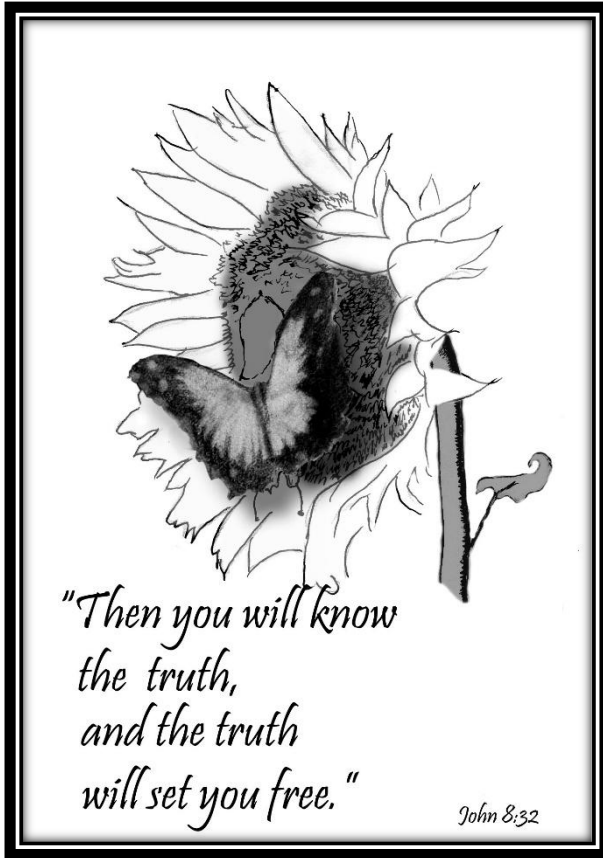


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025



REFORMATION SUNDAY

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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

The Congregation turns to follow the processional cross.

GATHERING HYMN A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat-'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. III For the Lamb who was



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

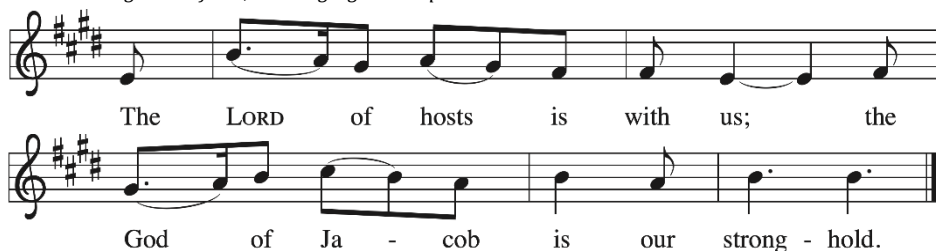
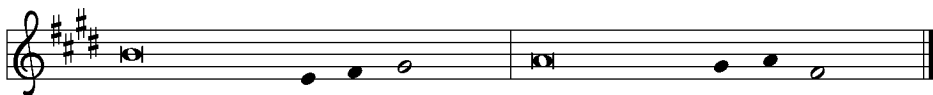
The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

A: A Reading from Jeremiah:

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.**Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*

- ¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**
- ³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R**
- ⁷ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the | shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."**
- ¹¹ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

A: A Reading from Romans:

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

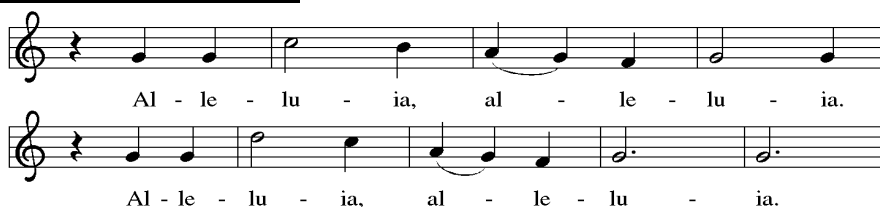
²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Gospel is carried into the midst of the people as a reminder that Christ is present among us. Please face the processional cross.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: If you continue in my word, you are truly | my disciples, * and you will know the truth, and the truth will | make you free.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON.....Pastor Amme

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Built on a Rock.....LBW 365



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Not in our tem - ples made with hands God, the Al - might - y, is
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing; high in the heav'n's his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear God's Word where he this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom - ise is bring - ing: I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst would show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
 world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
 and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living
 and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Renewed in God’s everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all creation.

