

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Kneel

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People!..... LBW 393



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
 Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, b. 1934

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 OF PRAISE



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

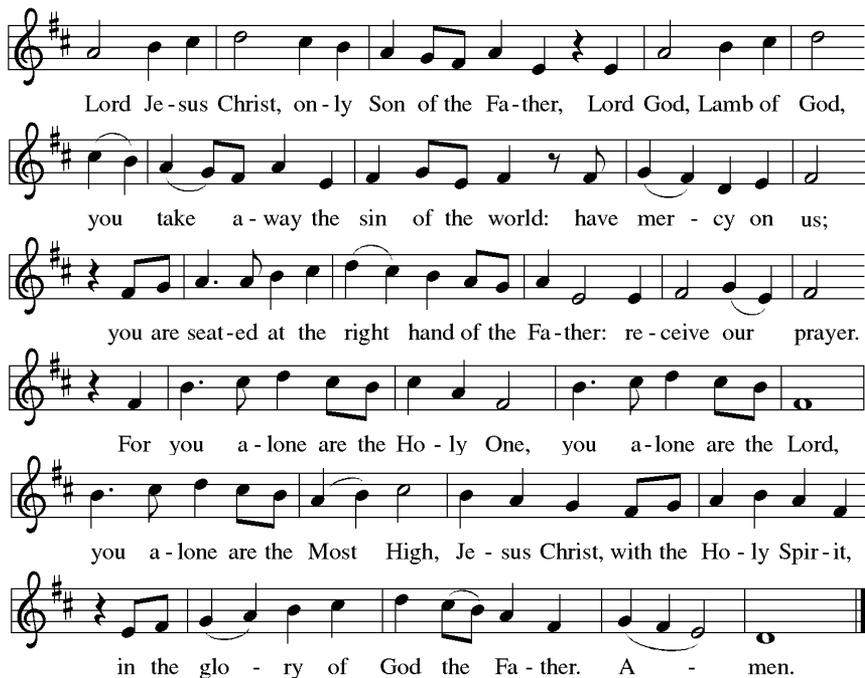
All



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.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD**FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12**

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

A: A Reading from Isaiah:

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



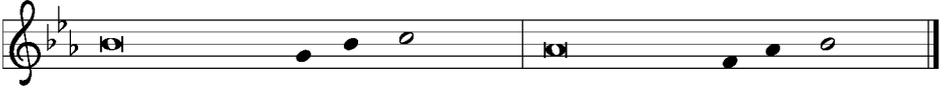
February 8 Psalm 112:1-10

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



Light shines in the dark - ness for the up - right.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



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



SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

A: A Reading from first Corinthians:

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶ “For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

CANTOR: Rejoice | and be glad,* for your reward is | great in heaven.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON..... Pastor Amme

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Light..... LBW 405

1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents.

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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: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

After each petition:

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God’s loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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.

MEAL

Sit

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord’s table is prepared.

ANTHEM

I will Rejoice..... **Joseph M. Martin**

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 dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. 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 majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard
 what you have prepared for those who love you,
 yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
 Use what we have gathered
 to feed us with the reign of God come near,
 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

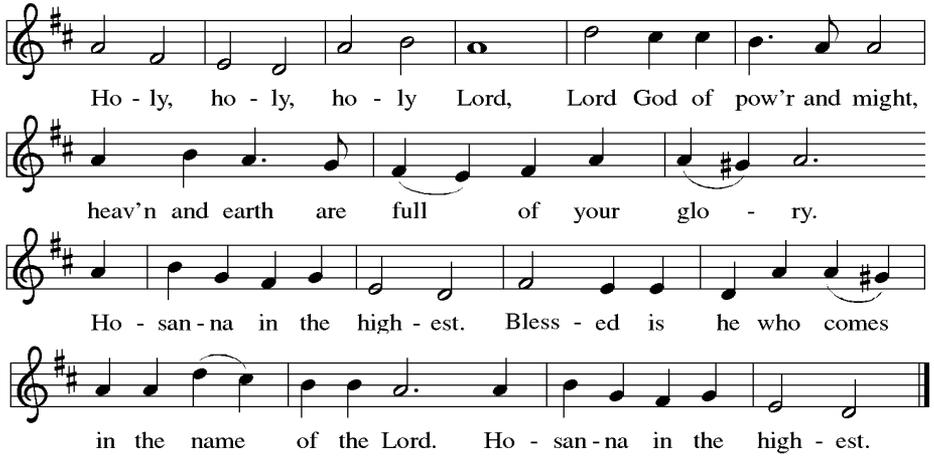
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 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.

