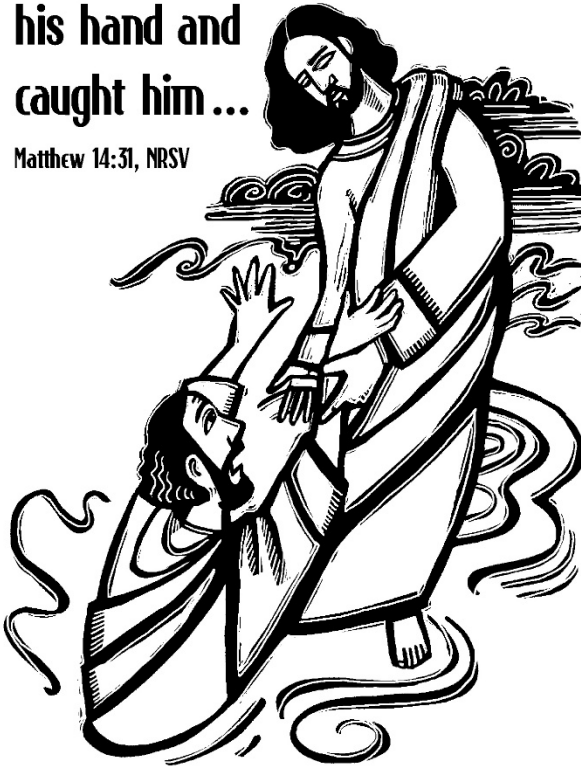


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE

**Jesus immediately reached out
his hand and
caught him ...**

Matthew 14:31, NRSV



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026



29

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the Eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

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***Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me***
1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver
2 As a moth - er stills her child, thou canst
3 When at last I near the shore, and the

life's tem - pes - tuous sea; un - known waves be - fore me
hush the o - cean wild; bois - t'rous waves o - bey thy
fear - ful break - ers roar twixt me and the peace - ful

roll, hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal; chart and
will when thou say'st to them: "Be still." Won - drous
rest, then, while lean - ing on thy breast, may I

com - pass come from thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
sov - 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer: Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

A: A Reading from First Kings:

⁹ At Horeb, the mount of God,
Elijah came to a cave and spent the night there.
Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,
“What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD,
For the LORD is about to pass by.”

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD,
but the LORD was not in the wind,
and after the wind an earthquake,
but the LORD was not in the earthquake,
¹² and after the earthquake a fire,
but the LORD was not in the fire,
and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Then there came a voice to him that said,
“What are you doing here, Elijah?”

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

A: A Reading from Romans:

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them."

⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down)

⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

⁸ But what does it say?

"The word is near you, in your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim),

⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?

¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?

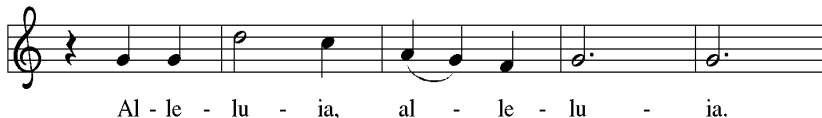
As it is written,

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

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

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

22 Jesus made the disciples get into a boat
and go on ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee,
while he dismissed the crowds.

23 And after he had dismissed the crowds,
he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone,

24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves,
was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.

26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea,
they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!"

And they cried out in fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said,
"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

28 Peter answered him,

"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

29 He said, "Come."

So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water,
and came toward Jesus.

30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened,
and, beginning to sink, he cried out,

"Lord, save me!"

31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him,
"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

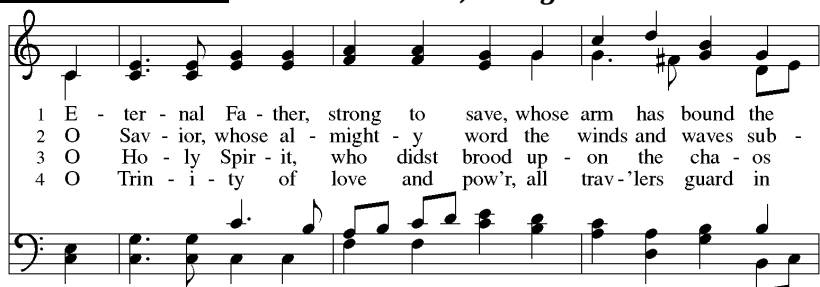
33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying,
"Truly you are the Son of God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

