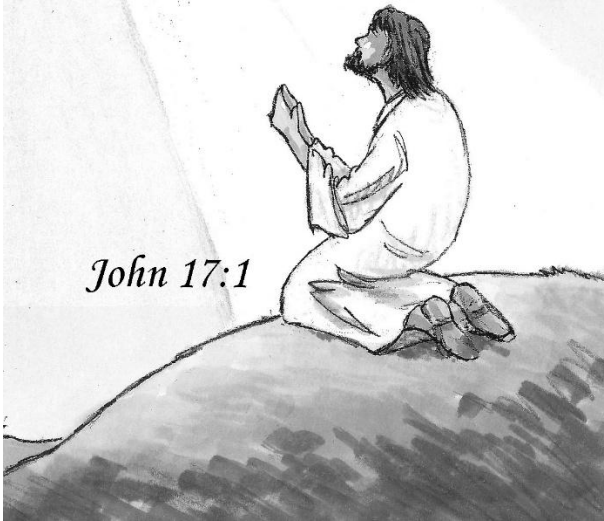


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE

*...He looked up to heaven
and said, "Father, the
hour has come; glorify
your Son so that the
Son may glorify you".*

John 17:1



✠ Holy Communion ✠
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

***Son of God, Eternal Savior* Michael Burkhardt**

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 Head That Once Was Crowned*



1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;
 2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is his by sov-'reign right,
 3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low
 4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n;



a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.
 the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's e - ter - nal light.
 to whom he man - i - fests his love, and grants his name to know;
 their name, an ev - er - last - ing name, their joy, the joy of heav'n.



5 They suffer with their Lord below;
 they reign with him above;
 their profit and their joy to know
 the myst'ry of his love.

6 The cross he bore is life and health,
 though shame and death to him;
 his people's hope, his people's wealth,
 their everlasting theme!

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855
 Music: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke, 1669-1707

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



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



Ⓑ 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.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1:6-14**

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

A: A Reading from Acts:

⁶ When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

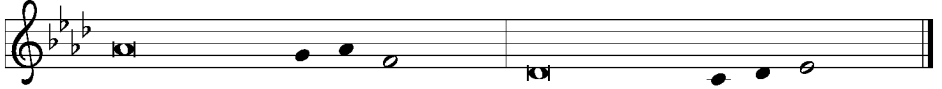
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



Sing to God, who rides up - on the clouds.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- 1 Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;
let those who | hate God flee.
- 2 **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
pres- | ence of God.**
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.
- 4 **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the
clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice | before God! R**
- 5 In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;
- 6 **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**
- 7 O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,
when you marched | through the wilderness,
- 8 **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of
God, the | God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.**
- 9 You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.
- 10 **Your people found their | home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor. R**
- 32 Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;
sing praises | to the Lord.
- 33 **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**
- 34 Ascribe pow- | er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.
- 35 **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God! R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

A: A Reading from First Peter:

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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: I will not leave you orphaned, | says the Lord.* I am com- | ing to you.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

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

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

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

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

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, You Give the Great Commision*

1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and the
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain

With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
 Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company.
 Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

