

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near to God with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to grant us the forgiveness of all our sins, and through the grace of the Holy spirit, true repentance and amendment of our sinful lives.

Kneel

Silence is kept for meditation...

P: Almighty God, merciful Father:

C: **I have sinned against you in thought, in word, and in deed;
By what I have done and what I have left undone.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart, mind, and strength.

I have not loved my neighbor as myself.

For the sake of our beloved Son, who suffered upon the cross for me,

Have mercy upon me and forgive me all my sin!

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. As a Called and Ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING HYMN*God is Here!*

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 of the Ser - vant seek in si - lence, as in speech,
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com- ing of the Spir- it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new- ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with- out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C:** And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain
 Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
 1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might- y God and Fa - ther, we
 wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain
 Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
 2 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.

Refrain

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

3 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, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

A: A Reading from Jeremiah:

⁵The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

A: A Reading from Romans:

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

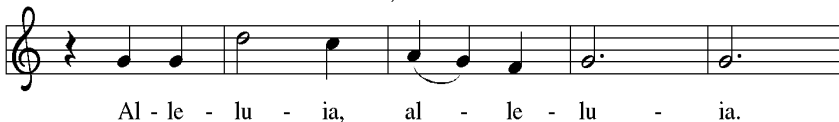
¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

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

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

Jesus said to the twelve: ⁴⁰ "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

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

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* **LBW 429*

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the

cries of thresh - olds race dark and clan, a - bove the noise of
 grief and bur - dened with fears, from paths where hide the
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -

self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide;
 oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
 and follow where your feet have trod;
 till glorious from your heav'n above
 shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt.
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

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: Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their need...

After each petition:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: All these things, most merciful God, we commend into your hands, 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

***The Beggar* Cheryl R. Sommer**

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.



OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray... Blessed are you,

C: **O Lord, our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness, you have blessed us with these gifts. With them, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

I lift un - 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.

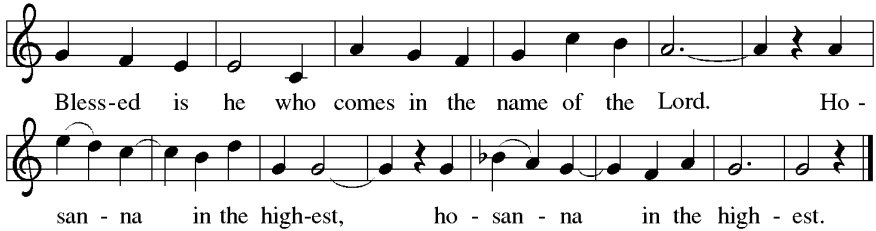
PREFACE

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; 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 - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Heavenly Father, you are holy indeed and all creation rightly gives you thanks and praise.

All life, all holiness comes from you, through your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, by the working of the Holy Spirit.

From age to age you gather a people unto yourself, so that, from the rising of the sun to its setting, a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your holy name.

And so, Father, we bring you these gifts:

We ask you to make them Holy by the power of your Spirit, that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate this Eucharist.

For, in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

TAKE AND EAT.

THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

After supper He took the cup. Again, he gave Thanks and Praise to you and gave it them to drink saying:

DRINK OF THIS, ALL OF YOU:

THIS CUP IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT.

IT WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN.

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

The mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

P: And so, Father Most Holy, calling to mind the death your Son endured for our salvation, his glorious Resurrection and his ascension into heaven, and ready to greet him when he comes again, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice of praise—

Look with favor on your Church, and see the Victim whose death has

reconciled us to yourself.

Grant that we, who are nourished by our Lord's body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ Jesus.

May he make us an everlasting gift to you and enable us to share in the inheritance of your Saints: the Patriarchs and Prophets, the Holy Apostles and Martyrs, and all your Saints in Light, whose witness encourages us in our Faith.

Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim Church on earth; together with our Bishops, Pastors, Deacons and the entire people your son has won for you.

Hear now the prayers of the family you have gathered here before you. In mercy and love, unite all your children wherever they may be.

Welcome into your Kingdom our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in your friendship.

There in your Kingdom, freed from the corruption of sin and death, we shall proclaim your glory with every creature, through Christ our Lord, through whom you give us everything that is good.

Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us...

C: **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.**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Come now and eat of the Bread of Life and drink of the Cup of Salvation! Taste and see, the Lord is good!

C: Amen!

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

Let Us Ever Walk with JesusLBW 487

- 1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
- 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
- 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
- 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de-ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad-ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de-struc-tion, give to us im - mor-tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, since you are our head,



On - ward in his foot-steps tread - ing, pil - grims here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh-ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy;
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem-bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Fa - ther's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 then by grace we all may win un - told fruits of his cre - a - tion.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, un - to you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, if I faith - ful be, life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
 Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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

Father in Heaven, you have fed us with the Bread of Life, your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Sustain us by the work of the Holy Spirit, through this Holy Meal, that we may abide in Christ, and he in us, to the glory of your Holy Name.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you and gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. And may almighty God—the Father, † The Son, and The Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak.....LBW 403



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and

let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
 Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

DISMISSAL

A: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

G: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner, Paul Ulrich; **Lay Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Comm. Assist.:** Sherri Holtzman; **Acolyte:** Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Lauren Russell, **Greeters/Presenters:** Kathy Stiber, Nicole Morris
Flower Delivery: Paul Weaver

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Gary and Gladys Hilling's 64th wedding anniversary on June 30th with love by their children.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William and Charlotte Winter on the anniversary of their wedding in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd on June 29, 1944. Given by their daughters, Carol and Marilyn Winter.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory and in honor of Carl and Betty Fenstermacher's 74th wedding anniversary.

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 after worship this morning in Shaheen Hall for an ice cream social. There will be vanilla and chocolate ice cream with various toppings.

This morning, we will kick off the shopping portion of our Lutheran World Relief School Kits project. Back-to-school sales have already begun, *so let's get ready to roll!* **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. *Watch for more updates later in June!*

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped with VBS this year. Without your continued support and dedication to this program, it would not be possible. The 37 kids and 7 teen helpers had a wonderful time because of your efforts. Thanks to all of those people who helped out behind the scenes, as well! *Kathryn*

It is time that we cover more flower cans. I have the wallpaper cut; all I need are several volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the church office with days of the week and times that you would be available. Then we can set one or two days that fit the greatest number of individual's schedules. Thank you. Chuck Luppert

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, July 19th. 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



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

From Welcome to Belonging

In just a few verses, the word welcomes sets the tone in this week's gospel passage. There are transactional aspects when we welcome guests into our personal spaces, or when we are welcomed by others. We are aware of the power dynamics between host and guest, and the welcome that is given and received reflects our understanding of these roles. There are also different degrees of welcome. For example, it is one thing to experience a welcome of our physical presence, and quite a different matter when our perspectives and opinions are welcomed. The former relies on host-guest roles; the latter relies on a relationship being formed beyond culturally established roles.

It is no surprise that congregations pay attention to their welcome practices. Some even adopt and publicize welcome statements. Congregations usually consider how visitors or guests come into their space for a worship service they host. When deeper welcome practices are employed, we can grow in our understanding of how we give and receive. This provides an interesting opportunity to consider that welcoming is more than just hospitality. We can also consider how the worship event happens because we are gathered by the Holy Spirit, so God is our host and we are all guests in that space.

Moving worship beyond a typical guest-host transaction, the reward is experiencing our belonging together as people of God. Belonging means welcoming one another into shared space. Seeking a wide expression of belonging challenges power dynamics that might otherwise remain in place in more traditional guest-and-host situations. Belonging is a culture we in congregations can cultivate and a gift we can share.

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