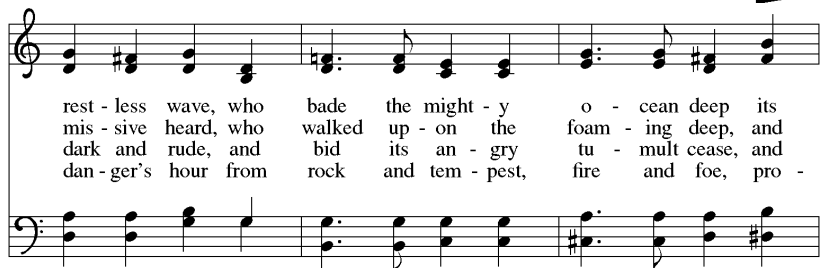
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

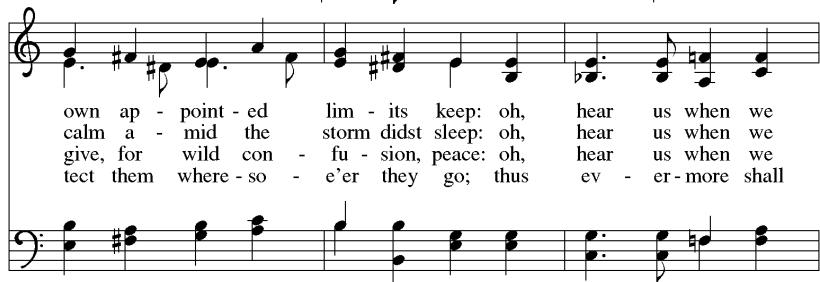
Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY***Eternal Father, Strong to Save***


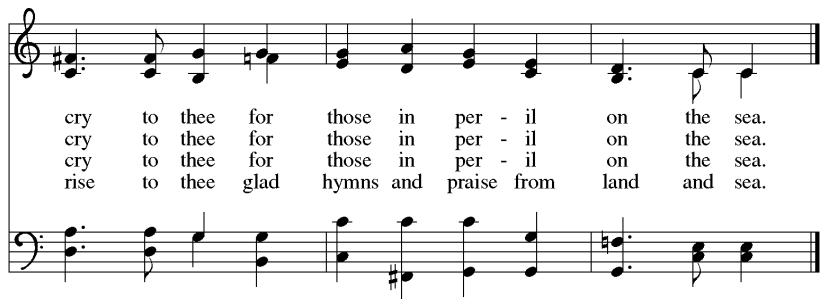
1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825–1878, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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

This song is dedicated to Jane Landon, Craig Harris and Sam Hessert.

***It is Well with My Soul* Horatio G. Spafford**

Messiah Quartet

Stand

OFFERTORY

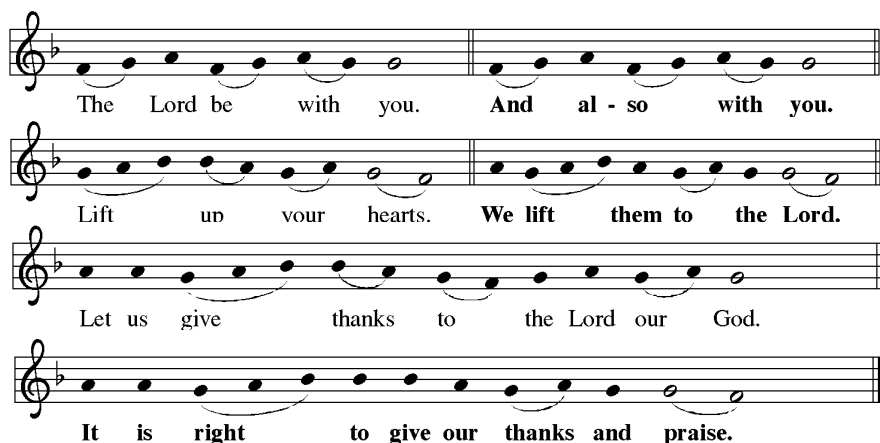
As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

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.