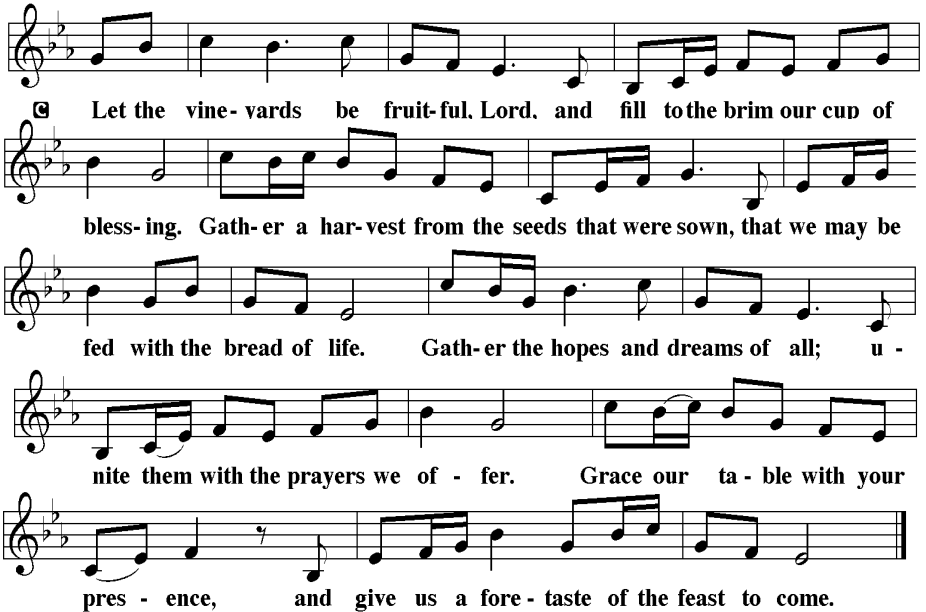
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

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*****All Things Bright and Beautiful..... John Rutter****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 - 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.

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 *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -
 in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
 Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958
 Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931.
 Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin, CPP/Belwin.

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**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:** 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** *Thine the Amen*

1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee

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.*

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out this morning.

Seeking Names of Graduates: Please call the church office by May 31st, 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!*

A special invitation for the Installation of Pastor Kliner, Saturday, May 30th at 4:00 pm. A catered Buffet Meal with dessert will be held in Shaheen Hall following Worship. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex with how many will attend.

In addition to wearing red on Pentecost Sunday, Messiah will be decorating the chancel with *red* geraniums. **Order forms must be returned to the church office by Wednesday, May 20th.** They may be picked up immediately after the Worship Service on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, or on Tuesday, May 26th (*Office is Closed Monday, May 25th*). Call the church office (326-9171) if you have any questions. ***If you wish to order a geranium but do not want to take it home, the extra flowers will be planted around the church grounds.***

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "Tropical Trek" will be held Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19. Registration forms are available in the Bald Eagle entrance or the church office.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits Ministry ~ Dates to Save:

June 15-19 – Bible School – children will take part by stringing the backpacks. VBS offerings will go toward the school supplies to fill the backpacks. **Sunday, June 28 – Kick-off for the School Supplies Collection** over the summer. **Wednesday, July 15, 9:00 a.m. – Knot-A-Sack “Knotty Party”** – Join us for a time of fellowship, good conversation, (and Sally’s cookies!) while we knot the drawstrings to complete the backpacks. **on Saturday, September 19, 5:00 p.m. – Pack-A-Sack** – Join us for a light supper, after which we will work together to pack the school kits and box them for shipping. ***Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information!***

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

A Focus on Relationship

The prayers of Jesus in today's reading come at the conclusion of what is called the "Farewell Discourse" in John's gospel, which takes place prior to Jesus' arrest in the garden. In this discourse Jesus repeatedly emphasizes themes of relationship, mutual love, and service as he teaches, gives final instructions, and prays for the disciples.

In John, more than in the other three gospels, *relationship* is the ultimate focus of the life of faith. Jesus' mission on earth is to bring people into knowledge of and relationship with God the Father. Jesus exemplifies perfect relationship with the Father and wants all people to know this same intimacy with God. He also prays that his disciples might live in such a loving and mutual relationship with one another. Moreover, he prays that we might be one, so that our unity reflects the unity of the Father and the Son.

Our relationship with God is strengthened and refreshed in faith communities that worship together, attend to each other's needs, and serve others and creation in acts of love and compassion. In the Bantu languages and philosophy of Africa, *ubuntu* refers to the moral conviction that "I am because you are," or "I am because we are." Ubuntu recognizes that our well-being and our futures are bound up in the well-being and the future of others.

Christianity is a religion of relationship, not of self-efficacy. In an increasingly individualistic and fragmented world, our faith in Christ demonstrates a bold witness to the power and beauty of community. How might Jesus be leading us and the church in this subversive work? How might mutual love and interdependence be signs of our faith, forging a path of healing for our broken world?

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