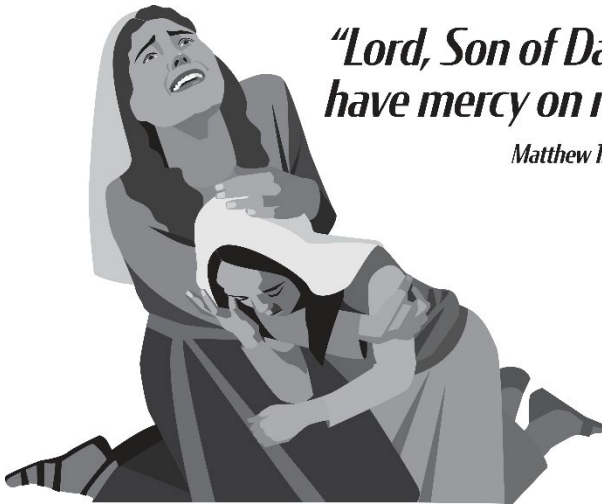


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



***"Lord, Son of David,
have mercy on me!"***

Matthew 15:22, NIV

✝ Holy Communion ✝

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026



28

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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



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.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

A: A Reading from Isaiah:

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

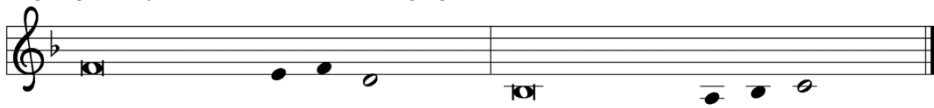
⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67*Sung responsively between the Pastor and congregation.*

- ¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
- ² **Let your way be known | upon earth,**
your saving health a- | mong all nations.
- ³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions
on earth.
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The earth has brought | forth its increase;**
God, our own | God, has blessed us.
- ⁷ May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32*God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.***[A]:** A Reading from Romans:

Paul writes: ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people?
By no means! I myself am an Israelite,
a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

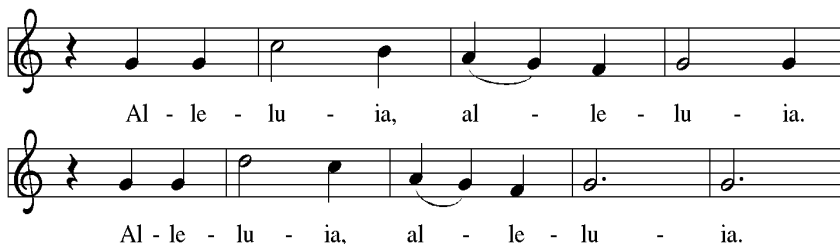
³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God
but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,

³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that,
by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy.

³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to
all.

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

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**GOSPEL: Matthew 15:1-28**

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

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

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

¹ Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,

² "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat."

³ He answered them,

"And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and,

'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.' ⁵ But you say that whoever tells father or mother, 'Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,' then that person need not honor the father. ⁶ So, for the sake of your tradition, you nullify the word of God.

⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said:

⁸ "This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

⁹ in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.' "

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them,

"Listen and understand:

¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person,
but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him,

"Do you know that the Pharisees took offense
when they heard what you said?"

¹³ He answered,

"Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.

And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”
15 But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.”
16 Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding?
17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach
and goes out into the sewer?
18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart,
and this is what defiles.
19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery,
fornication, theft, false witness, slander.
20 These are what defile a person,
but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”
21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out
and started shouting,
“Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David;
my daughter is tormented by a demon.”
23 But he did not answer her at all.
And his disciples came and urged him, saying,
“Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”
24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
25 But she came and knelt before him, saying,
“Lord, help me.”
26 He answered,
“It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”
27 She said, “Yes, Lord,
yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”
28 Then Jesus answered her,
“Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”
And her daughter was healed instantly.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit
SERMON.....Pastor Kliner

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Christ There Is No East or West..... LBW 359



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ - ly souls are one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941
Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

