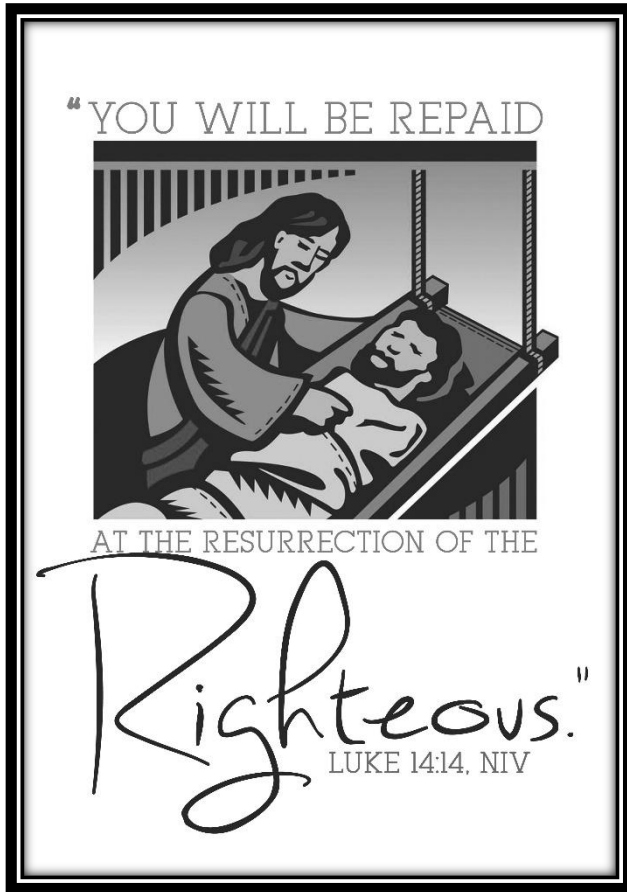


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025



12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

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 *O God Beyond All Praising*

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,
 and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;
 for we can on-ly won-der at the ev-'ry gift you send,
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,
 at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:
 we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,
 we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.



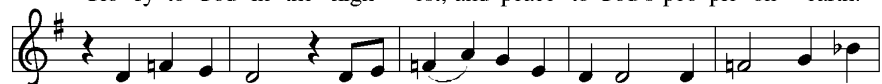
1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther, we



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.



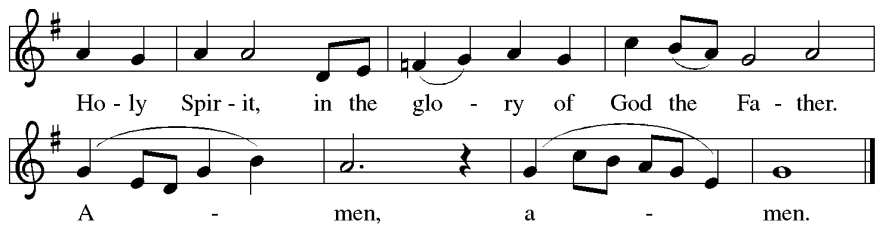
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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.
O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen
Sit

WORD

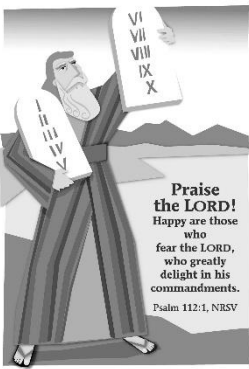
FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

A: A Reading from Isaiah:

6 Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
7a for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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



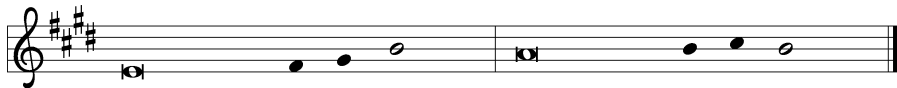
PSALM: Psalm 112

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



The right-eous are mer-ci-ful and full of com-pas-sion.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!
- ² **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;**
the generation of the upright | will be blessed. R
- ³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶ **For they will nev- | er be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance. R
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,**
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast
forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.
- ¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth**
and | pine away;
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

