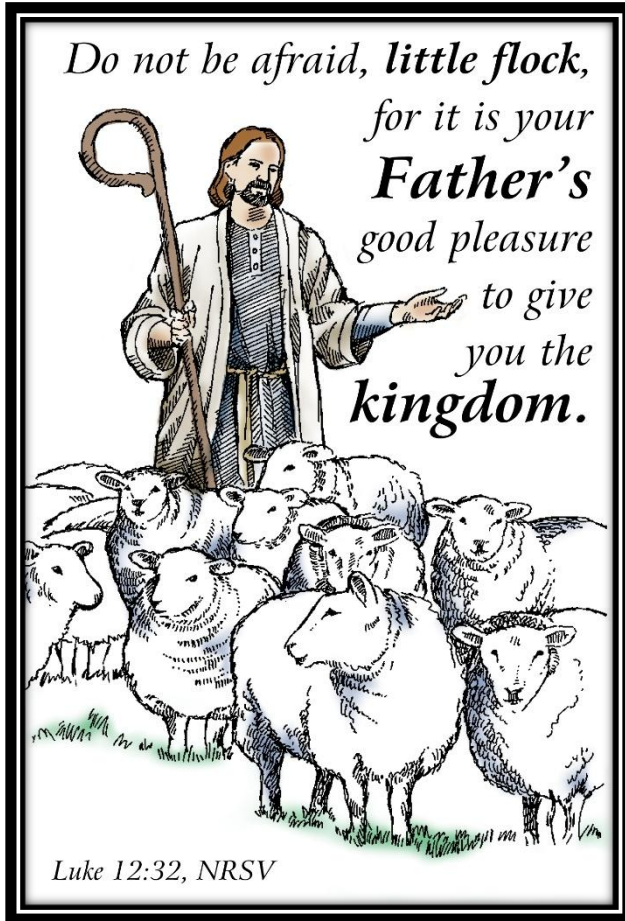


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Voluntary Fugue and Voluntary.....Selby

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**

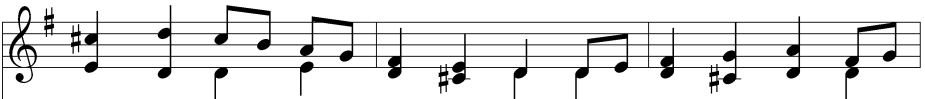
Stand

GATHERING HYMN


Awake, My Soul, and with the SunLBW 269



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741–1808

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

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



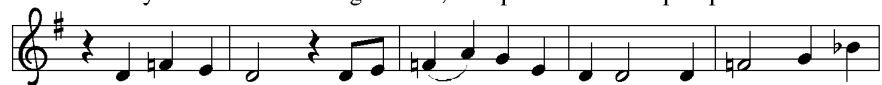
1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



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



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



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



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



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



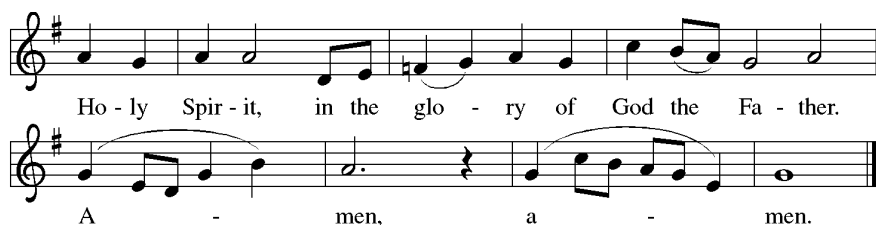
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

A: A Reading from Genesis:

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision,
"Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield;
your reward shall be very great."

² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me,
for I continue childless,
and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring,
so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him,
"This man shall not be your heir;
no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

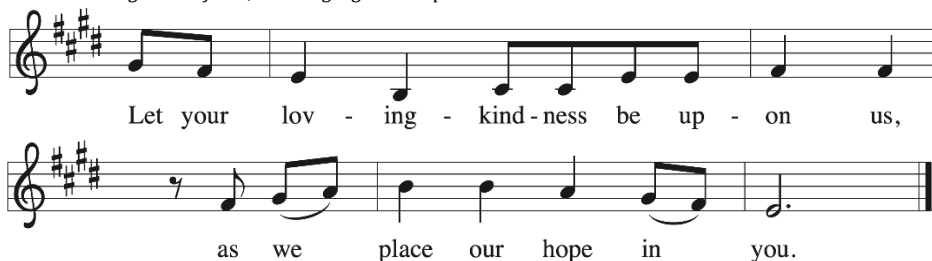
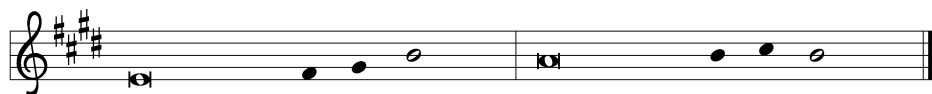
⁵ He brought him outside and said,
"Look toward heaven and count the stars,
if you are able to count them."

Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.**Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*

- ¹² Happy is the nation whose God | is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to | be God's heritage!
- ¹³ **The LORD looks | down from heaven,
and sees all | humankind.**
- ¹⁴ God sits firmly en- | throned and watches
all who dwell | on the earth.
- ¹⁵ **God fashions | all their hearts
and observes | all their deeds. R**
- ¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size | of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by | their great strength.
- ¹⁷ **The horse gives vain | hope for victory;
despite its great strength it | cannot save.**
- ¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear | you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,
- ¹⁹ **to deliver their | lives from death,
and to keep them alive in | time of famine. R**
- ²⁰ Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,
our helper | and our shield.
- ²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,
for in your holy name we | put our trust.**
- ²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,
even as we place our | hope in you. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

A: A Reading from Hebrews:

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of
God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed
when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an
inheritance,
and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised,
as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob,
who were heirs with him of the same promise.

¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations,
whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation,
even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had
promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead,
descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the
innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises,
but from a distance they saw and greeted them.

They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,
¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a
homeland.

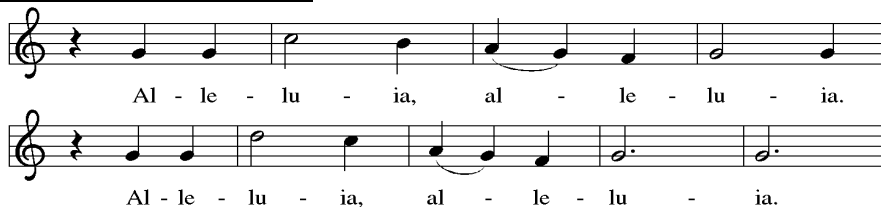
¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind,
they would have had opportunity to return.

¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one.
Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God;
indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Keep awake | and be ready, * for you do not know on what day
your | Lord is coming.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

Stand

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[P]: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock,
for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

³³ Sell your possessions and give alms.

Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out,
an unfailing treasure in heaven,
where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;

³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the
wedding banquet,

so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes;
truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat,
and he will come and serve them.

³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn
and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ "But know this:

if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁰ You also must be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON..... Janet Stroble

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Master, Let Me Walk with You..... LBW 492

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

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

I've Been Changed..... Mosie Lister

Bob Schweppenheiser/Mike Yoder

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.

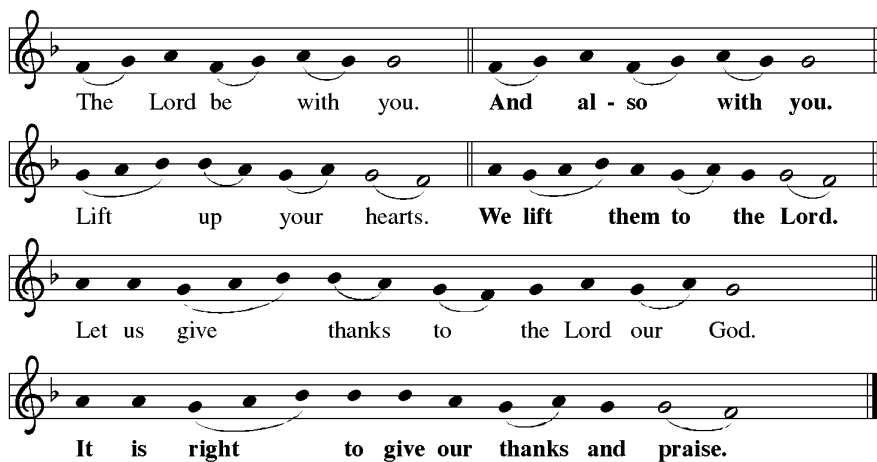
C: Creator God,

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

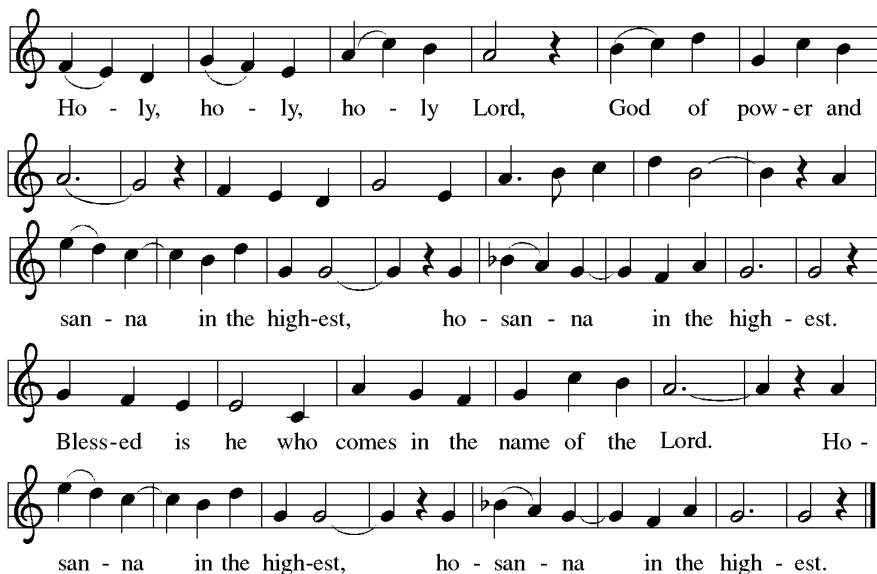
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,