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

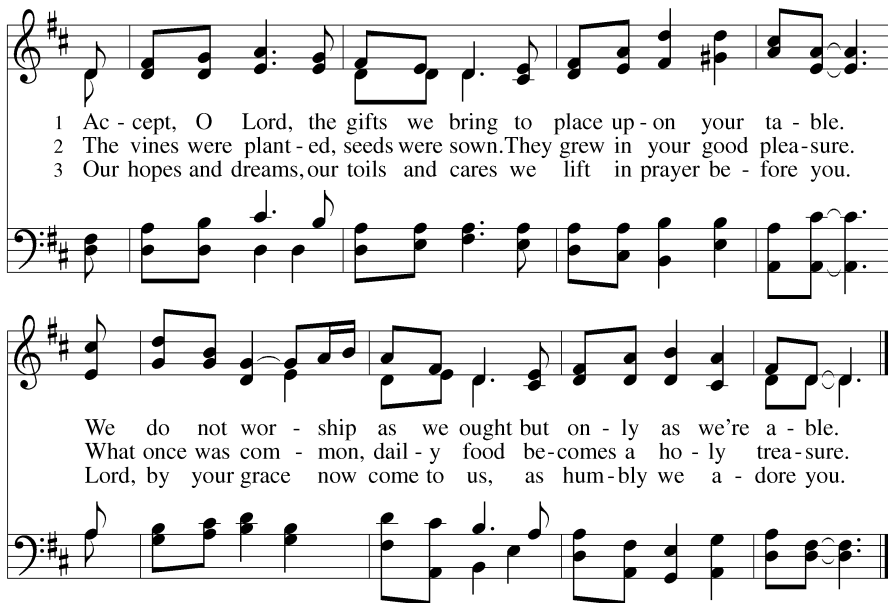
OFFERING

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.

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.

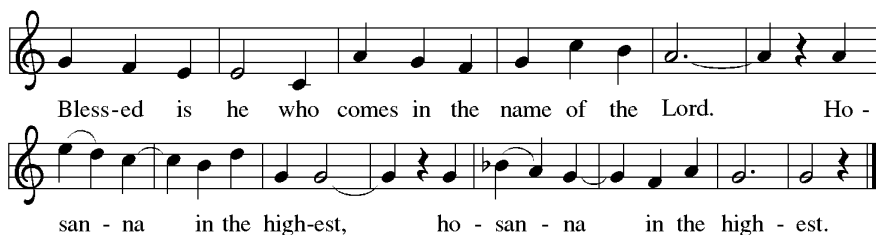
PREFACE

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.



EUCHARISTIC 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.

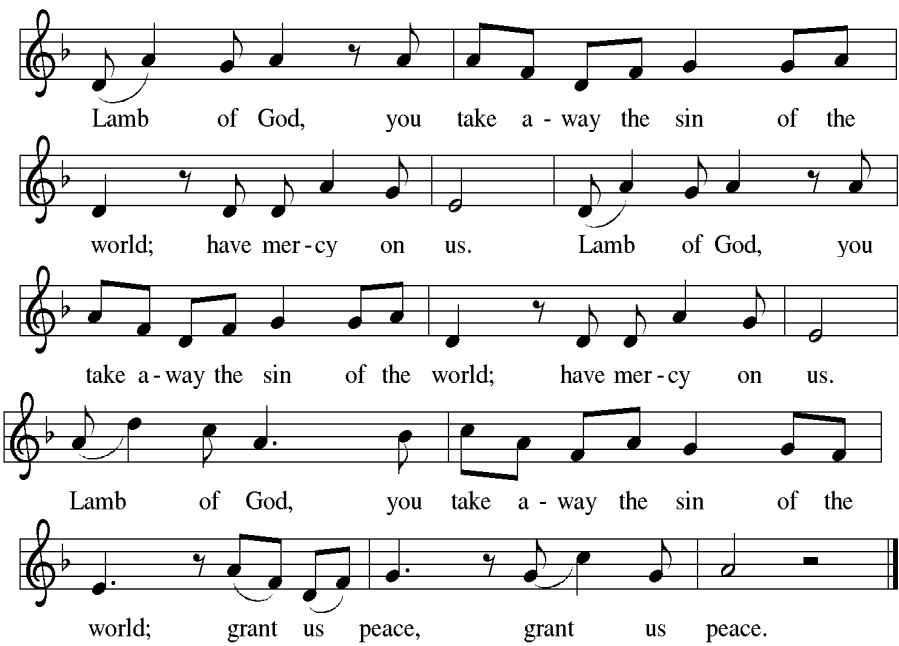
LORD'S PRAYER

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!