A: A Reading from Hebrews:

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

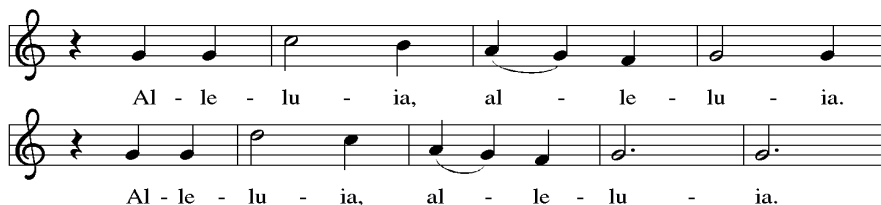
What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Take my yoke upon you, and I learn from me; * for I am gentle and hum- I ble in heart.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

Stand

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

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

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit
SERMON.....Janet Stroble

Stand
HYMN OF THE DAY *As We Gather at Your Table*



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'As We Gather at Your Table'. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: 1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word, 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life; 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

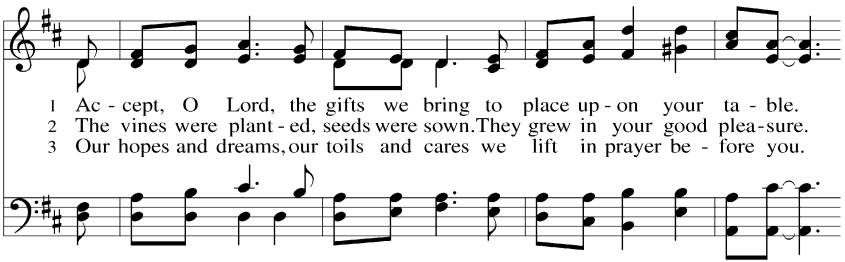
***He Knows My Name*..... Tommy Walker**

Bob Schweppenheiser

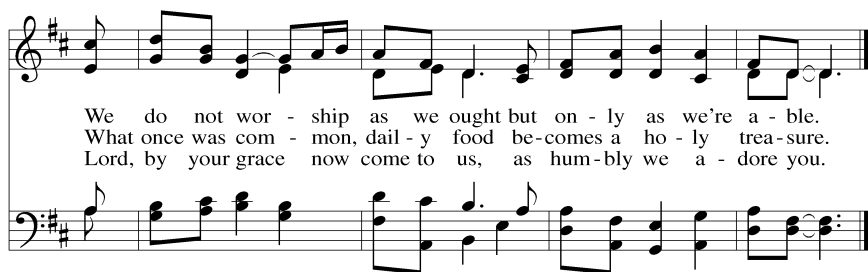
Stand

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.



OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Creator God,

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

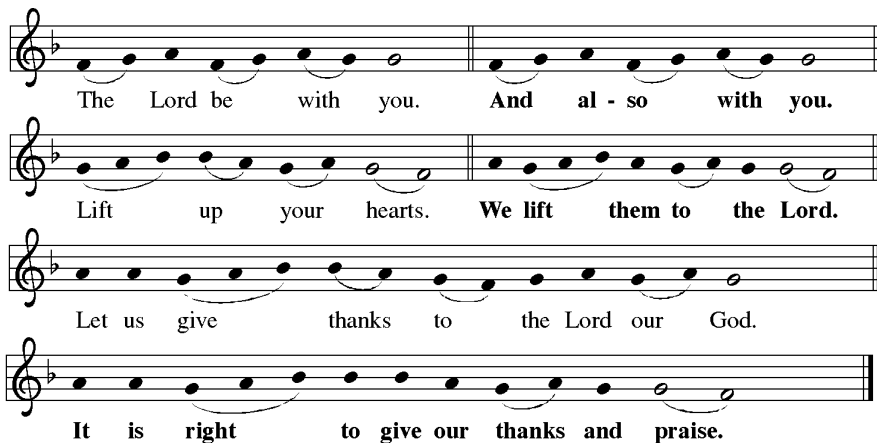
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
 and our labor,

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:

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.

