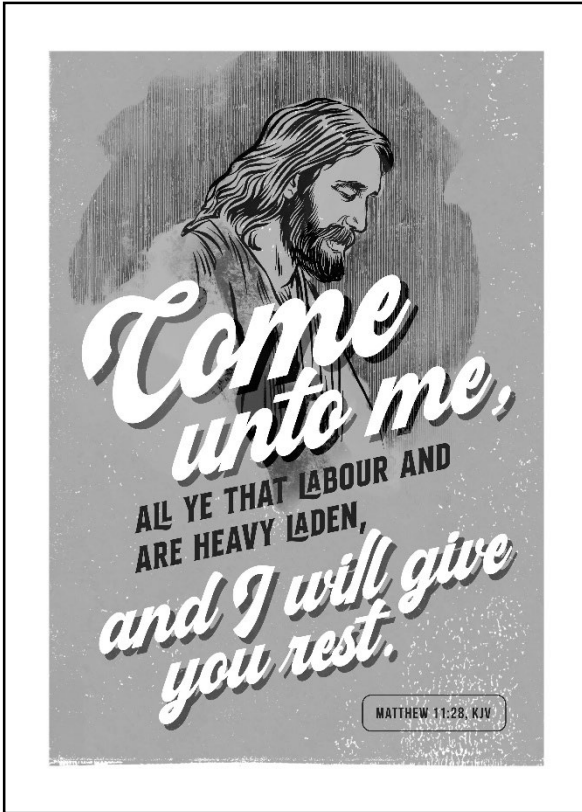


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026



**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



*The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.*

**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 your 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**

*What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886  
 Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

**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.

**G:** 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.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen.

Sit

**WORD****FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

**A:** A Reading from Zechariah:

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

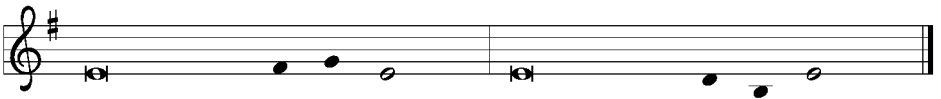
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

**A:** The word of the Lord.**C:** Thanks be to God.**PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14**

*Sung responsively between the Pastor and congregation.*



<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> LORD, you are good to all,

and your compassion is over all your works.

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall praise | you, O LORD,  
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup> **They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom  
and speak | of your power,**

<sup>12</sup> that all people may know | of your power  
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures  
through- | out all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works.**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all | those who fall  
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

**SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

**A:** A Reading from Romans:

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**A:** The word of the Lord.

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

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff has a final note with a fermata, and the second staff has a final note with a fermata.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

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

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

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: <sup>16</sup> “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

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

*Sit*

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



Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Day by Day*

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort  
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and  
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me  
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me  
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all  
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil  
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,  
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,  
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.  
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.  
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005  
 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882  
 Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.

**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.*

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.  
 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.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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**

*Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*

1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.  
 2 "Come to me, all trav - lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.  
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.  
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.

If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."  
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."  
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

*Refrain*

Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.

In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;  
 I would be your trusted friend.  
 Come and seek the gift I offer,  
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
 lonely ways no longer roam.  
 Come and take the gift I offer,  
 let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

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 of All Hopefulness*.....LBW 469



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional  
 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

**DISMISSAL**

**A**: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**C**: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**



### SERVICE ASSISTANTS

**Ushers:** Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ, Greg Eckenrode; **Lay Assistant:** Dave Bausinger; **Comm. Assist.:** Mary Schultz; **Altar Guild:** Susan Bryan, April Gardner  
**Greeters/Presenters:** Al Cole and Judy Berfield  
**Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

### IN BLESSED MEMORY

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Alfred and Edith Kaufman, by their daughter Linda Miller and family.  
**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and with thanks for placing him in our lives. In loving memory of Rob Frey, beloved son, brother, nephew and cousin by Debbie Frey and family.  
**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns in loving memory of our son David Hutchinson.

### 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.

**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!***

**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 19<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

**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)

**Invited**

Jesus offers a comforting invitation, “Come to me,” amid a reflection on the mystery of God’s wisdom and the failure by some to recognize it. Instead of making the search for wisdom into a game of hide-and-seek, Jesus sheds any presumption that God’s wisdom belongs only to the elite or adventurous. He declares that the gift of wisdom is accessible and available not just for the smart or those who have earned it in some way; it is for the willing, the burdened, and the heavy-laden. Do not worry about going to find secret knowledge. No need to try harder to figure it out. Just receive his invitation to come.

But in our culture, with so much energy and attention devoted to what we can earn, how do we hear this simple invitation from Jesus? When we find that the wise and intelligent are no closer to obtaining this gift from God, does that give us pause? Is all the effort to find the hidden things Jesus is speaking about part of the burden he asks us to lay down? How can we experience the rest Jesus gives?

The expression “come to Jesus” has varied usage in the broader culture, but our gatherings for the Lord’s supper reveal something about Jesus’ invitation and God’s gifts. When we receive the sacrament, we acknowledge a gift given—one that we need. When we come forward, we may not fully understand exactly how receiving those elements is “coming to Jesus,” but the space is made. We can accept Jesus’ invitation without knowing its full implications. And while the invitation is personal, it also helps us recognize that the community is united in a common response.

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