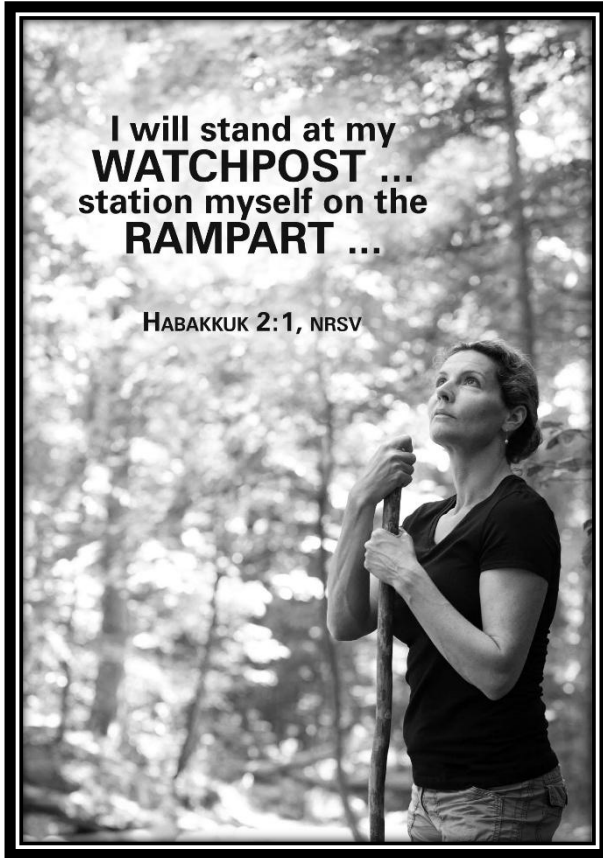


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

17th Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025



17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

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

Come, You Thankful People, Come..... LBW 407

Musical notation for the hymn "Come, You Thankful People, Come". The notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield.
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har - vest home.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
 Gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our mak - er, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all your an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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

The congregation brings forward offerings of food and money.

1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, sing songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,
with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise.
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.

By him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease;
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,
sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
he crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1545–1613

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.
Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen
Sit



WORD

FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

A: A Reading from Habakkuk:

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1} I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!

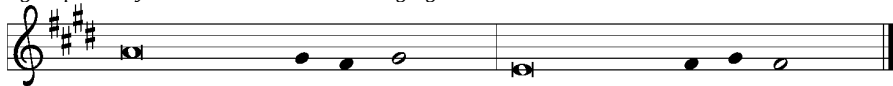
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 37:1-9*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*

Com - mit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.

- ¹ Do not be provoked by | evildoers;
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.
- ² **For they shall soon wither | like the grass,
and like the green grass | fade away.**
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.
- ⁴ **Take delight | in the LORD,
who shall give you your | heart's desire. R**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,
and see what | God will do.
- ⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who
succeeds in | evil schemes.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land. R

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14*This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.***[A]:** A Reading from Second Timothy:

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of
the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self discipline.

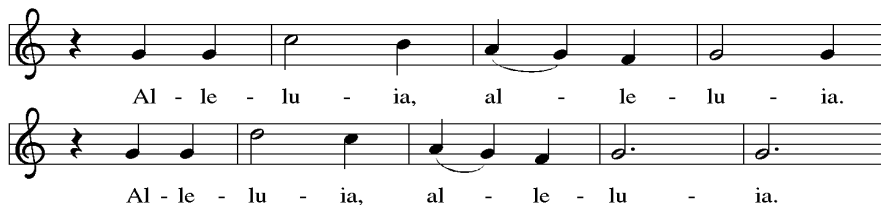
⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Cantor: The word of the Lord en- | dures forever.* That word is the good news that was an- | nounced to you.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

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

[C]: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶ The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

⁷ "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' "

[P]: The Gospel of the Lord.


[C]: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit
SERMON.....Ray Huff, ALWL

Stand
HYMN OF THE DAY
Praise and Thanksgiving.....LBW 409

C Am Dm G Am G Am

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve you, That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for your chil - dren, By your wise
4 Then will your bless - ing Reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, Free - ly con -



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
 neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
 guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -
 fess - ing Your gra - cious hand. Where all o - bey you, No one will

or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.
 with you, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know your care.
 hun - ger; In your love's sway you Nour - ish the land.

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: 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.

