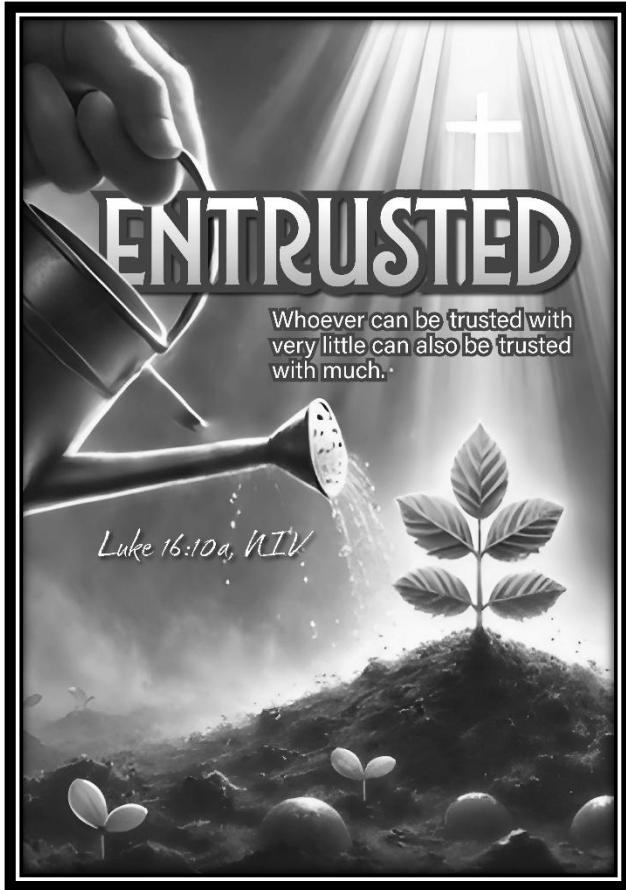


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025



*As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.*

### **GATHERING**

### **PRELUDE**

*Stand*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**C:** Amen

**P:** Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Kneel*

**P:** Merciful and loving God,

**C:** we are your stiff-necked people.

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**

**and have been found.**

**Amen**

**P:** Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C:** Amen

*Stand*

### **GATHERING HYMN    *Son of God, Eternal Savior***

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

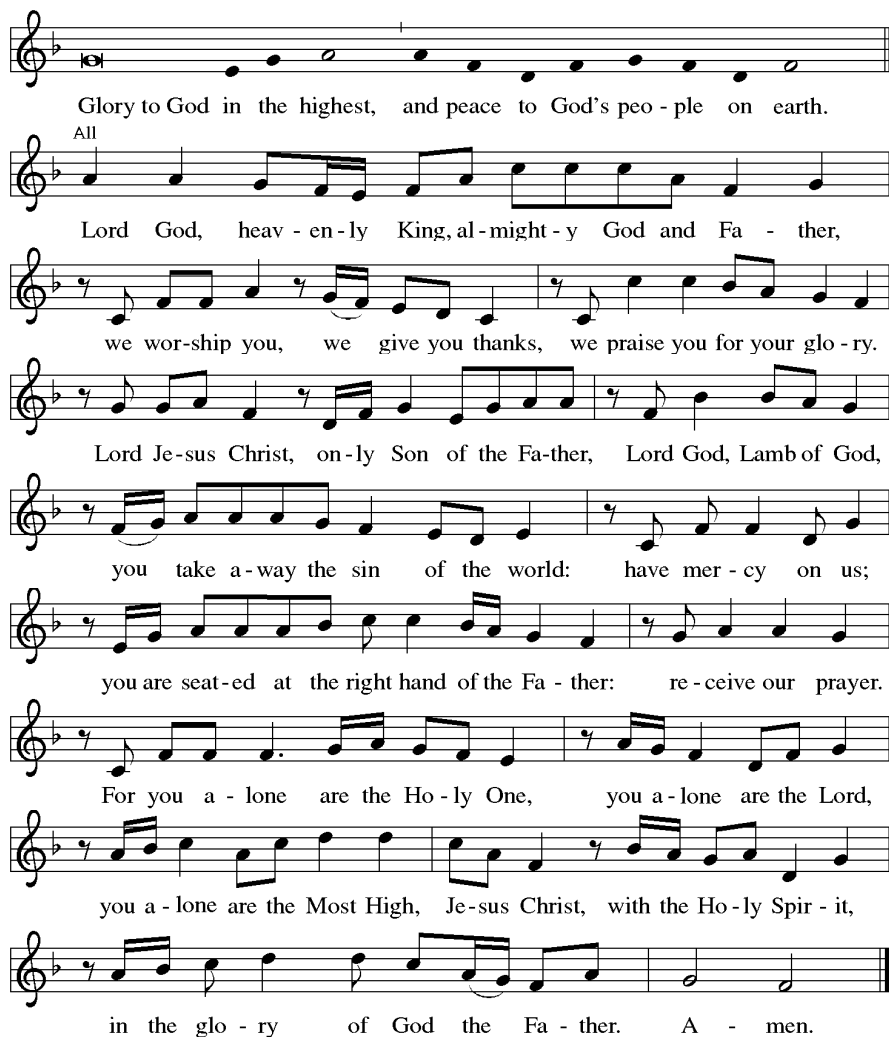
Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