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:



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

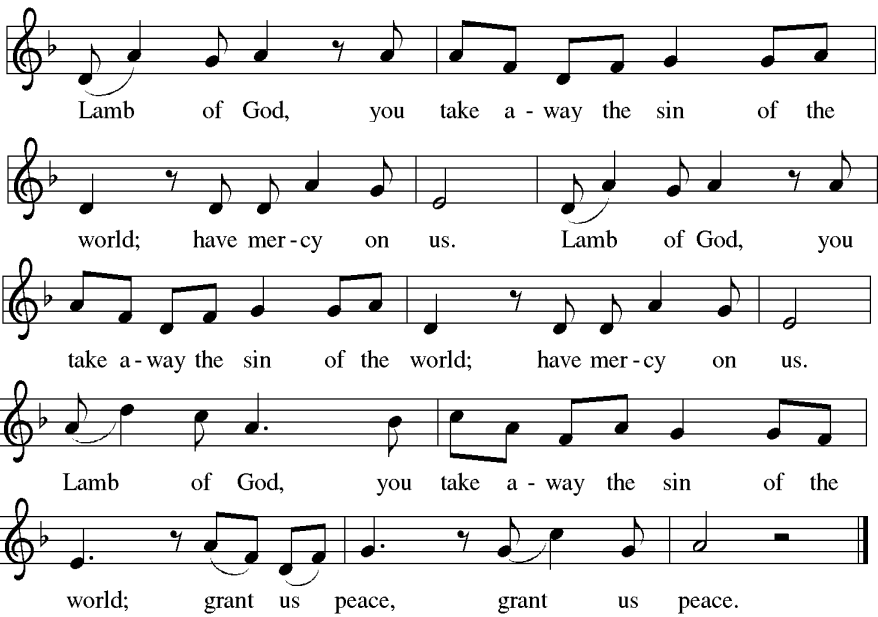
LORD'S PRAYER

**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
The King of Love My Shepherd Is.....LBW 456



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past **LBW 320**



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

I will Sing of my Redeemer **arr. Becky S. Mayo**

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Communion Assistant:** Sherri Holtzman; **Acolyte:** Brennen Hess; **Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kiaser; **Greeters/Presenters:** Mary Schultz, Ron Yeagle; **Cantor:** Virginia Amme; **Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert
Pianist: Candy Watkins

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Munro and Gladys Webb Munro on the anniversary of their wedding, August 15, 1941, by their nephews, Nelson, John, Gary, Any and their 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.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits Update!

The response to our collection this year has once again been overwhelmingly heartwarming. The Spirit is truly at work in you! *God is great ... all the time!*

What is still needed?

♥ 70-page spiral notebooks

♥ **24-pack Crayons (basic colors)**

♥ **UN-sharpened pencils.**

♥ **safety scissors (blunt ends)**

Please note: We have enough erasers. If you have already purchased some of these, please bring them in. We can use them this year if we exceed our goal or save them for next year.

Most Needed: Notebooks and Monetary Donations – As we near the end, monetary donations are especially helpful to aid us in buying supplies to even out the piles. Please make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church with LWR School Kits in the memo line. Cash should be placed in an envelope marked LWR School Kits.

One week left to shop! Items due by August 17th!!

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702
(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Always Ready

For which events are you always prepared? Perhaps the coffee is always on in your house, awaiting the unannounced guest at any hour. Or perhaps you always have your passport up to date, ready to take advantage of that spur-of-the-moment vacation deal that arrives in your inbox. Being prepared for what life brings us, knowing we're ready to tackle whatever comes our way, can give us a sense of security.

Today's gospel reading takes the idea of readiness to divine proportions as Jesus reminds the disciples to be prepared for God's inbreaking at any moment. How are we prepared for God to show up in our everyday life? How are we prepared to encounter God being at work, even now?

God's kingdom is like a grand wedding party where everyone is invited and has a light to shine. God's realm is like a gigantic feast where all are fed and no one goes away empty. God's reign is one in which humanity can invest in things that last, instead of hoarding for lean times, because in the community of God there is enough for all so we never need to be afraid.

While many people might hear this reading as referring only to Christ's final coming, in our liturgy we are reminded that Christ arrives in many and various ways all the time. We are blessed by the Holy Spirit in the waters of baptism, in the bread and wine of the Eucharist, in the face of our neighbors as we greet one another with God's overwhelming peace.

The kingdom of God is always at hand, breaking through the ordinary and mundane in extraordinary ways. Today we are reminded to be ready for it, to look for it, to anticipate it with fearless expectation. So, how are we ready to encounter Christ today?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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