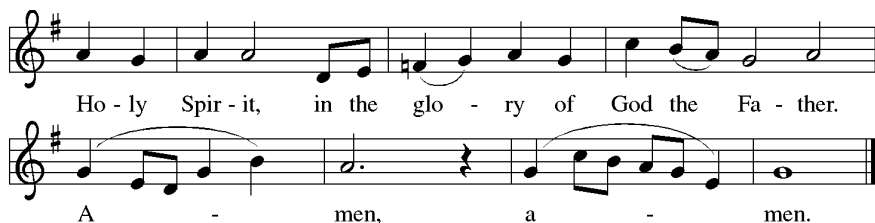
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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.

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen

*Sit*

### **WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14**

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

**A:** A Reading from Deuteronomy:

<sup>9</sup> The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup> when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

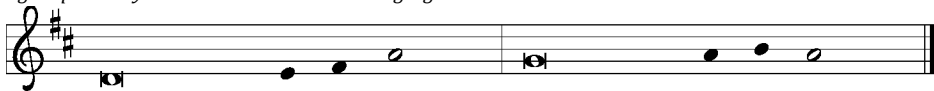
<sup>11</sup> Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10***The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*<sup>1</sup> To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.<sup>4</sup> **Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths. R**<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day  
long.<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your  
good- | ness, O LORD.<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**<sup>9</sup> You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.<sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R****SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14***The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.***[A]:** A Reading from Colossians:

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, <sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup> This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, <sup>8</sup> and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**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**: You shall love the Lord your God with | all your heart,\* and your neighbor | as yourself.

**C**: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

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

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

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” 27 He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”


29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

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

Sit  
SERMON

Stand  
HYMN OF THE DAY      Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace      LBW 419



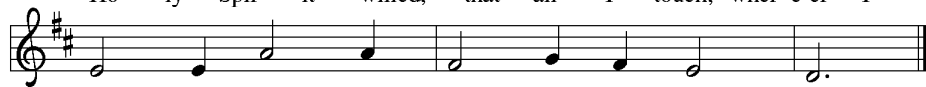
1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all  
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,  
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less  
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er  
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy

8





peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I  
 Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -  
 act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I  
 strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim  
 Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.  
 sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.  
 do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.  
 be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.  
 be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.

Music: BEATUS VIR. *Šamotulský Kancionál*, 1561

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

## **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.

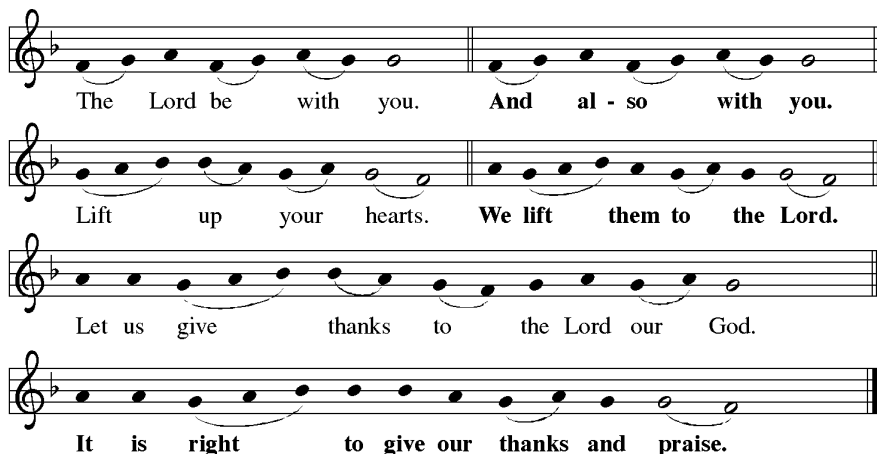
**OFFERING PRAYER****A:** Let us pray.**C:** Creator God,

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**


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

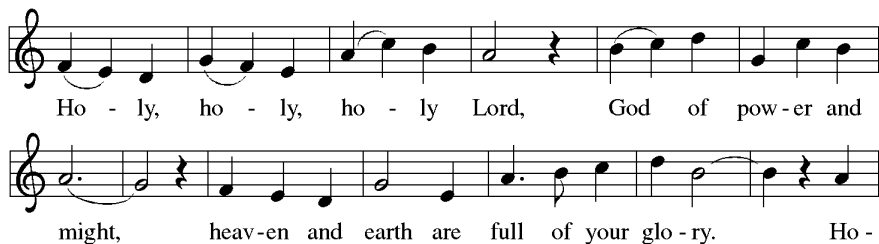
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

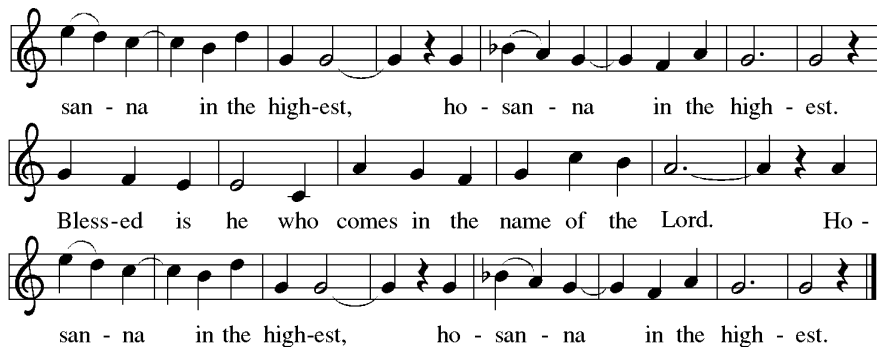
**PREFACE**

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.