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

## **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.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**


Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*All*  
 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,  
 we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.  
 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.  
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen*Sit*

**WORD****FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7**

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

**A:** A Reading from Amos:

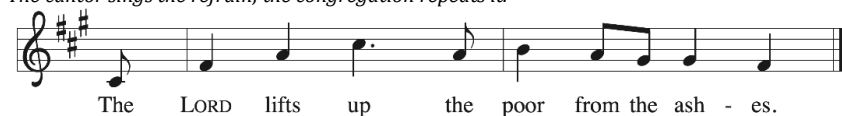
- <sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup> saying, "When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

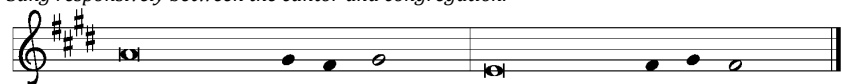
**C:** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 113**

*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*



*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*



- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;  
praise the name | of the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth for- | evermore.**  
<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its | going down  
let the name of the | LORD be praised.  
<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high a- | bove all nations;  
God's glory a- | bove the heavens. R**

- <sup>5</sup> Who is like the | LORD our God,  
who sits en- | throned on high,  
<sup>6</sup> **but stoops | to behold**  
**the heavens | and the earth?**  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust  
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,  
<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them | with the rulers,**  
**with the rulers | of the people.**  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah! **R**

**SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

**A:** A Reading from First Timothy:

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God;  
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all  
—this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald  
and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the  
gentiles in faith and truth.

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

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Cantor:** Live your life in a manner worthy of the gos- | pel of Christ;\* strive side by side for the faith | of the gospel.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias

**GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust

to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

- P

The Gospel of the Lord.
- C

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON.....Pastor Zeiders

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Depends on Our Possessing.....LBW 447



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and

2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y

3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -

4 Well he knows what best to grant me; all the long - ing

5 If on earth my days he length - en, God my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.

joy has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.

new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.

hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.

soul will strength - en; all my trust in him I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are

He who did so gent - ly school me, he who dai - ly

To his lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der soul and bod - y

I shall doubt his wis - dom nev - er; as God wills, so

Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.

guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.

I sur - ren - der, for on God a - lone I build.

be it ev - er; to him I com - mit my way.

way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in his grace.

Text: *Gesang-Buch*, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.  
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645-1705, adapt.



**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]:** Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all  
in need.

*After each petition:*

**[P]:** God of Grace,

**[C]: receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**[P]:** We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our  
redeemer and friend.

**[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**

***We Share Your Life .....Philip Kern***

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**A**: Let us pray.

**C**: Lord of the harvest,  
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.  
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,  
but on you, who richly provides for us.  
Multiply what we have gathered  
to bless all who are suffering and in need,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

[P] The Lord be with you. [C] And al - so with you.  
 [P] Lift up your hearts. [C] We lift them to the Lord.  
 [P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 [C] It is right to give him 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:

[C] Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
 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.

**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

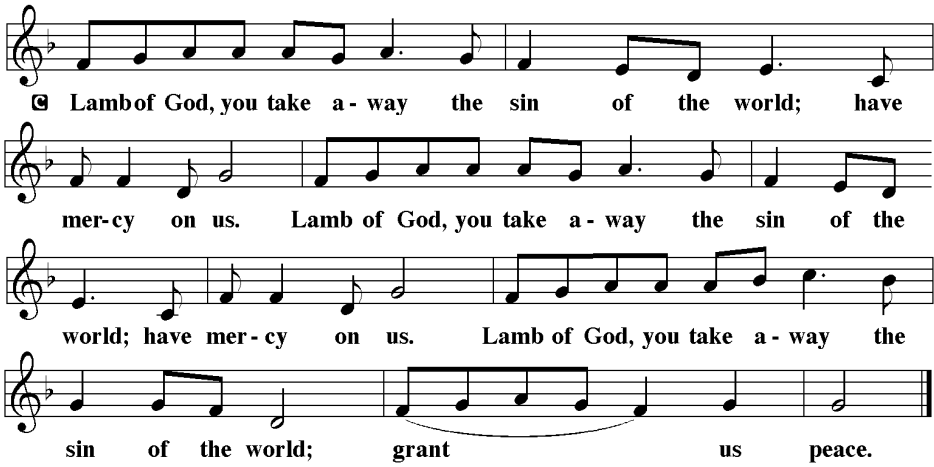
**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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:** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
Come to this meal of mercy.