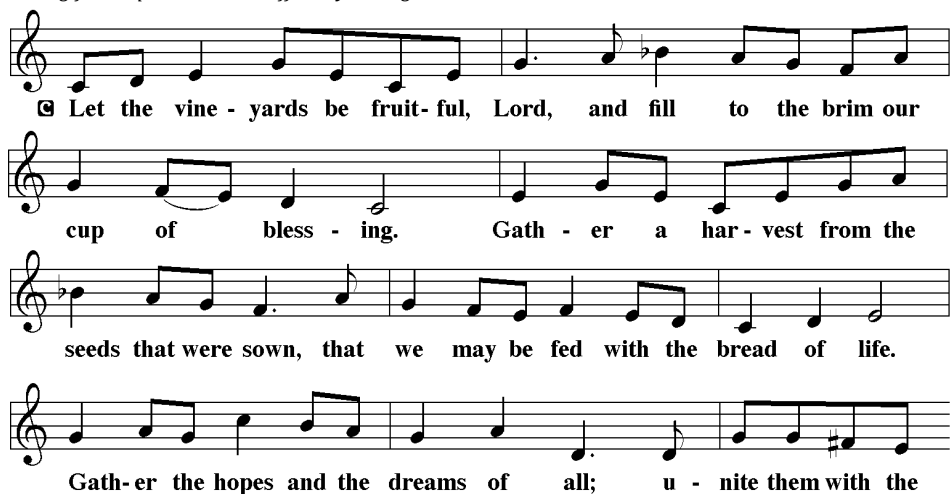
ANTHEM

Thanks Be To Thee.....G. F. Handel

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



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.

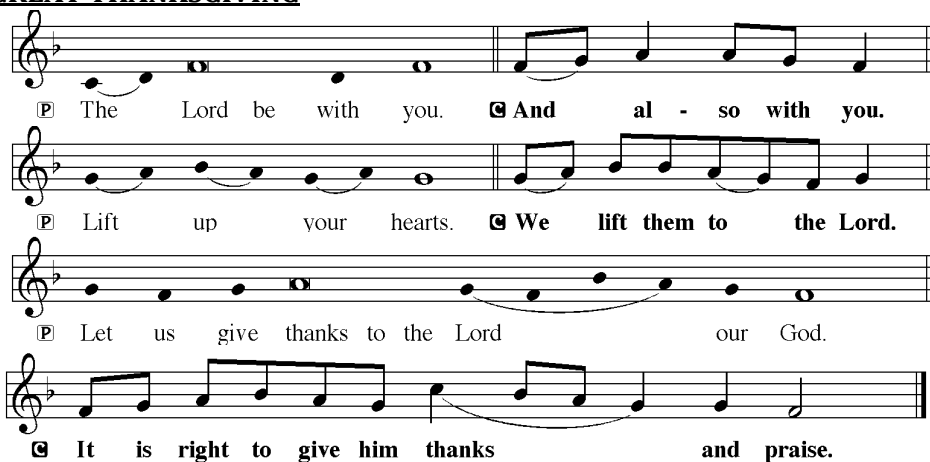
Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

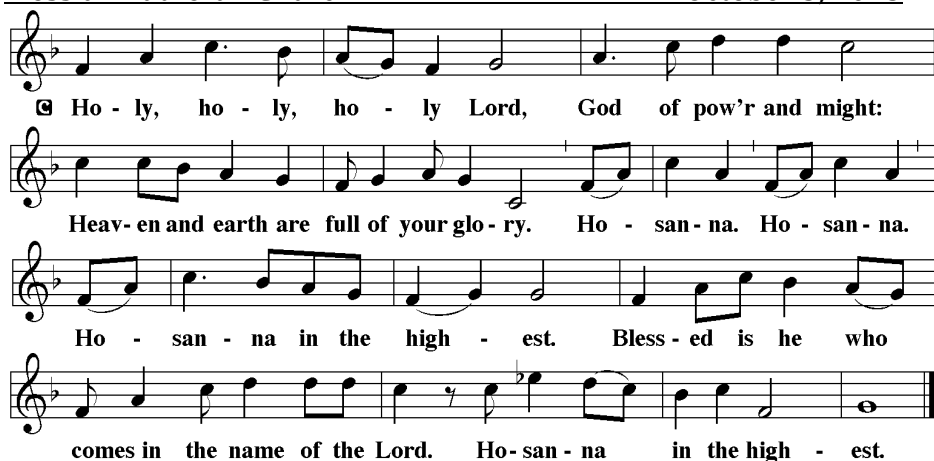
Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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'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.