After each petition:

P: God of Grace,
C: **receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and
mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

The Church is an Ark..... Pepper Choplin

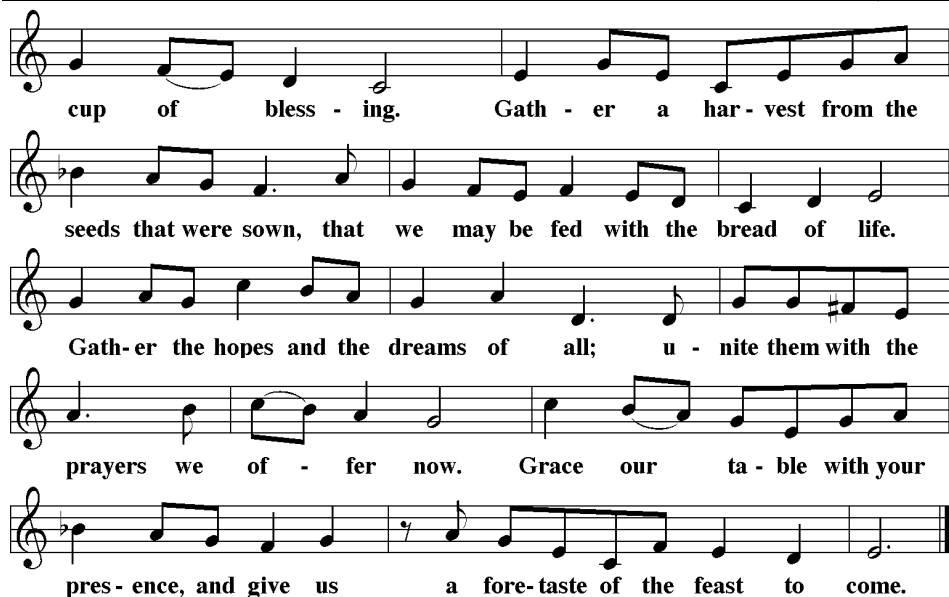
Stand

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.

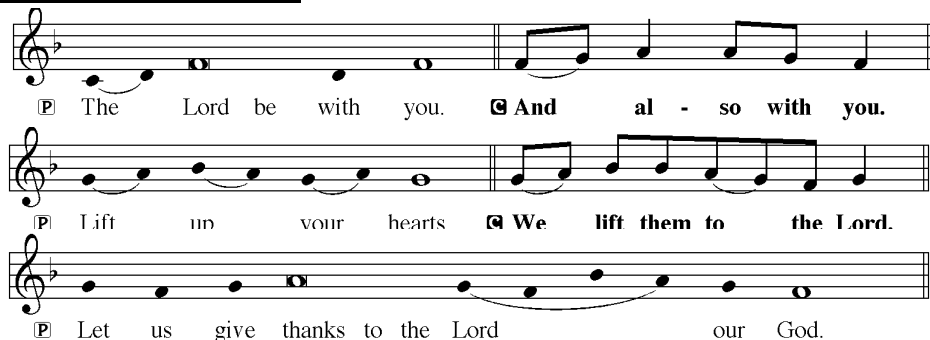
Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

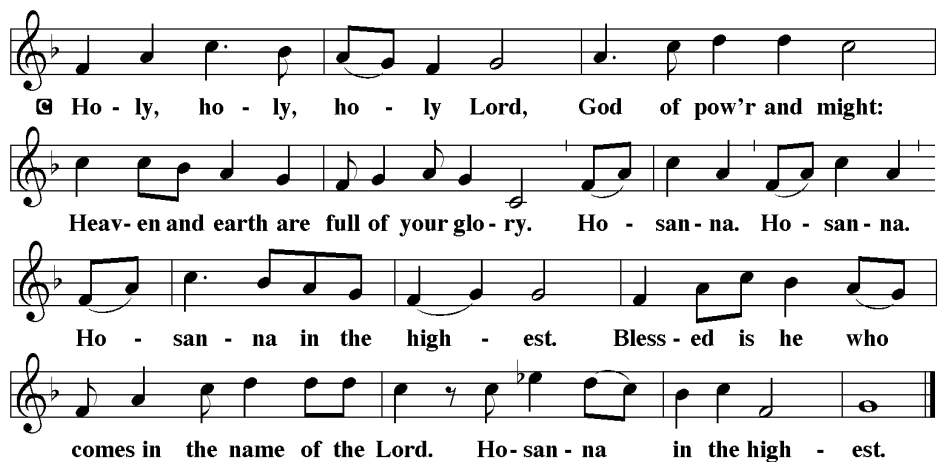


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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]: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared
for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

[C]: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

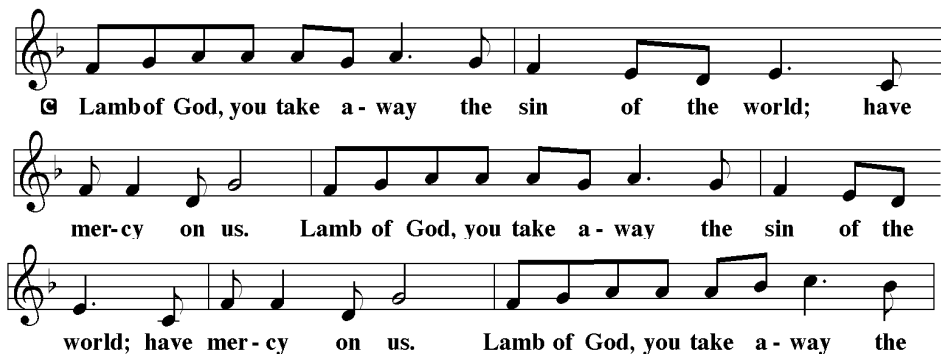
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

C: Thanks be to God.



