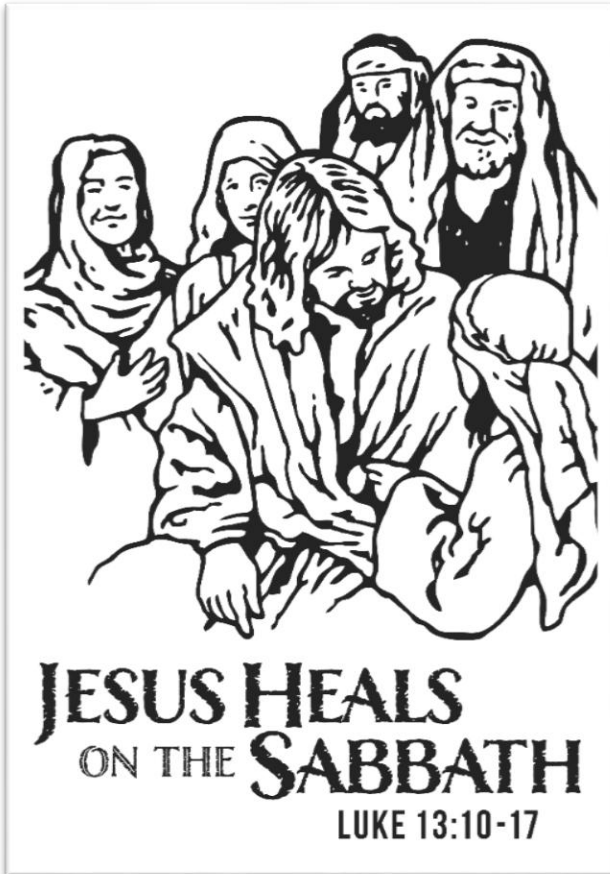


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Remember the Sabbath day. Call the Sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

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

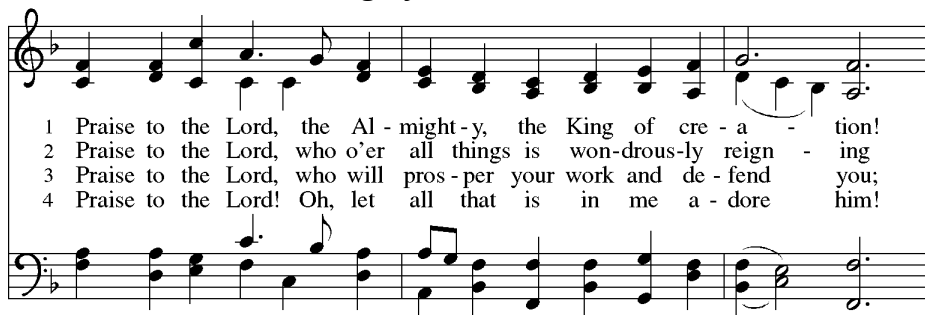
P: Merciful God,

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

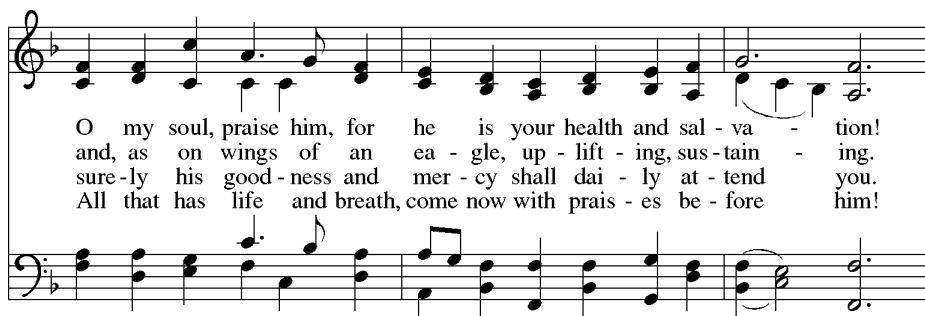
P: You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen

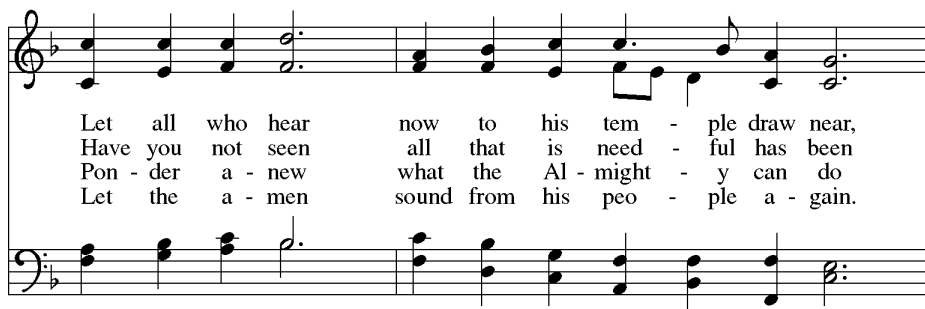
Stand

GATHERING HYMN***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*.....LBW 543**


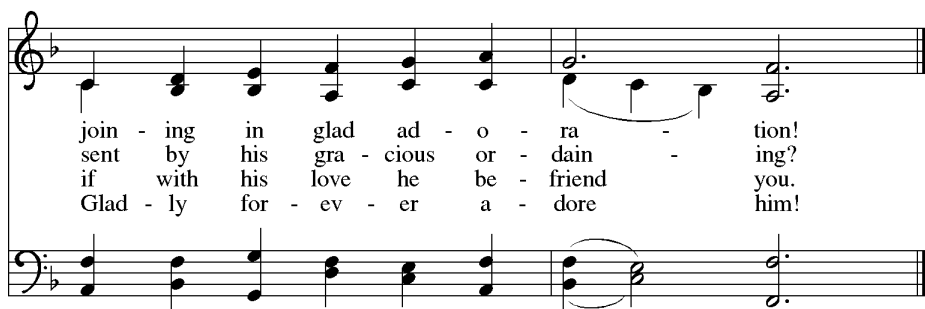
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus-tain - ing.
 sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai - ly at-tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend - you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!


APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

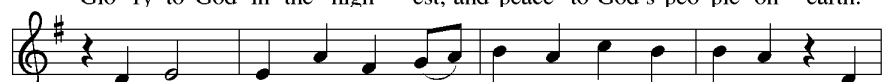
G: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



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




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

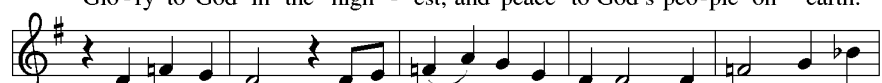


wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

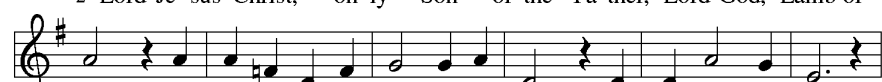
Refrain



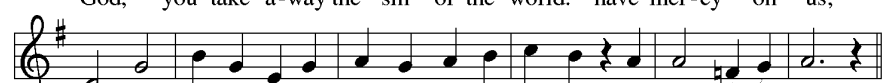
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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




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

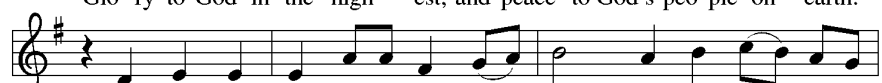


you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

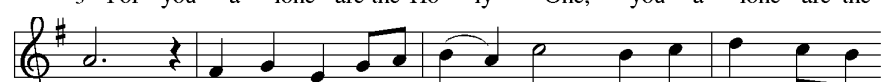
Refrain



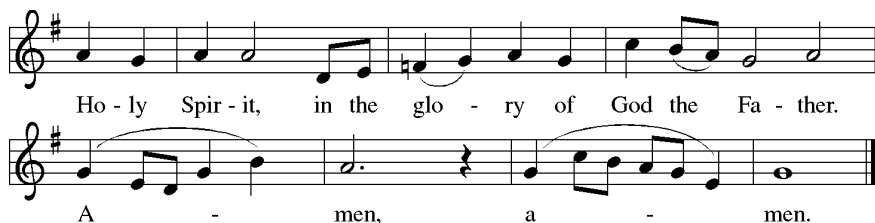
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

