

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 2025



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

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

GATHERING HYMN

Lord of LightLBW 405

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.
Music: ABBOT’S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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.

3

HYMN OF PRAISE*Refrain*

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



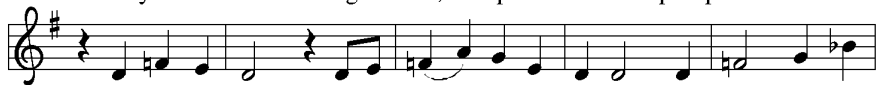
1 Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



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

Refrain

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



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



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



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

Refrain

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



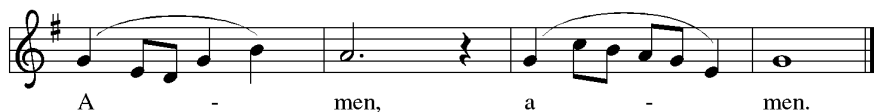
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

A: A Reading from Genesis:

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to

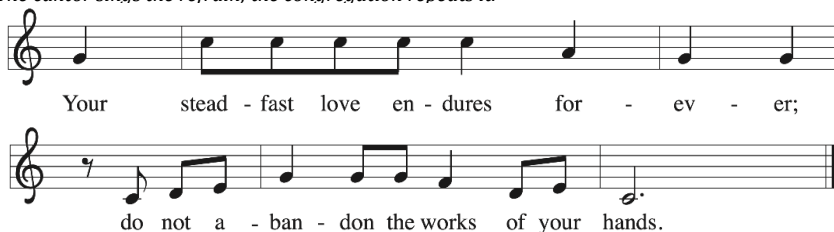
“speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 138

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.
- ² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all
things. R**
- ³ When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.
- ⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**
- ⁵ They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.
- ⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar. R**
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your
right | hand shall save me.
- ⁸ **You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works | of your hands. R**

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-19

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

A: A Reading from Colossians:

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find;* knock, and the door will be opened to you.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil,

know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON.....Janet Stroble

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *Day by Day*



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

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

Down to the River to Pray George H. Allen

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,

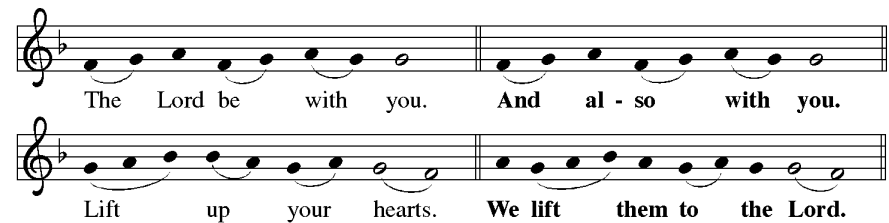
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.

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.

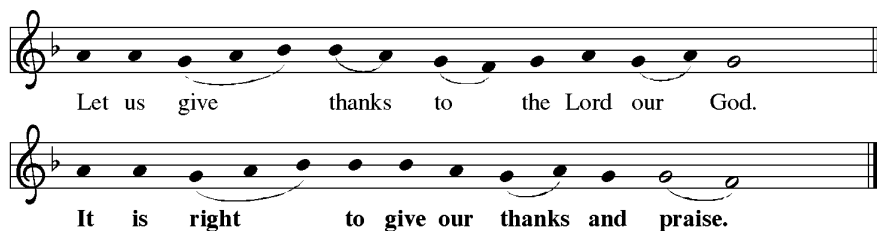
Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING



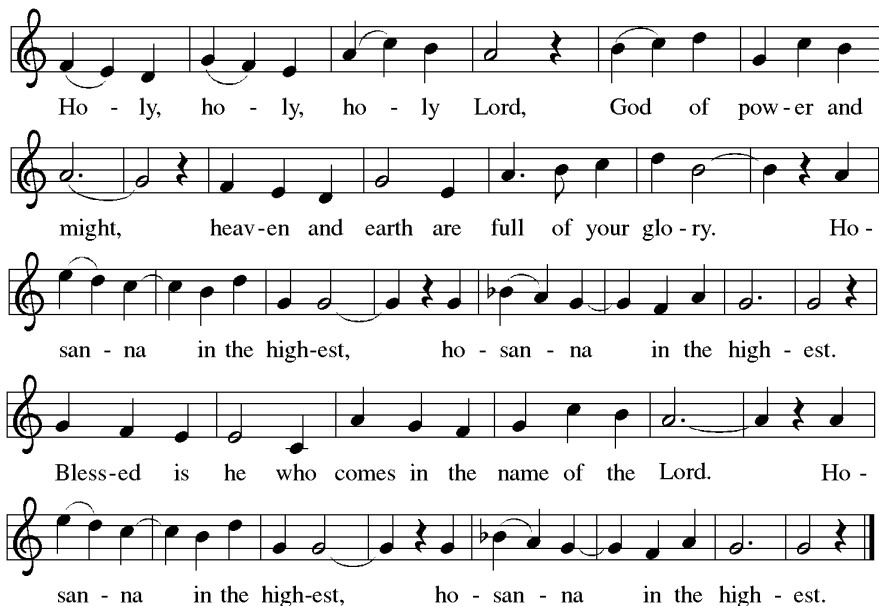
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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