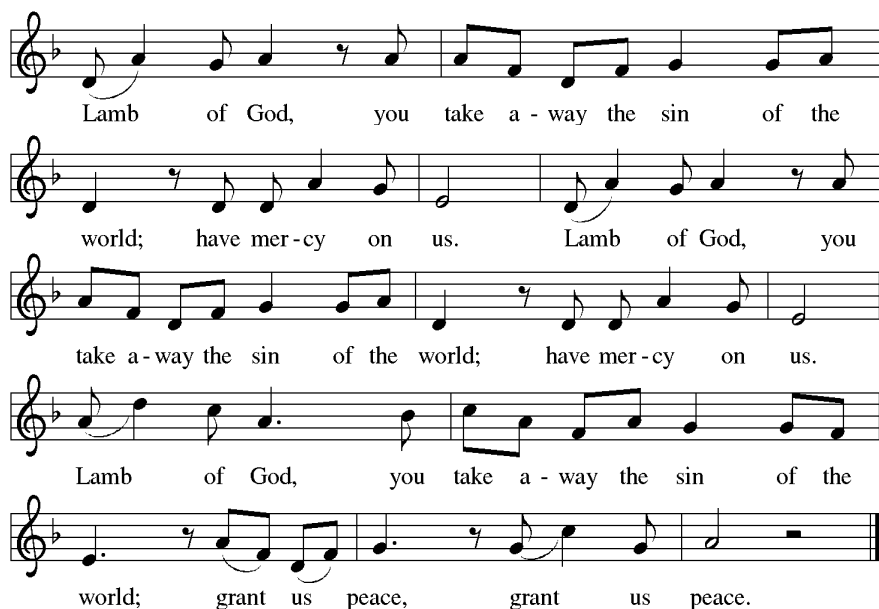
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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.



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**


***Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart..... LBW 486***

The musical score is written for four-part harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first four lines of the hymn. The second system covers the next four lines. The third system covers the final four lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling;  
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780–1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–1897

*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

If You but Trust in God to Guide You ..... LBW 453



1 If you but trust in God to guide you and place your  
2 What gain is there in fu - tile weep - ing, in help - less  
3 In pa - tient trust a - wait his lei - sure in cheer - ful  
4 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

con - fi - dence in him, you'll find him al - ways there be -  
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in his care and  
hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er your Fa - ther's  
ser - vice faith - ful - ly, and trust his word; though un - de -

side you, to give you hope and strength with - in. For those who  
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For he who  
plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love have sent; doubt not your  
serv - ing, you'll find his prom - ise true to be. God nev - er

trust God's change - less love build on the rock that will not move.  
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
in - most wants are known to him who chose you for his own.  
will for - sake in need the soul that trusts in him in - deed.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite, alt.  
Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark, 1621–1681

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



### **SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Fred Harbaugh, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ; **Lay Assistant:** Janet Stroble; **Communion Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Acolyte:** Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt **Greeters/Presenters:** Kathy Stiber, Nicole Morris; **Cantor:** Janet Stroble; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

### **IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Gary and Hali Fullmer by their family.

**The Sanctuary Lamp burns** in memory of Nancy Porter, by her 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.

**\*Reminder\* OFFICE HOURS for July, 9:00 am – Noon.**

**YOUTH GROUP LEADERS NEEDED:** Details are still being worked out, but it would be great to have someone volunteer soon so they can be part of the discussions and decision making. There are a number of fourth and fifth grade youth already interested, and we would also like to offer something for high school youth. Contact Kathryn Pratt at 570-244-6964 if you have any questions. Please prayerfully consider helping with this very worthwhile opportunity.

**Today we kick off the shopping portion** of our annual Lutheran World Relief School Kits mission project. 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**  
**REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING**  
**JARED GIST, ORGANIST**  
324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702  
(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

### **Who Is the Good Samaritan?**

The story of the good Samaritan is well known, even outside Christian communities. Some ministries are even named after it. However, showing love and care to others, especially strangers, can be complex. Like the lawyer who comes to Jesus in today's gospel, many seek to learn how to live a life of integrity. Answering the call to love God with all one's heart, mind, and soul, however, often leads to questions about what that means in the real world. This parable calls listeners to generosity in extending care beyond charity and helps expand the definition of *neighbor*. There continues to be a steady increase in homelessness and poverty in our country, and loving a neighbor as a "good Samaritan" can often feel impossible. Nevertheless, we are still called to care for the most vulnerable.

Alongside care, another dynamic emerges from this encounter between Jesus and the lawyer. This is also a story about Jesus expanding the notion of who is capable and "good." By highlighting an unlikely character who does the good thing, Jesus' answer to the lawyer's question, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29), gives the lawyer a chance to think about the stranger as just as capable of love as he is. Loving is not exclusive to a specific type of person; we are all capable of it.

The invitation, then, is not just to love the stranger who walks through the church doors, but to see them as just as capable of bringing love with them. Loving God with one's entire being also means trusting that everything God has made, especially our neighbor, has the potential to be an extension of divine love. Seeing others as just as capable of being the good Samaritan as we are diminishes the societal hierarchies and judgments that keep us from sharing in the splendor of God's love with one another. So, like the lawyer, may we be surprised by the generous care of a stranger as we seek to do the same.

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