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

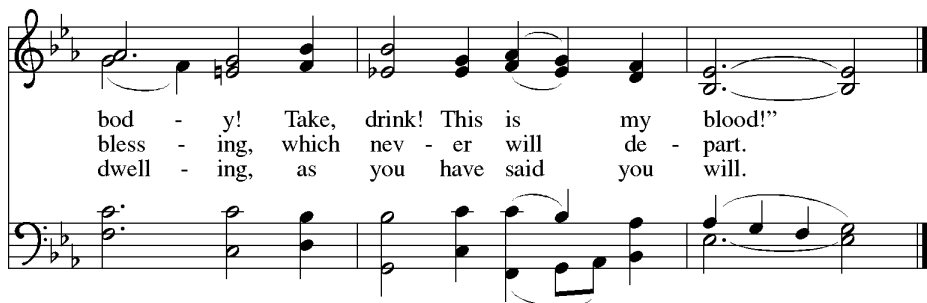
COMMUNION HYMN

Around You, O Lord JesusLBW 496

1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath

to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—

You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my
It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your
de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple



bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"
 bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
 dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite
 Music: O JESU, ÅN DE DINA, H. Thomassön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,



Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

G: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** David Bausinger; **Communion Assistant:** Candy Watkins; **Acolyte:** Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Marie Welter, April Gardner; **Greeters/Presenters:** Fred and Meg Harbaugh; **Cantor:** Bob Schweppenheiser; **Flower Delivery:** Marilyn Wimter

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lawrence and Alice Gee's wedding anniversary, with love by Debbie and Carl Gee.

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.

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!*

Preschool Mums Fundraiser! It's time to order your fall mums. This is our **Sixth** year working with the Potting Bench for our Mums Fundraiser and the mums have been beautiful! The **\$10 tickets** for the mums will be available the next few Sundays after worship in the Narthex or church office. For more information, contact Linda Miller at 570-326-5405. You will be able to take your tickets to the Potting Bench at 324 Matthews Blvd. in S. Williamsport and choose your very own 9-inch potted mum(s). **THANK YOU for your support!**

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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

Did You Get the Invitation?

Choosing the invitation design for an important event can be nerve-wracking. But deciding whom to invite? Whittling down the list of desired attendees can be even more difficult than choosing the invitation itself. So much stress.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus uses a dinner party as a teaching opportunity. In the ancient world, being invited to such an occasion was an honor, but figuring out where to sit once you arrived required a whole other stress-inducing decision. How embarrassing it would be to choose a place of prominence, only to discover you're not that important and have to move down the table. How disappointing it would be to invite someone to your party but not receive an invitation to their next gathering. (Is that why you invited them, anyway?) So many of these social games we continue to play.

You might say that Jesus takes the stress out of party-planning because he encourages us to take an honest and humble view of it all: the view from God's vantage point. In the realm of God, the last in the eyes of the world are first, and the first, last.

In the kingdom of God, roles are reversed, orders are disrupted, and convention is thrown out the window so all may know the grace, peace, and love of God. The divine Host throws amazing parties and desires everyone, especially those overlooked by the party-throwers and powerbrokers of the world, to have a chance to enjoy them.

Today's gospel reading reminds us that at God's table, everyone is invited and no one goes away empty. The party is freely offered and not a setting for social games. The table has no head and no foot but, rather, is a cloud of witnesses gathered around the life of the Crucified and Risen One.

The Eucharist is the prime example of this feast. Did you get the invitation? Because you're invited!

From 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.