C 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

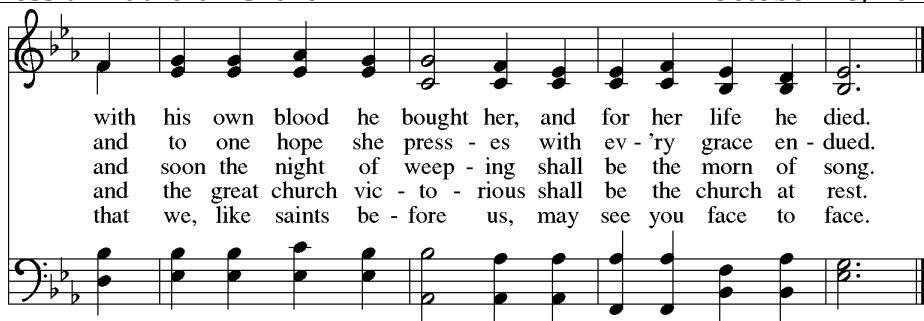
The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . rent a - sund - er, by her e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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

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

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

SENDING HYMN***The Church of Christ, in Every Age***


1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

G: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave & Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner

Lay Assistant: Dave Bausinger; **Communion Assistant:** Mary Schultz

Acolyte/Crucifer: Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt

Greeters/Presenters: Howard and Jean Wilt

Cantor: Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dwain Butt with love from his 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.

Bible Study and Fellowship continues Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. *All are welcome!*

MISSION TO SEAFARERS - All Items collected need to be at the church by today. *Thank you.*

Official Notice is hereby given of the **Annual Congregation Meeting** to be held on **Sunday, November 23rd**. This meeting will be held immediately after worship. Please plan on attending.

Reminder to all committee chairpersons to get your committee reports to the office for the Annual Report. *Thank you!*

A very special thank you to all the saints who added their voices to our anthem praising God on Sunday, October 12. We will schedule another Saints in Song Sunday in the coming weeks. There's an open invitation for anyone who would like to join us. Watch for the newsletter and bulletin for details.

(continued)

(announcements continued)

White Gifts Project Soon to Begin ... Each year, Messiah has put up an angel tree to provide gifts to those in the local community and in our congregation who can use a helping hand. Families in our congregation who are experiencing a need and can benefit are encouraged to call the church office. *Forms will be provided for gift suggestions, which will need to be returned to us **no later than October 31*** so that we have time to prepare the tags for the tree.

Christmas Basket Food Donations: We are beginning our food collection early this year to fill the baskets we give to families in need at Christmas time. **Food donations** may be placed in the bin in the narthex on Sunday mornings or in the specially marked bin in the elevator alcove during the week. **Monetary donations** are also needed for the purchase of perishable items. Please place your gifts in an envelope marked "Christmas Baskets" and place it in the offering plate during worship or mail to the church office. Checks are to be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with "Christmas Baskets" written in the memo line. **All donations are due no later than Sunday, December 14.**

Unfortunately, we will not be holding Sunday School until further notice. We look forward to seeing the kids at our Saturday morning events.

Our Advent Kid's Event will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 9 until noon. As usual we will need your assistance with volunteering. Please contact Kathryn Pratt at 570-244-6964 if you are able to help. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to share God's presence with the children in our community. Thank you, Kathryn



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING
JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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

Home, Sweet Home

Whether you have lived in several places or very few, you probably have a method for transforming a space to live into a home. Maybe you put family photos on the walls, set out mementos, or spread a favorite quilt on the bed. These touches are important if we want to feel like we belong in a new space.

Jesus offered the gift of belonging to people who newly believed in him, but they had a hard time accepting it. He said if they would continue, or abide, in his word, they would be his disciples, know his truth, and be set free. They would receive the gift of belonging to his household forever.

To us the listeners' response is surprising, as if the new believers had shut their ears as soon as they heard Jesus say, "The truth will make you free." They didn't want to accept that there was anything they needed to be set free from. On a deeper level, they didn't want to believe that someone else would need to set them free. Jesus' words invite us to reflect on where our freedom comes from, and where we belong, as his disciples.

On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate how the Holy Spirit is constantly reforming the church, the community of Jesus' disciples. We give thanks for the gospel message that Jesus saves us from sin and death through his cross and resurrection. We don't have to earn our salvation; we can simply trust that Jesus is the one who makes it possible. That's how we receive genuine freedom—as a gift of God's grace. Thanks to Jesus, we have a permanent home. No matter how many times we move, we abide with Jesus forever. This festival day encourages us to keep listening to Jesus' word, growing in faith as his disciples, and giving thanks that with him, we are always at home.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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