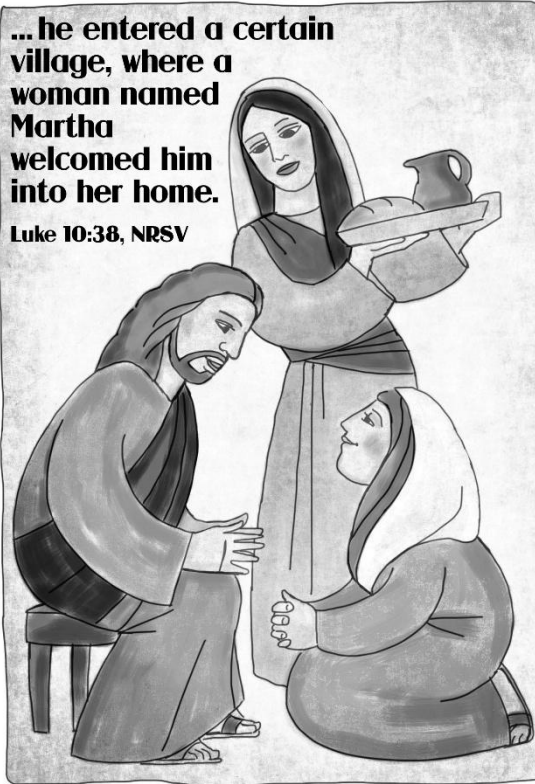


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE

**... he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.**

**Luke 10:38, NRSV**



✝ Holy Communion ✝

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20, 2025



**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

***Give Me Jesus* ..... Richard Billingham**

*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.

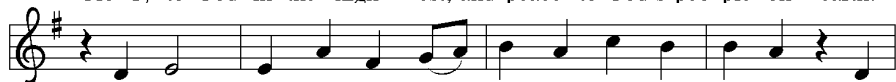
**C: Amen**

*Stand*



**HYMN OF PRAISE***Refrain*

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



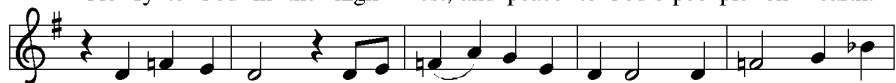
1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther, we



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



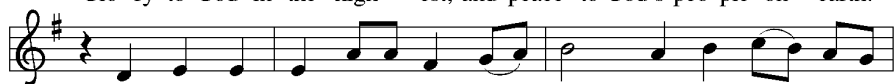
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



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.



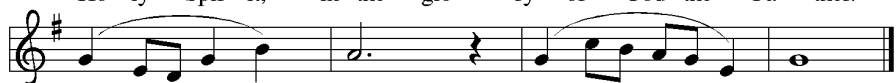
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



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.



A - men, a - men.

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

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen*Sit***WORD****FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a**

*The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.*

**A:** A Reading from Genesis:

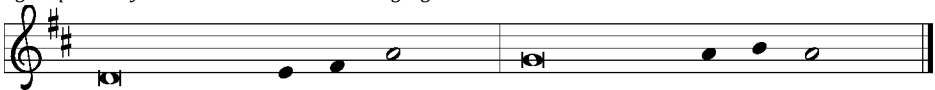
<sup>1</sup> The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10a</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

**A:** The word of the Lord.**C:** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 15***The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*

LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
who speak the truth | from their heart; R**<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those  
who | fear the LORD.****They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their  
word.**<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes  
a- | gainst the innocent.Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R****SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28***This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.***A:** A Reading from Colossians:

<sup>15</sup> Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;<sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to

present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him  
<sup>23</sup> provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