A: A Reading from Isaiah:

- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;

if you call the Sabbath a delight
 and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
 if you honor it, not going your own ways,
 serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD,
 and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
 I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

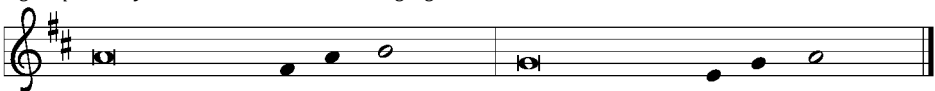
PSALM: Psalm 103:1-8

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



The LORD crowns you with mer - cy and stead - fast love.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- ¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
 and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
 and forget not | all God's benefits—**
- ³ who forgives | all your sins
 and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave
 and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R**
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
 so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide | vindication
 and justice for all who | are oppressed.**
- ⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
 and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
 slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

A: A Reading from Hebrews:

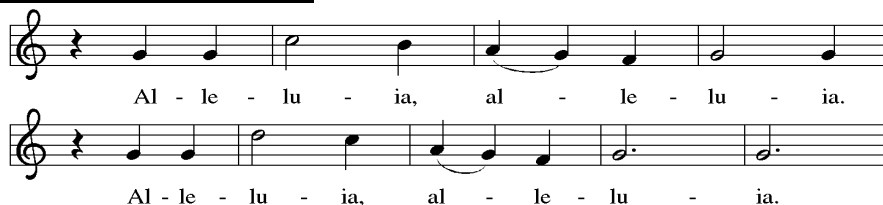
¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: The crowd | was rejoicing* at the wonderful things that Je- | sus was doing.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

Stand

GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the Sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "Sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON..... Ray Huff

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

***O, Happy Day When We Shall Stand*..... LBW 351**



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand in heav - en with the
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him - self as
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and love and
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has made us



saved; all peo - ples at the Lord's right hand shall
 Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which
 peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
 free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



find their names en - graved, shall find their names en - graved.
 Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
 bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
 glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

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): Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for
 God is near.

After each petition:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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

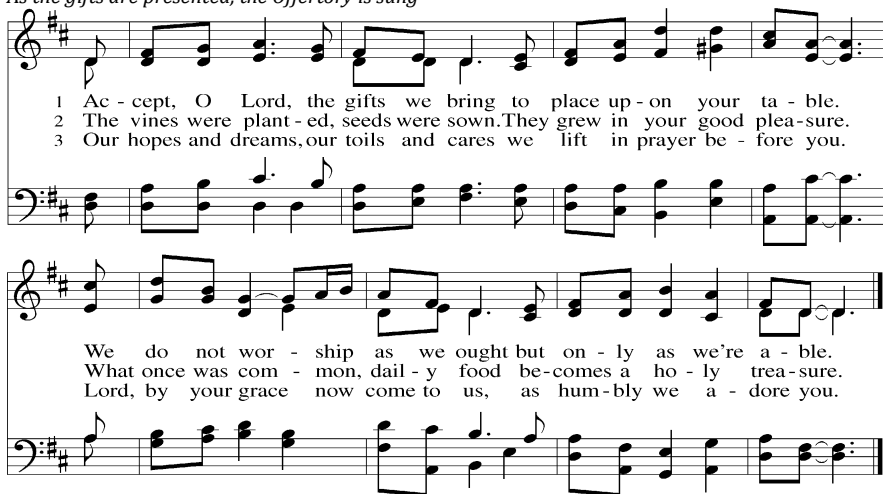
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling Will Thompson/William Cutter

Virginia Amme – Soloist

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.