EUCHARISTIC 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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 Come to the table; taste and see.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

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

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice Bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home - less; Still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, Till your love's re - veal-ing light

Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, Worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
 Still the cap - tives long for free - dom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
 In its height and depth and great - ness Dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,

We, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
 Mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens Your com-pas - sion bids us bear,

Con-se - crat - ing to your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 By your Spir - it send your pow - er To our world to make it whole.
 Stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, Your a - bun - dant life to share.

© Text: Albert F. Bayly, b. 1901, alt.
 Time: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

BEACH SPRING
 87 87 D

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.

Radiant God,
 we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
 In the sacrament of his body and blood
 you have drawn us to your heart.
 Send us from this table with delight,
 that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
 and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: May the triune God,
 who has put a new song in your mouth
 and tuned your heart for praise
 † bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies.....LBW 265

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
 joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
 fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat-ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
 till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner, Paul Ulrich; **Lay Assistant:** Carola Storrs; **Comm. Assistant:** Mary Schultz
Acolyte: Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt
Greeters/Communion Presenters: Jean Weaver, Paul Weaver
Cantor: Janet Stroble; **Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Shirley and Donald Fullmer's wedding anniversary, on February 7th, by their 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.*

Please join us, Sunday, February 15 – there will be a **“Soup and Sandwich”** luncheon immediately following worship in Shaheen Hall for food and great conversation. This will be hosted by the fellowship committee.

Looking for something to do on these cold winter days. Why not do a puzzle or two? The next few Sundays there will be quality used puzzles in the Narthex offered for donations to help offset major expenses for the church.

This morning is the last day to bring in your food for the Mountie Backpack Program. Cash Donations are also welcome! Please make checks payable to *Messiah Lutheran Church* and write *Souper Bowl* along with your team name in the memo line.

Ladies it is time again for fun, fellowship, and food! We will meet for the Ladies' monthly breakfast at Perkins, Tuesday, February 10 @ 9 am. Hope to see you there.

Do you have a card table, either round or square, that is in good shape and you no longer use it? If so, we would love to take it off your hands for use in the Harry Seltzer Room. Please call either the church office or me at 570-244-6964. Thanks! Kathryn Pratt

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

The Lamp Is Already Lit

“This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine” (ELW 677). There’s nothing quite like the joyous call and response of a whole congregation singing together the words of this beloved African American spiritual. The text and tune make it very hard to keep any lamps under a bushel basket!

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Many congregations use these words during the rite of Holy Baptism. But “Let *your* light shine” doesn’t imply that the light belongs only to us or to the church. The first chapter of Genesis clarifies this. At the beginning of creation, God speaks light into existence, making light God’s first gift to the whole world. In that light, God creates everything, including humankind, which is made in the divine image, according to God’s likeness.

Living in harmony with God’s word, letting our light shine with “good works” that glorify God, is not about striving for perfection. Because God’s light has existed from the beginning, it is not something we earn or achieve for ourselves. We don’t provide the spark that lights the lamp—it is already lit by God. Our job is to let the light shine. To be light for the world, then, is to be none other than who we have been from the beginning. Therein lies not only the fulfillment of God’s word, but also our own fulfillment as God’s children and light-bearers in the world.

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