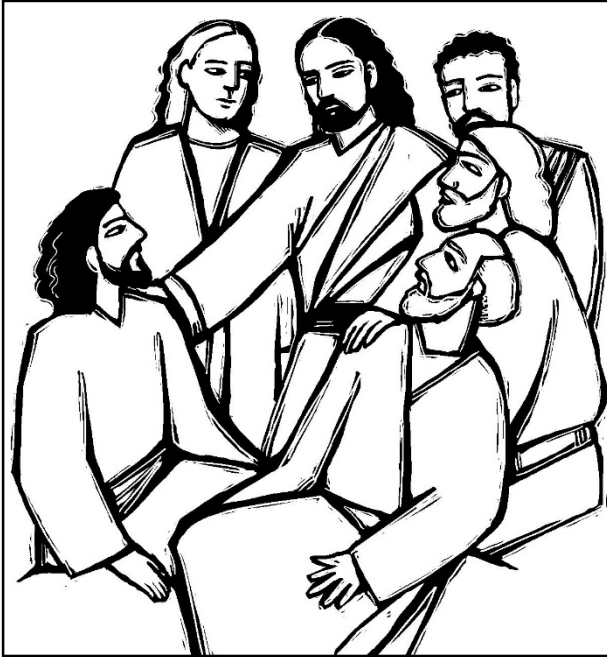


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

John 14:1 NRSV

✠ Holy Communion ✠  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 10, 2026



**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P**: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C**: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**P**: In the name of the Father, and of † the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**: **Amen.**

**P**: Let us give thanks for the gifts of Holy baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font*

**P**: Heavenly Father,  
We thank you for the waters of creation  
that nourish us.

**P**: Blessed are you.

**C**: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P**: Jesus Christ,  
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.  
Lead us to drink of those waters that gush up to eternal life.

**P**: Blessed are you.

**C**: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P**: Holy Spirit,  
As once you descended upon our Christ and us at Holy Baptism,  
descend upon us once again and fill us with the breath of peace.


**P**: Blessed are you.

**C**: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**


**P**: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of Holy baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.

**C**: **Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN** *The Day of Resurrection!*


1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,  
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there in,  
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;  
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.  
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!  
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

**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**

**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



**B** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and 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, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

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

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and 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: Acts 17:22-31**

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

**A:** A Reading from Acts:

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

**Psalm 66:8-20**

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



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*



<sup>8</sup> Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have | tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup> those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats. R**

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup> **but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. **R**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

**A:** A Reading from First Peter:

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**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:** Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias.

**GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

**SERMON**.....**Pastor Kliner**

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     *Come Down, O Love Divine*

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
 no soul can guess his grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes his dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890  
 Music: DOWN AMPNEY. R. Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

### **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:** Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*After each petition:*

**P:** Merciful God,

**C:** receive our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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.*

*Sit*

***MEAL***

**OFFERING**

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

**ANTHEM**

***Sing and Be Joyful*..... Mark Wilson**

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

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

Let the vine- vards 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 -



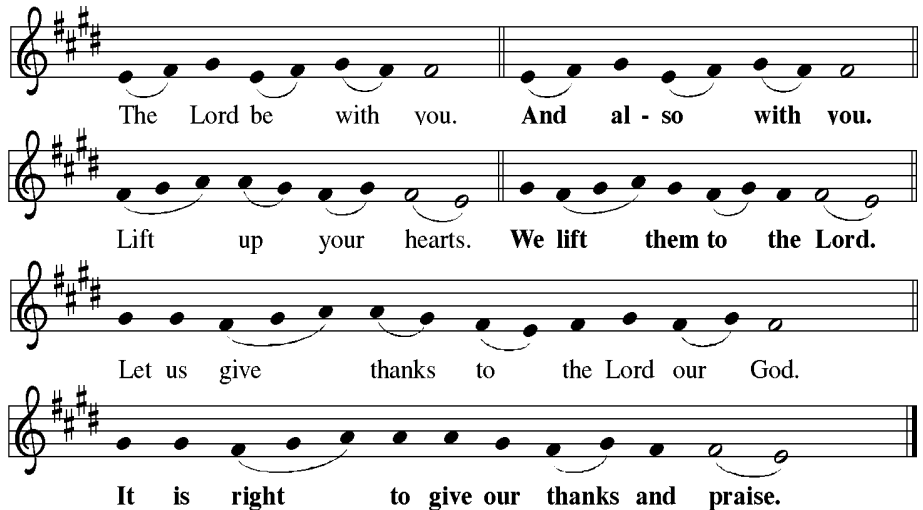
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray.