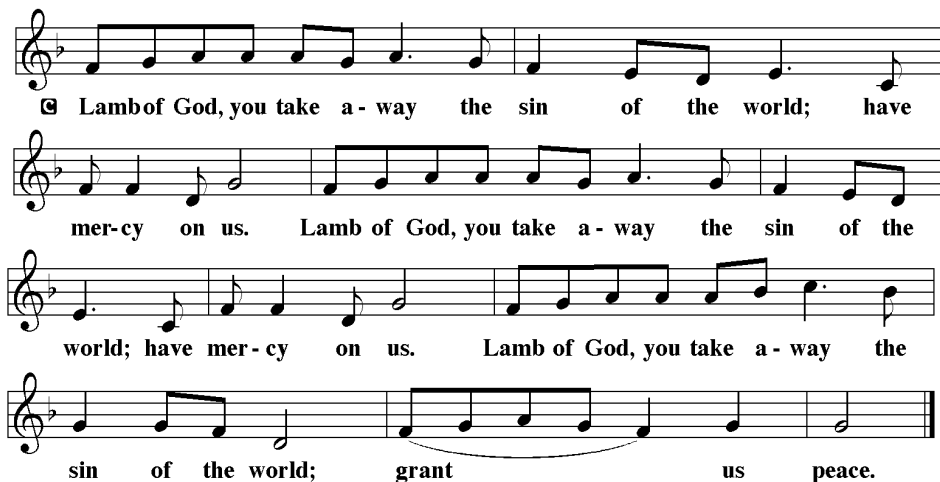
Give us this day our daily bread
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

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.

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*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: ÖLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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

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

On what Has Now Been Sown..... LBW 261

1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may

pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low

grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVICE ASSISTANTS

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

Lay Assistant: Janet Stroble; **Comm. Asst.:** Sherry Holtzman

Acolyte: Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Marie Welter, April Gardner

Greeters/Presenters: Kim Brofee, Doris Butt

Cantor: Janet Stroble; **Flower Delivery:** Cindy Bennett

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Howard and B.Z. Goodbrod and Raymond and Hazel Rosenbaum with love by Don and Mary Ellen Rosenbaum.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Pat Hammaker on the anniversary of her birthday, October 9th.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jeanie Laurrell, on her first heavenly birthday, October 1st. With love from her daughter Jennifer, Frank and grandson Jack Klotz.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Albert Kelley on the anniversary of his birthday 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.

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.

Today is Harvest Home & Blanket Sunday. Gifts of non-perishable food or monetary gifts for both Harvest Home and Blanket Sunday will be brought to the front of the church during the singing of the Hymn of Praise. The perishable food will be donated to local food banks, etc. Canned goods will stock our own pantry. The blankets and quilts on display will go to Lutheran World Relief. *Thanks to all who will or have donated!*

We will rehearse the anthem for next Sunday's service after worship today. Please join us in the choir loft, or on Thursday at 7 PM, or next Sunday at 8:45 before the worship service. If you enjoy singing praise to God, you are welcome to join us.

"TRIVIA NIGHT" is this Saturday, **October 11th**. Pizza and beverages will be supplied. Please bring a snack to share with everyone. The fees are ... \$8.00 per person; \$15.00 per couple. The beneficiary is Messiah's Backpack Project.

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 *anytime in the church office*.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits – If You Sew Them, They Will Be Filled! Our ladies who sewed, along with the help of the Bible School kids and our knotters, ended up completing a grand total of **824** backpacks this year **plus one more**. We cannot say it enough ... **thank you, thank you, thank you** for the **incredible** outpouring of support. ~ *With grateful and humbled hearts, Sal and Kath*

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

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Faith beyond Measure

Matters of faith are sometimes tricky to comprehend. Faith is a relationship of trust in God. But how do we measure it? It is, by definition, unquantifiable. Of course, that does not stop us from trying. We want to grade our faith, and we look on the outside for signs of a high faith score.

How often do we mistake material success for God's blessing? It is tempting to look at other people and think they must be more faithful than we are because they have or do more than we do. But there is a flaw in that logic. Quite often, looks can be deceiving. We have all suffered disappointment a time or two (or ten!). Life sometimes deals us more than we can handle. We could have faith the size of a bowling ball, but sometimes things just don't work out.

Jesus' understanding of faith seems different from his disciples' or our own. He teaches the apostles that even the tiniest amount of faith possesses transformative power capable of altering entire realities. The "size" of faith is irrelevant.

God gives every one of us a seed of faith. It is a gift freely given, nurtured through baptism and communion. We build confidence in that faith through worship, prayer, and community. While we struggle to measure our faith, we can increase our confidence and willingness to act on it. When that confidence is low, we can lean on those around us. When it is high, we can strive to build up others, encouraging them in their own relationship with God.

God is calling all of us to be willing and confident servants, sending us out into the world to act on our faith. Like a giant, wild bush that grows from the tiniest seed, our faith can grow, spread, and thrive beyond measure.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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