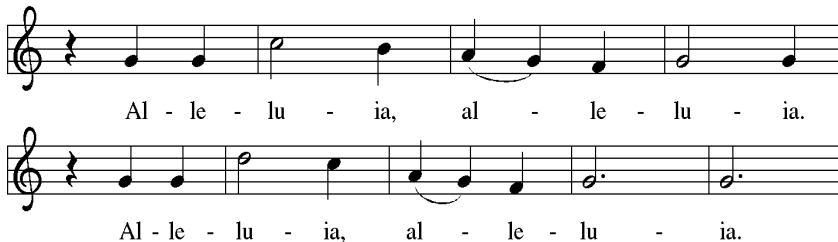
<sup>24</sup> I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup> I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**Cantor:** Blessed are those who hold the word fast in an honest <sup>†</sup> and good heart,\* and bear fruit with pa- <sup>†</sup> tient endurance.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias

### **GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42**

*During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.*

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

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

<sup>38</sup> Now as Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and

listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup> there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

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

Sit

**SERMON** .....Janet Strobl

Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *Be Thou My Vision*



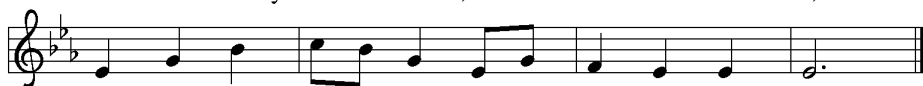
1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.



**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.*

**ANTHEM**

***A Joyful Medley..... Ethel Rogers***

*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.

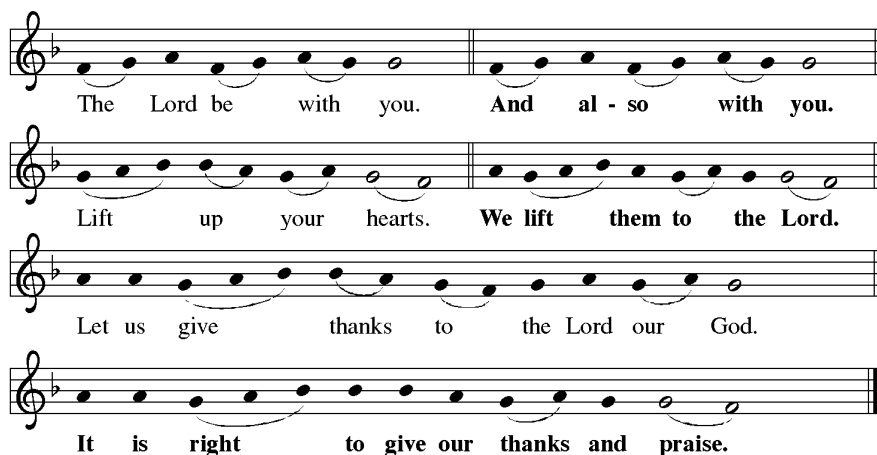
**C**: Creator God,

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.

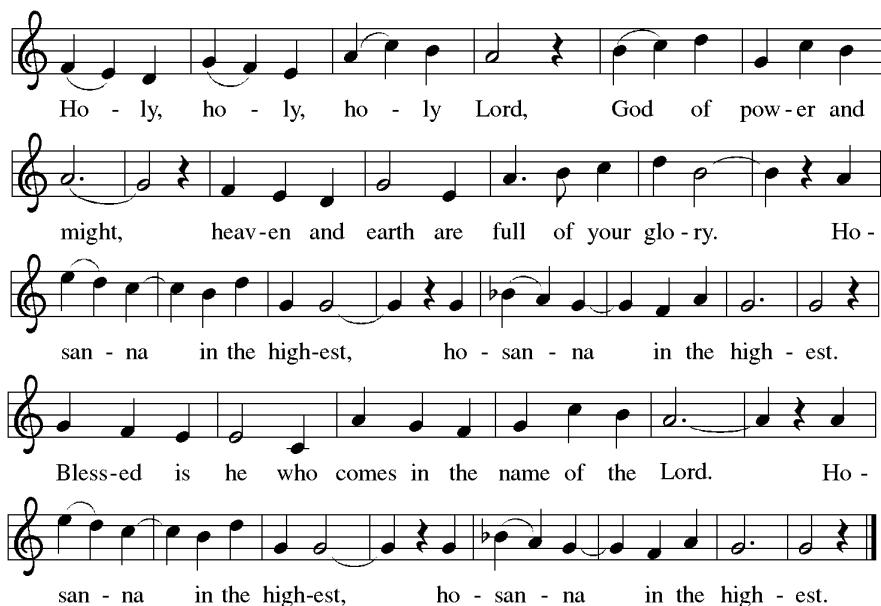
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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.