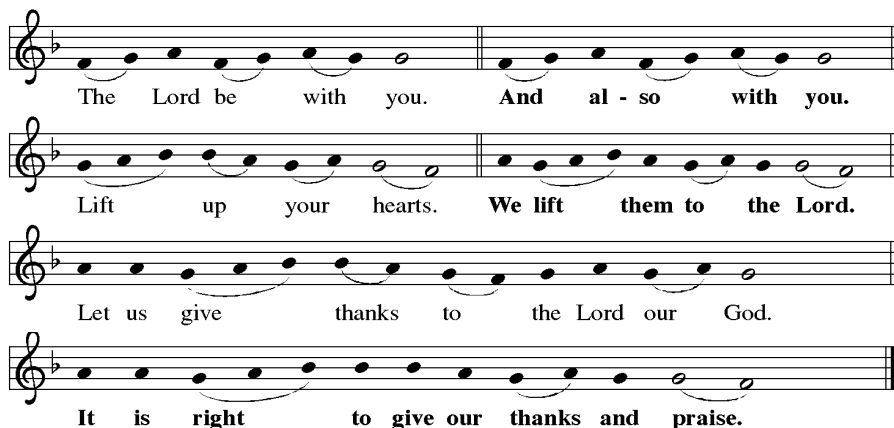
We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

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.

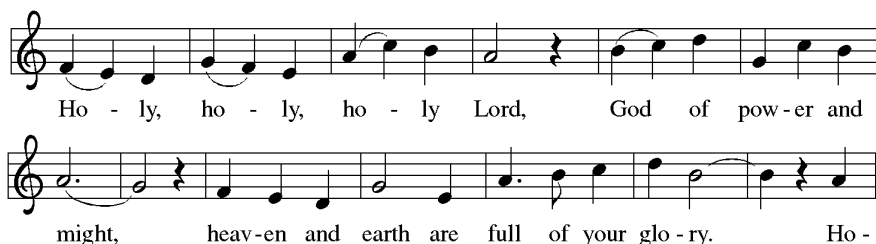
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

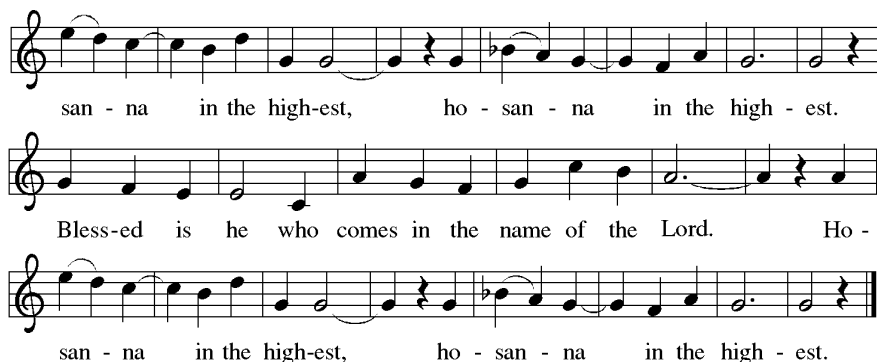
PREFACE

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 -



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.

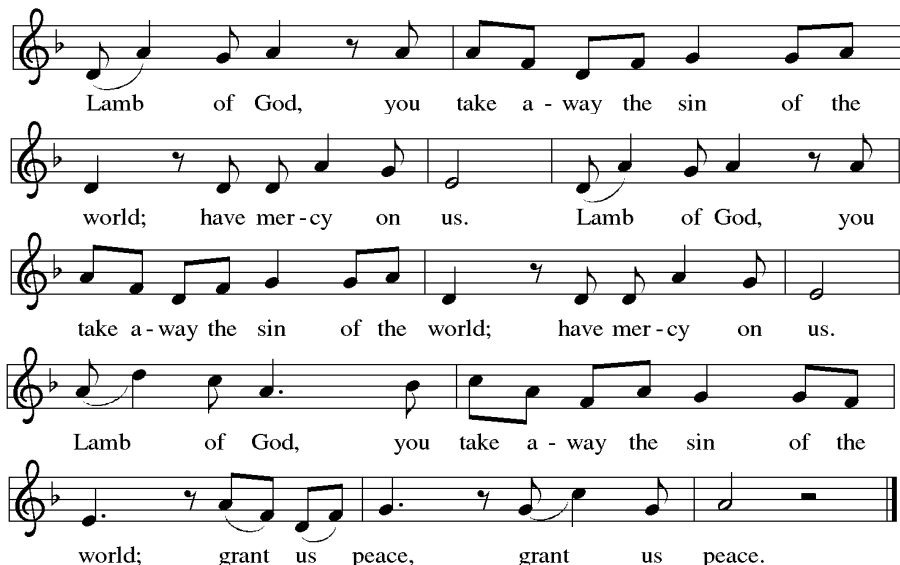
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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***We Come to You for Healing, Lord***