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:



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:

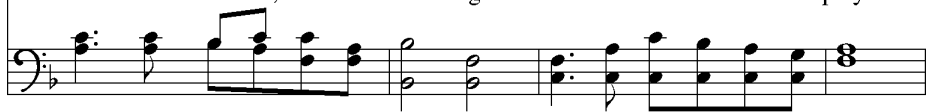
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The communicant may say: Amen

COMMUNION HYMN
What a Friend We Have in Jesus.....LBW 439

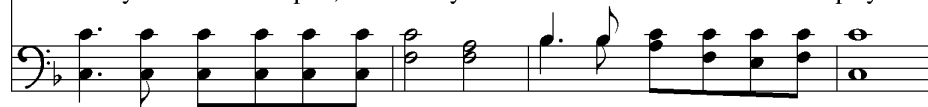
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.



Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

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.

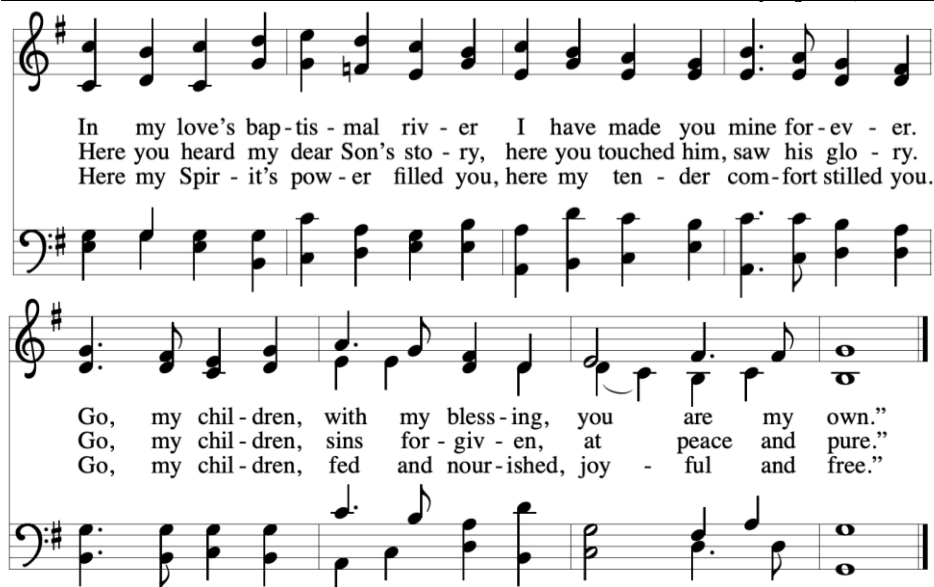
C: Amen***SENDING*****BLESSING**

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*****Go, My Children, with My Blessing***

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-ev-er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry, here you touched him, saw his glo-ry.
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you, here my ten-der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906

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:** Anita Bair; **Communion Assistant:** Candy Watkins; **Acolyte:** Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Marie Welter, April Gardner; **Greeters/Presenters:** Mary Schultz
Cantor: Candy Watkins; **Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Karen Hockman Thomas, who passed away 14 years ago, August 3rd by her sister Linda and nephews Matthew, Michael and grandson Michael who is currently in the military.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dennis Ream on the third-year anniversary of his passing July 28, 2022, by his wife Sandy and children Dennis Jr., Kelley and their families.

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.

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

Our Prayer

The disciples' request that Jesus teach them to pray reveals a touching vulnerability. Jesus responds with an invitation into a prayer brimming with gratitude and expectation for the care and intimacy of the divine Parent. While the Lord's Prayer may be familiar, each time we pray it, it still possesses the grace to speak a new word to us and draw forth a desire we were not aware of. Martin Luther felt that Christians who prayed the Lord's Prayer each day, or even portions of it, could be certain their prayer would be more than adequate.

The Lord's Prayer is not the prayer of an individual but of a collective. The prayer begins with "Our Father," not "My Father," and petitions God to address *our* hunger, *our* sins, and *our* practice of forgiveness. Prayer of all kinds, including the Lord's Prayer, is not simply a private conversation between God and an individual, but a unique harmony in the immense choir of those set free in Jesus. Every time we turn our hearts to God in prayer, we do so with and alongside the entire body of Christ.

It's easy in our culture today to dismiss prayer or to trivialize it as empty wishes. And when prayer is offered as a cynical gesture in response to real pain and suffering, such dismissal seems understandable. But the truly countercultural nature of our prayer is our trust that God receives and responds to our praise, petition, and lament, that our persistence and perseverance in prayer are not in vain. The God who gives us our daily bread, forgives us our sins, and saves us from the time of trial hears our prayers animated by the trust that God will be faithful and will keep God's promises. This prayer then becomes for us a spark of hope that guides our daily action and our faith that God is making all things new and inviting us into this redemptive work.

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