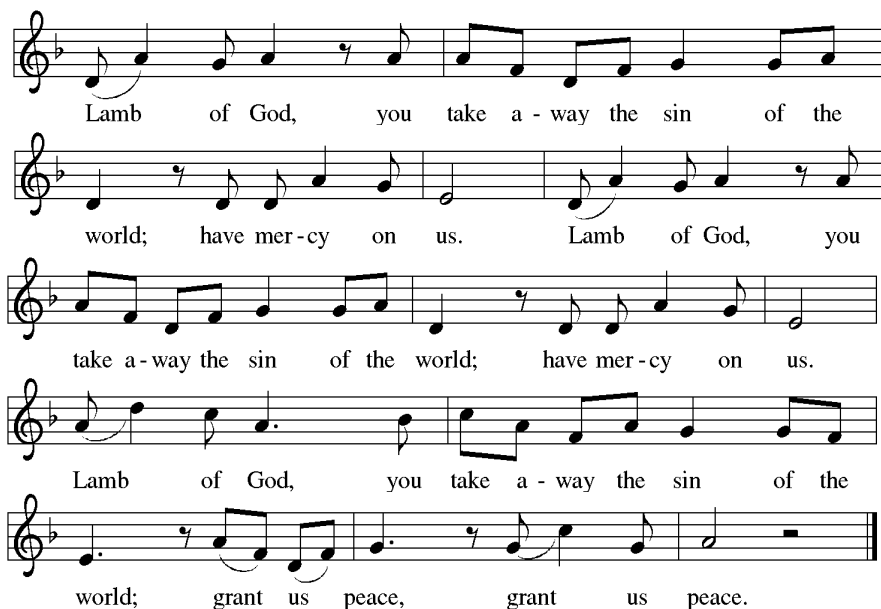
Give us this day our daily bread  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.

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

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor .....LBW 172



1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, first - be -  
2 Though the low - liest form now veil you as of  
3 Pas - chal Lamb, your of - f'ring, fin - ished once for  
4 Life - im - part - ing heav'n - ly man - na, strick - en

got - ten from the dead, you a - lone, our strong de -  
old in Beth - le - hem, here as there your an - gels  
all when you were slain, in its full - ness un - di -  
rock with stream - ing side, heav'n and earth with loud ho -

fend - er, lift - ing up your peo - ple's head. Al - le -  
hail you, branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem. Al - le -  
min - ished shall for - ev - er - more re - main, Al - le -  
san - na wor - ship you, the Lamb who died, Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! cleans - ing souls from  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! ris'n, as - cend - ed,

liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!  
 join with them; we in wor - ship join with them.  
 ev - 'ry stain; cleans - ing souls from ev - 'ry stain.  
 glo - ri - fied; ris'n, as - cend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

Text: George H. Bourne, 1840–1925

Music: BRYN CALFARIA, William Owen, 1814–1893

*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

SENDING OF THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

**P:** Gracious God,  
loving all your family with a mother’s tender care:  
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,  
assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth.  
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom  
we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of  
your Son we may all know the comfort of your abiding  
presence.