**G:** Thanks be to God.

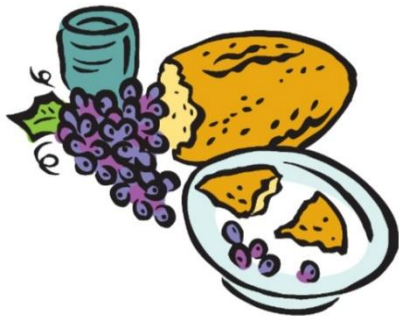


**G** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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*****O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True***

1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on  
 2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers  
 3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -  
 4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on  
 5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,



those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -  
 lost in er - ror's maze. En - light - en those whose se - cret  
 way the child - ish fears of those who trem - ble to ex -  
 oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed  
 ev - er to re - joice with wond - 'ring grat - i - tude and



gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.  
 minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.  
 press the faith their se - cret hearts con - fess.  
 sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.  
 praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite

Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesang-Buch*, Nürnberg, 1676

*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.

O God,  
 through this meal you have strengthened us  
 and appointed us to be your servants.  
 Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
 with all in need.  
 We ask this in Jesus' name.

**[C]: Amen**

**SENDING****SENDING OF THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS****P:** Gracious God,

loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,  
assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth.In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom  
we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of  
your Son we may all know the comfort of your abiding  
presence.**C:** Amen**BLESSING****P:** The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
✠ bless you now and forever.**C:** Amen**SENDING HYMN*****Rise Up, O Saints of God!***

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;  
3 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace;  
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

**DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**





### **SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee  
**Lay Assistant:** Susan Bryan; **Communion Assistant:** Mandy Feinberg  
**Acolyte:** Dylan Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt  
**Greeters/Presenters:** Georgette Copp, Ray Demarest  
**Cantor:** Candy Watkins; **Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

### **IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Bernard and Juanita Collins, by their daughter Sandy Ream and family.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to Messiah Church!** It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. We hope to see you again.

**This morning we welcome Pastor Joel Zeiders.** Pastor Zeiders retired January 1 after 17 years as Pastor of St Matthew, Bloomsburg, and after serving congregations in Adams, Dauphin and Clearfield Counties. He and his wife Ruth live in Bloomsburg.

**Pack-a-Sack – this coming Saturday, September 27, 5:00 p.m. –** We have over 800 backpacks to fill, so much help is needed! There are jobs for every ability, including more active jobs of gathering supplies and moving cartons to sit-down jobs such as “quality control” inspectors. *We are really going to need all hands on deck this year - plan now to join the fun!* **Sign up today** so that we know how much pizza to order.

**MLP Gift Card Bingo** is Saturday, October 25 at 11:30 am. Presale tickets are \$20 and at the door \$25. Tickets will be available, before and after each service in the Narthex on these dates: Tickets are now available this **Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** before and after worship *or anytime in the church office.*

**Bible Study and fellowship** will begin on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. *All are welcome!*

**Volunteers are needed.** All of our committees are in need of members. The primary goal of a committee is to support the mission and goals of the church through their specific area of work. Committee members attend meetings usually once a month or every other month, they contribute to discussions and decisions, and collaborate to carry out tasks related to the committee's focus area. Please consider joining one or more. For more info, reach out to one of the chairpersons or the church office. Thank you!

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

### True Riches

Being stuck in unjust systems is exhausting. Perhaps they are designed to frustrate and impede any efforts to undo their power. The manager in Jesus' parable does what he can to make the most of his precarious position, but his resolution still leaves a lot to be desired. Does the rich man remain in his wealthy and powerful position? What about all the others who still owe the estate? Why does the manager, and not the rich landowner who holds all the cards, become the object lesson?

It seems Jesus is getting serious here about our relationships with money, riches, and power: "You cannot serve God and wealth" (Luke 16:13). That much is clear. But perhaps Jesus is drawing our attention to the larger implications of God's economy and what it means to lean on one another for the sake of justice in our world. Luke's gospel began with Mary's song, after all, extolling the ways the poor will be lifted up in the kin-dom Jesus brings. In this new reign, all resources are brought into the service of those who need them most. Faithful living here and now might look different from what we're accustomed to when we consider what God has in mind, especially when we are used to unhelpful contemporary mantras like "Might makes right" and "Winner takes all."

True to Mary's song, Jesus indeed turns our world upside down, which distresses those of us who appreciate good order. But in the end, this turning does what is needed to make the world right. In our world today, we may struggle with the forgiveness of debts and the redistribution of wealth, but Jesus doesn't. God brings the true riches of justice and love for all and will not fail to do what is needed to make sure every last beloved person on earth has what they need to truly live.

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