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

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Stand

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

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

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; he sets the pris - 'ner free.
5 To God all glor - y, praise, and love be now and ev - er giv'n

the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul - est clean; his blood a - vails for me.
by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Carola Storrs ; **Communion Assistant:** Mary Schultz; **Acolyte:** Jonathan Hess; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter; **Greeters/Presenters:** Carol Winter, Marilyn Winter; **Cantor:** Candy Watkins; **Flower Delivery:** Cindy Bennett

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Gary and Connie Hess on their 53rd wedding anniversary, September 2nd, with love from their family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of McClellen and Esther Denius by 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 Ray Huff, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Ray 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.

Messiah's Women of the ELCA are once again asking for "good used shoes" for **SOLES4SOULS** ... shoes for children and adults. **The campaign runs from August 13 thru September 14 with a goal of collecting 200 pairs of shoes.** Please put your donations in the blue bin. Children's shoes are especially needed ... wearing shoes enables a child to attend school in a Third World country.

Please join us for our Welcome Back Picnic on Sunday, September 7th in Shaheen Hall. This year we will be recognizing all of our volunteers with in the church. How many volunteers are there? Come to the picnic and see for yourself.

Singing Our Praise to God - Choir rehearsals will start on **Thursday, September 4 at 7:00 pm**. We hope you will consider adding your voice to our worship services.

Save the Date! Saturday, September 27, 5:00 p.m. – Pack-A-Sack Event

This is when we finally see all the work we have done come to fruition. Members of the congregation, those who attended Bible School, and friends are invited to join us for a pizza supper and to pack the bags assembly-line style. All ages may take part, but we ask that anyone under grade 3 be accompanied/supervised by an adult. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex soon. *We are really going to need all hands on deck this year - plan now to join the fun!*



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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

Break the Rules

Have you ever encountered a rule or regulation that just didn't make any sense to you? What did you do? Did you follow the rule, or did you break it? And if you broke it, did you tell anyone that you did? Or did you quietly chafe against the norm?

In the reading from Luke for today, we find Jesus preaching in the temple on the day of rest and, seemingly on a whim, deciding to break the rules in front of everyone. The outrage of some people in the crowd might have come honestly, of course. Practicing their faith was a serious matter, and for many that meant carefully following the rules.

For many people today in our own communities of faith, following the rules is still a serious matter. But what if the rules prevent God's love from being shared or prevent grace from being shown? What if the rules effectively exclude rather than include?

God's loving grace is wild and free, overcoming obstacles and breaking through boundaries. Death cannot stop God's resurrecting love. Locked doors cannot stop the risen Christ. And today we see that not even religious rules can or should limit God's freeing grace.

Our gospel reading for today doesn't invite us to break the rules per se, but it does invite us to look at the rules, especially those related to our faith, and to think critically about them. How do the ways we organize ourselves and our communities extend God's grace and love, and in what ways might they prevent God's love from being shown and shared?

The God seen in Jesus intends to free humanity from the things that bind us. We see that clearly in Christ, who not only preaches God's grace but publicly reaches out with that same grace to heal and help and love. Even if it means breaking some rules.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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