

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025



23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Kneel

P: Faithful God,

C: you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths.
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom
of your faithful promises.
We ignore our neighbors.
We exploit the earth.
We reject your abundance,
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.
Repair our relationships,
restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts,
and bring us to new life.
Amen

P: Hear the good news:
God the Faithful One loves you,
☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

C: Amen

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow..... LBW 355

1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,

goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its

ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall

fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing

guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all

pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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.

CANTICLE

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.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen*Sit***WORD****FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a**

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.

A: A Reading from Malachi:

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

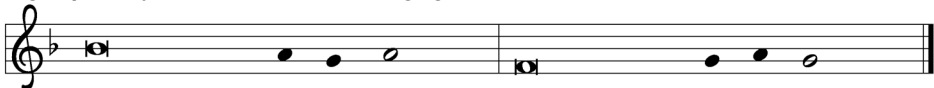
A: The word of the Lord.**C: Thanks be to God.****PSALM: Psalm 98**

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



In right-eous-ness will the LORD judge the world.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- ² **O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- ⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. R**
- ⁵ Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- ⁶ **With trumpets and the sound | of the horn**

shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

**⁸ Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to | judge the earth.**

⁹ The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

[A]: A Reading from Second Thessalonians:

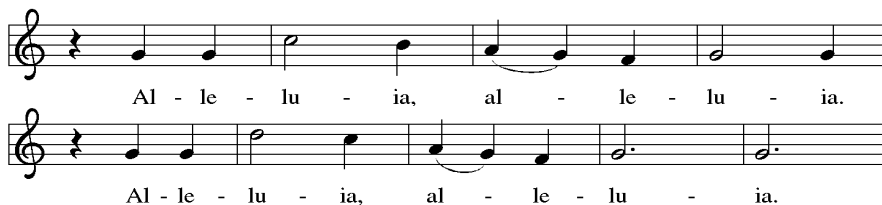
⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

[A]: The word of the Lord.

[C]: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Cantor: Stand up and | raise your heads,* because your redemption
is | drawing near.

[C]: Repeat the Alleluias.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

As history moves toward God’s fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

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

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit
SERMON.....**Pastor LeCrone**

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *O God of Every Nation*


1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease,
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind-ness to your way,
 when hope and cour-age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn-ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,

in love and mer-cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

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: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world,
and all who are in need.

After each petition:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace
and unyielding love; 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

Down to the River to PraySheldon Curry

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: God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever.
Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

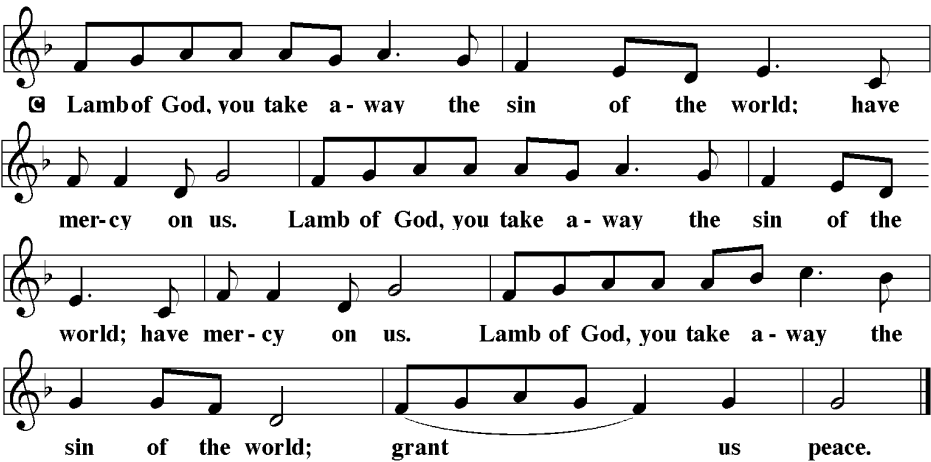
LORD'S PRAYER

**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: There is a place for you at the table of God.
Come, receive the food that does not perish,
a taste of life eternal.