**C** Merciful God,  
 accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
 You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
 when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
 Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
 that goodness and mercy may follow us  
 and bless the world you love.  
 In the name of Jesus,  
 Amen

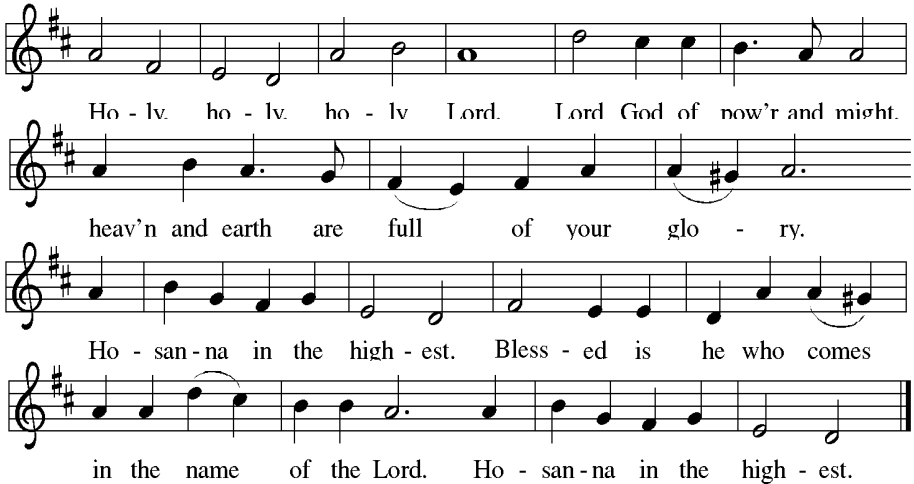
**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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 offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - lv. ho - lv. ho - lv Lord. Lord God of now'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.

**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:** Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord.

**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.

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 God, How Wonderful Thou Art*



1 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!  
 2 How won - der - ful, how beau - ti - ful the sight of thee must be—  
 3 No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee; no moth - er, e'er so mild,  
 4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,  
 5 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thou ev - er - last - ing friend!



How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn - ing light!  
 thine end - less wis - dom, bound - less pow'r, and awe - some pu - ri - ty!  
 bears and for - bears as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.  
 for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.  
 On thee I stay my trust - ing heart till faith in vi - sion end.



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863  
 Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

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.

Holy God,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,

**C**: Amen

***SENDING***

**BLESSING**

**P**: Father Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
✠ Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
bless you now and forever.

**C**: Amen

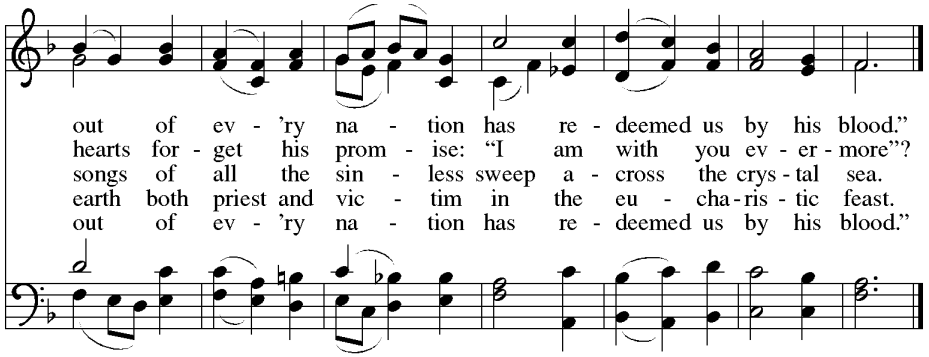
**SENDING HYMN**      *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the  
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -  
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to  
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your  
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful  
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -  
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of  
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you  
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our  
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the  
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on  
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?  
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