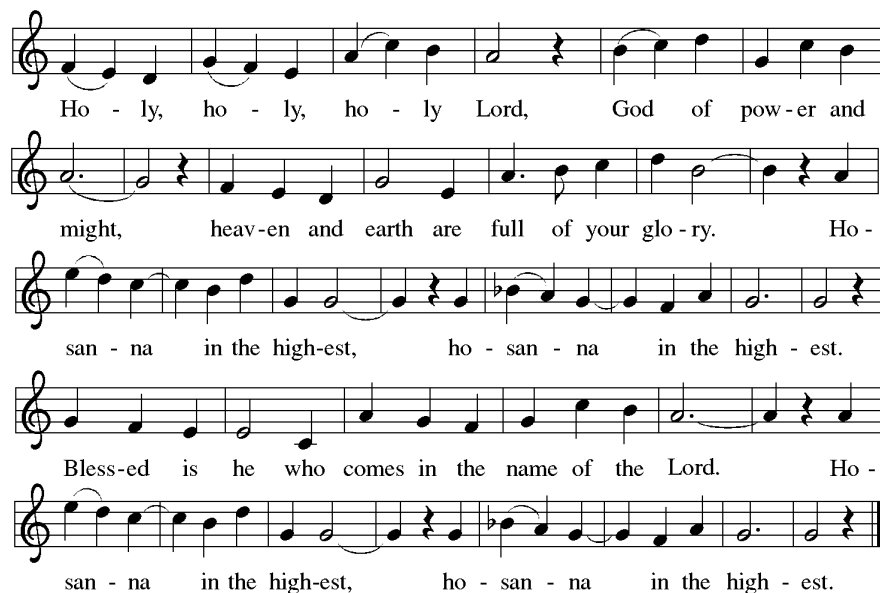
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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 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***Precious Lord, Take My Hand***

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,
 I am tired, I am weak, I am worn,
 when my life is . . al - most . . gone,
 and the day is . . past and . . gone,
 Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
 Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993

Music: George N. Allen, 1812–1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey

Text and music © 1938, 1968 Unicappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.

PRECIOUS LORD

Irregular

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.

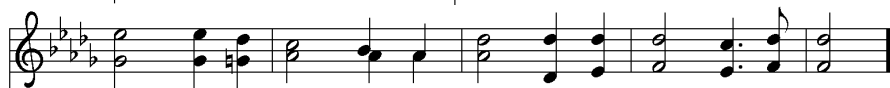
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN***When Peace, Like a River***

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,



Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888

Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

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: Kim Brofee; **Comm. Assist.:** Mandy Feinberg

Acolyte: Alivia Klemick; **Altar Guild:** Susan Bryan, April Gardner;

Greeters/Presenters: Mary Schultz, Ron Yeagle

Flower Delivery: Susan Bryan

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Munro and Gladys Webb Munro on the anniversary of their wedding, August 15, 1941, by their nephews Nelson, John, Gary, Andy and their families.

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.

Since the 1980s, Messiah's Men's Quartet has performed numerous times at Messiah Lutheran Church, as well as other churches and countless other venues throughout Lycoming County. Sadly, two of the original members (Craig Harris and Sam Hessert) and the Quartet's beloved long-time director, Jane Landon, are no longer with us. As a tribute to them, three of the current Men's Quartet members (Ben Landon, Bob Schweppenheiser, and Mike Yoder) will be joined by Janet Stroble in singing *It is Well with my Soul* today. The song was very special to Sam and Craig, as well as being a favorite of the entire group.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Lutheran World Relief School Kits ministry. The response has been so generous that we can fill more backpacks than we have sewn, so we will sew some more! *If you have already purchased items or have a longing in your heart to do so, please do bring them in.* We will sew as many more backpacks as we have material for and any surplus items can be used next year. Donations may be placed in the schoolhouse in the narthex or brought to the church office from now through *August 16.*

Knotty Party (again!) – 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

Take Heart

Can you recall a time in your life when something happened that was so strange or out of place that your initial reaction was fear? Maybe you doubted what you were experiencing or seeing and even thought, *this is not possible. This can't be.*

The disciples must have been terrified when they saw something so strange that it should have been impossible—someone walking on water, toward their boat, during a storm. They thought they were seeing a ghost until Jesus said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27).

Some say seeing is believing, but sometimes belief comes through experiencing. So, with Jesus’ encouragement, Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water. But when he realized how hard the wind was blowing, Peter started sinking and shouted, “Lord, save me!” Jesus reached out, steadied Peter, and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (vv. 30-31). Then the storm ended.

We may be more like Peter than we realize. Maybe there are times when it’s relatively easy to trust in God—until we face something unexpected, frightening, or out of our control. Then doubts immediately overwhelm us.

The good news is that Jesus hears our cries and saves us. He is with us in our weakest moments, holding us even as our spirits sink. Take heart—Jesus is always with you, bringing peace amid the storms, faith amid your doubts, and new life out of death.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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