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.

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*When Peace, Like a River*

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,



Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888

Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

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.

God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven
that gives life to the world.

Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst,
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's 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 love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
The holy Trinity bless you ✠
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation.....LBW 507



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply,
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, early American

DISMISSAL

- A

Go in peace. Share the Harvest.

C

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ, Greg Eckenrode; **Lay Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Comm. Assist.:** Rhonda Koch
Acolyte: Dylan Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower
Greeters/Presenters: Al Cole, Judy Berfield; **Cantor:** Bob Schweppenhiser; **Flower Delivery:** Cindy Bennett

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Miller, a loving father, grandfather and husband, with love from Michael, Nathan, Tammy, David, Nathaniel and Linda.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Richard and Dorothy Yeager, by their daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Stosh Wisniewski and grandchildren, Kyle and Jenna.

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 Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church. Pastor LeCrone also serves as our Interim Pastor.

Join us in Shaheen Hall after worship this morning and celebrate our Veterans.

Our Annual Congregation Meeting will be held next **Sunday, November 23rd** immediately following worship. Please plan on attending.

Annual reports are now available, you may pick-up your annual report in the back of the Sanctuary.

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for Bible Study and Fellowship. *All are welcome!*

Our Advent Kid's Event will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 9 until noon. Volunteers are needed. 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

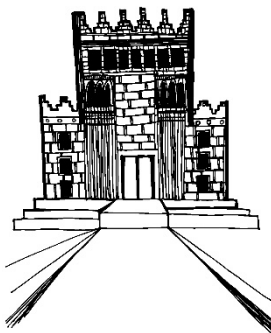
(announcements continued)

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White Gifts Ministry - The Angel Trees are up! Each year, we provide Christmas gifts to families in need who are members of our congregation or whose names we get from the South Williamsport Area School District. Each child is provided with articles of clothing and a wish item. Requested items are listed on angel tags which adorn the trees in the narthex. If you'd like to help, please take as many tags as you'd like from the tree, purchase the needed item, and ***wrap the gift in white paper.*** Gifts should be brought in and placed in the blue bin in the Chapel alcove by December 14. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Christmas Food Baskets: Our holiday project to fill the baskets we give to families in need at Christmas time is now officially under way! Please see the Messenger for a list of food items we are collecting. Cash donations will also be accepted. All donations are needed no later than December 14.

Christmas Basket recipients are now being identified. If you know someone who could benefit from receiving a Christmas basket, ***please contact the church office by Friday, December 5.*** Baskets will be ready for pick-up Saturday, December 20.



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

Honoring Creators of Justice

This week's gospel reading is a part of an apocalyptic speech Jesus gives in the temple. Jesus' talk of war can be alarming to our ears. We want to hear him speak about peace and love and mercy. However, there is much in this world that is scary and violent. Jesus would not be doing his pastoral due diligence if he did not talk about these things. Jesus reminds us that, yes, things are going to get bad. But he calls us to cling to our faith and respond to God's charge that we love and serve our neighbor. And by this, he assures us, we bring about the kingdom.

November 11 is honored as Veterans Day in the United States and Remembrance Day in Canada. Originally it was called Armistice Day to commemorate the ending of World War I and the signing of a ceasefire. It signaled the end of the violence.

An "armistice" is an agreement to stop fighting, to bring about peace. But as Martin Luther King Jr. famously observed, "Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice." Jesus tells us that violence will happen, but our calling as baptized Christians is to live in the promise of his grace and to go out into the world to be creators of justice and peace.

This week, as we honor and remember those who have served and experienced the violence Jesus speaks of, we must heed Jesus' pastoral words of hope: "Do not be afraid." In the midst of chaos and fear, Jesus gives us his strength and the wisdom to follow him. Blessed are all who work toward armistice in service of peace and justice.

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