### DISMISSAL

**A**: Go in peace. serve the Lord. Alleluia!

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

### POSTLUDE

#### SERVICE ASSISTANTS

**Ushers:** Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee;

**Lay Assistant:** Janet Stroble; **Comm. Asst.:** Candy Watkins

**Acolyte:** Dylan Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Susan Bryan, Yvonne Kaiser

**Greeters/Presenters:** Carol Waltz, Barb Waltz; **Cantor:** Carol Waltz

**Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

#### IN BLESSED MEMORY

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of all mothers by the Gist family.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Percy Batey and Gladys Reigel Batey, by the Steiner, McCracken and Packard families.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our sister Carol Riley's 69<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 10<sup>th</sup>, by her sisters Emily Bausinger and Connie Hess.

## **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 and information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "Tropical Trek"** will be held Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19 from 9 am–Noon. **THINGS WE NEED:** If you have any artificial ivy, ferns or other house plants/trees that we can borrow or have, it would be appreciated (no Christmas trees or evergreen garlands). If you do want them returned, please make sure to put your name on them somewhere. We will also be collecting brown packaging paper like what comes in Amazon shipments. Please place your items in the box in the alcove near the elevator. Thank you, Kathryn Pratt

**School Kits Update:** Our sew-a-thons were very productive this year, but a few people have approached us asking to sew additional backpacks at home. If you enjoy sewing and would like something to keep you busy, we do have a small stash of backpacks in various stages of production that could be finished. Please contact Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802, call or text, and she will get them to you.

**Next steps:** The oldest class of children attending Vacation Bible School will string the packs (June 15-19), and after that we will have our “Knotty Party” – watch for more information on that! In the meantime, **help is needed to prepare for Bible School.** We still have two rolls of cord to cut for the drawstrings, and the ends need to be knotted to keep them from fraying. We are looking for 2-3 people who would be willing to work together for a few hours to finish that task. Please contact Kathy (570-651-2802) if you can help.

**Thank you all!**

**Seeking Names of Graduates:** Please call the church office by May 31<sup>st</sup>, with the name/address of anyone in your family who is graduating from High School and Undergrad or Grad School this spring. Your Messiah family would like to recognize your accomplishment. *Thank you!*

**Eucharistic Ministers** will be sent out Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please let the office know if you are not available to take communion. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive Communion please notify the church office at 570-326-9171.

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### **† Special Invitation**

**Saturday, May 30, 4:00 p.m.**

**Installation of The Rev. Gerald Kliner**

Rejoice and celebrate with us as Pastor Gerald Kliner is installed as Senior Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church.

**A Catered Buffet Meal with Dessert will be held in Shaheen Hall following the Worship Service.**

The congregation is invited to attend.

Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are able to attend.

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Rev. Gerald Kliner, STS, Senior Pastor**

**JARED GIST, ORGANIST**

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702  
(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

**The Perspective of Love**

It has been said that, on our journey of discipleship, each of us receives new eyeglasses. These glasses have a prescription that filters out all the cobwebs and distractions, giving us the ability to see everything through love. If we wonder what a particular scripture passage means, we read and interpret it through love. If we wonder how to make a big decision, we discern it through love. If we wonder how to respond to a challenging person or situation, we consider responses through the perspective of love.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” Jesus says to his disciples (John 14:15). Loving Jesus means keeping his commandments, and keeping his commandments means loving: loving God, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and seeing our neighbors and ourselves in the same way our God of grace and forgiveness sees us.

We are not left on our own to maintain this perspective of love in all that we see, think, say, and do. Jesus promises that he and the Holy Spirit will not only be alongside us but will also live in us forever.

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