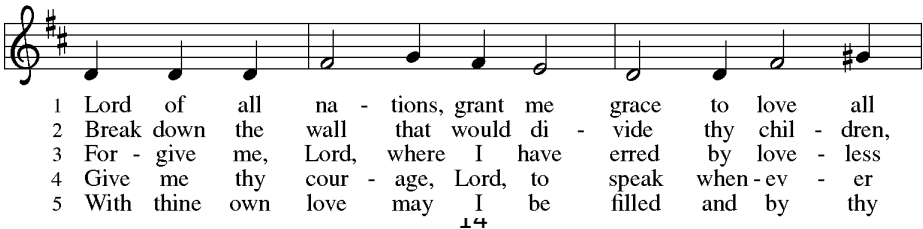
Sit
COMMUNION

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

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace..... LBW 419



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I
 Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -
 act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I
 strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim
 Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.
 sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.
 do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.
 be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.
 be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.

Music: BEATUS VIR, *Šamotulský Kancionál*, 1561

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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

SENDING

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

My faith Looks Up to thee..... LBW 479



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

A: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Chuck Luppert, Larry & Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** David Bausinger
Comm. Assist.: Fred Harbaugh; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower;
Greeters/Presenters:
Flower Delivery: Charles Luppert

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Miller, a loving father, grandfather and husband. With love from Michael, Nathan, Tammy, David, Nathaniel and Linda.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Nita and Eugene Ham.

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.

This morning after worship there will be a Quilt of Valor presentation.
Everyone is welcome!

Preschool Mums Fundraiser! It's time to order your fall mums. This is our **Seventh** year working with the Potting Bench for our Mums Fundraiser and the mums have been beautiful! The **\$10 tickets** for the mums will be available the first few Sundays in September after worship in the Narthex or church office, but are available now by contacting Linda Miller at 570-326-5405. You will be able to take your tickets to the Potting Bench any time in September at 324 Matthews Blvd. in S. Williamsport and choose your very own 9-inch potted mum(s). Deadline for picking up mums will be September 30. **THANK YOU for your support!**

Thank you to everyone who has brought in donations for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits. We will spend the next few weeks getting things ready to be packed into the backpacks at our Pack-a-Sack on September 19 at 5:00 p.m. Save the date!

Knotty Party (again!) – this Wednesday, August 19, 9 a.m.-??? Help is needed to string and knot the additional backpacks we will be making. Stringing is easy and we can show you how to do it if you prefer to string rather than to knot. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

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

Breaking Boundaries

Jesus did not stay within the boundaries of his time, much to the frustration of authorities. He broke through not just geographic boundaries but religious, ethnic, and social boundaries as well.

Jesus intentionally broke geographic and ethnic boundaries in visiting the Canaanite communities of Tyre and Sidon. Canaanites and Jews had often been in conflict, so it was not that surprising when the disciples attempted to prevent a Canaanite woman from seeing Jesus. She was breaking boundaries herself in asking that Jesus heal her child. Jesus' first response seems harsh, but as the woman persisted and acknowledged him as "Lord" (something the disciples had been slow to grasp), he healed her child.

In this encounter, Jesus demonstrated that God's love cannot be held back by boundaries created by humans based on who we are, where we are from, what we have done, our background, our position in society, and more. God's grace and restoration are available to all, with no exceptions.

And yet, history is filled with accounts of bias, discrimination, oppression, segregation, persecution, and genocide. Tragically, this continues today in a multitude of ways and a multitude of places.

As present-day disciples, we are called to follow Christ in breaking boundaries, challenging biases, and welcoming all to celebrate God's love at the font and the table. So, what boundaries do we need to break to work for peace and proclaim the good news? How are we and our congregations fighting bias, discrimination, oppression, and persecution wherever we can? How are we persistently asking Christ to heal and restore fractured communities and nations around the world?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24158. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted Hymns by permission of OneLicense.net #A-712396 and CCLI #11444333.