**C:** Amen

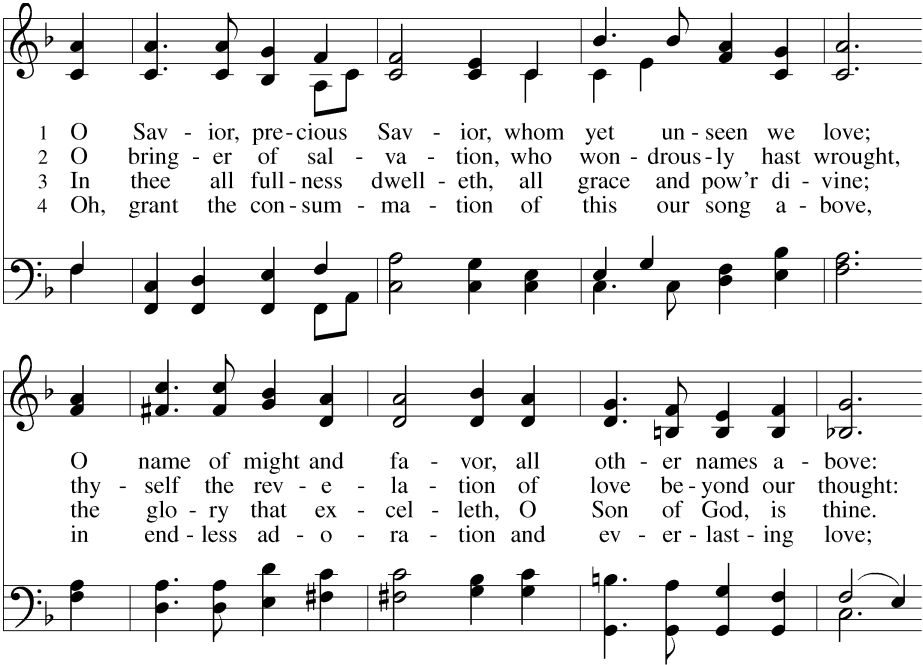
BLESSING

**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

*O Savior, Precious Savior..... LBW 514*



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;  
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,  
3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;  
4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove;  
thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought;  
the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.  
in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;  
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;  
We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;  
then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,

we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.  
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.  
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.  
and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Trumpet Voluntary*.....John W. Becker



### **SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Fred Harbaugh, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ; **Lay Assistant:** Dave Bausinger; **Communion Assistant:** Mandy Feinberg **Acolyte:** Jonathan Hess; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter **Greeters/Presenters:** AL Cole, Judy Berfield; **Cantor:** Carol Waltz **Flower Delivery:** Marilyn Winter; **Organist:** Carol Waltz

### **IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William F. Gilbert Sr. by his wife Suzanne 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 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.

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

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

**We started our kickoff** of our annual Lutheran World Relief School Kits mission project last Sunday. 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)

### **Paying Attention in a Distracted World**

Our attention is a valuable thing, and what we pay attention to matters. The tech industry employs more than 12 million people in the United States and generates over 10 percent of the total US GDP. While we might think their innovative apps, devices, and software are the industry's biggest money-makers, the truth is that human attention is the real cash cow. The attention economy knows how valuable our attention really is, and social media and tech companies work hard to glean as much of it as possible, mostly for advertisers, setting the stage for overwhelming distraction.

Martha, after inviting Jesus into her home, becomes distracted by her many tasks. She has her attention diverted from the presence and preaching of Jesus right in front of her. The experience of distraction is certainly one we can relate to, especially living in an attention economy. Like Martha, we can have our attention diverted at a moment's notice by seemingly endless and urgent checklists, projects, social media, and more. And like Martha, we can become so ensnared by our distractions that we simply accept them as priorities despite the better parts in front of us.

But Jesus speaks a word of grace to Martha and to us, reminding us that worry and distraction need not consume us. That the saving love of Jesus casts out all fear and sets us free to pay attention to the kingdom of God breaking in all around us. With the assurance of God's love, we can embrace a posture of attention, setting down needless distractions in favor of "the better part" (Luke 10:42), the presence of God in our daily lives. We can devote our valuable attention to a conversation with our neighbor, to prayer and spiritual practice, to the beauty of table fellowship, and to being fully present in worship. Most importantly, we can pay attention to the love of God, which raises us to new life every day.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24158. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted Hymns by permission of OneLicense.net #A-712396 and CCLI #11444333.