Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✢ Holy Communion ✢

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026



REFORMATION SUNDAY

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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: Let us pray…

Dear Father in Heaven—to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we might perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the Truth is not in us. But we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let confess all our sins to God, so that we may hear his forgiveness and know his mercy…

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!

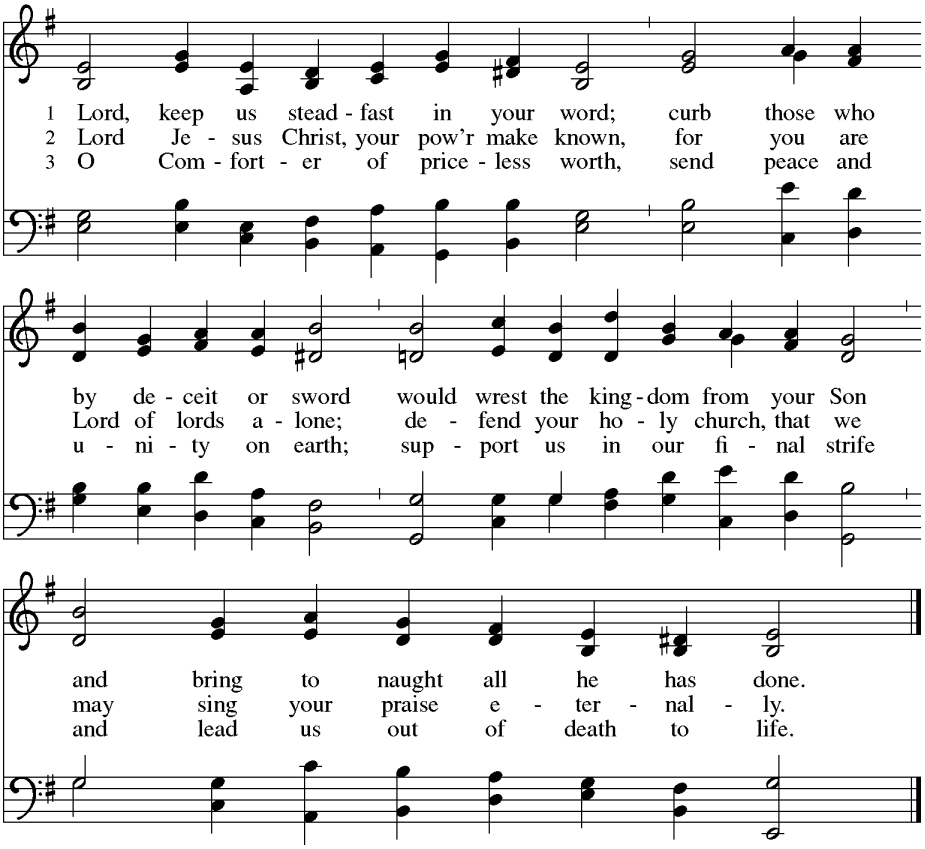
P: Almighty God, our Father in Heaven, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sin. As a Called and Ordained minister of the Church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Stand

The Congregation turns to follow the processional cross.

GATHERING HYMN ***Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word***



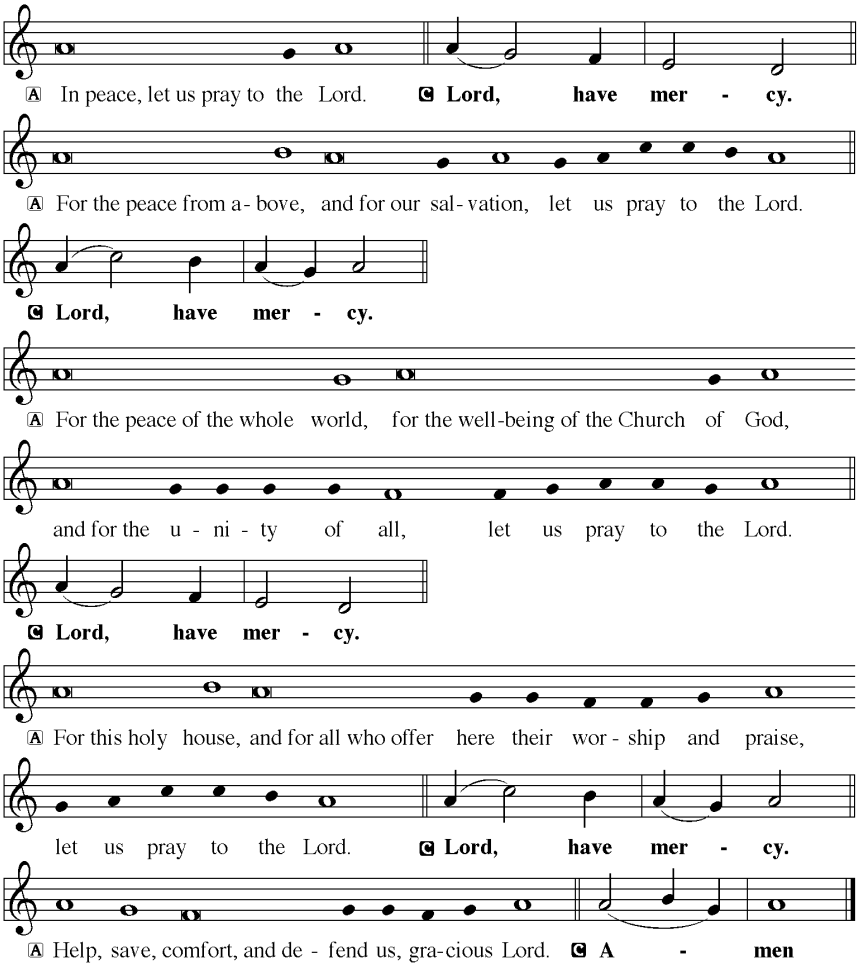
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

APOSTOLIC GREETING

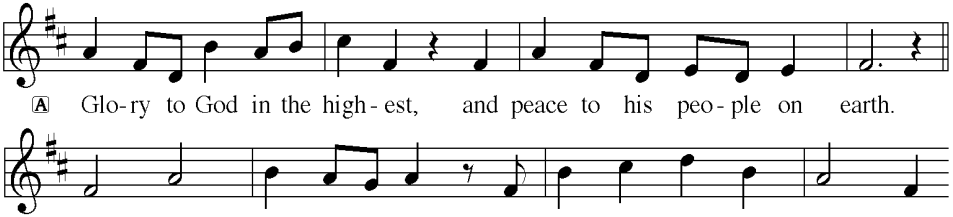
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
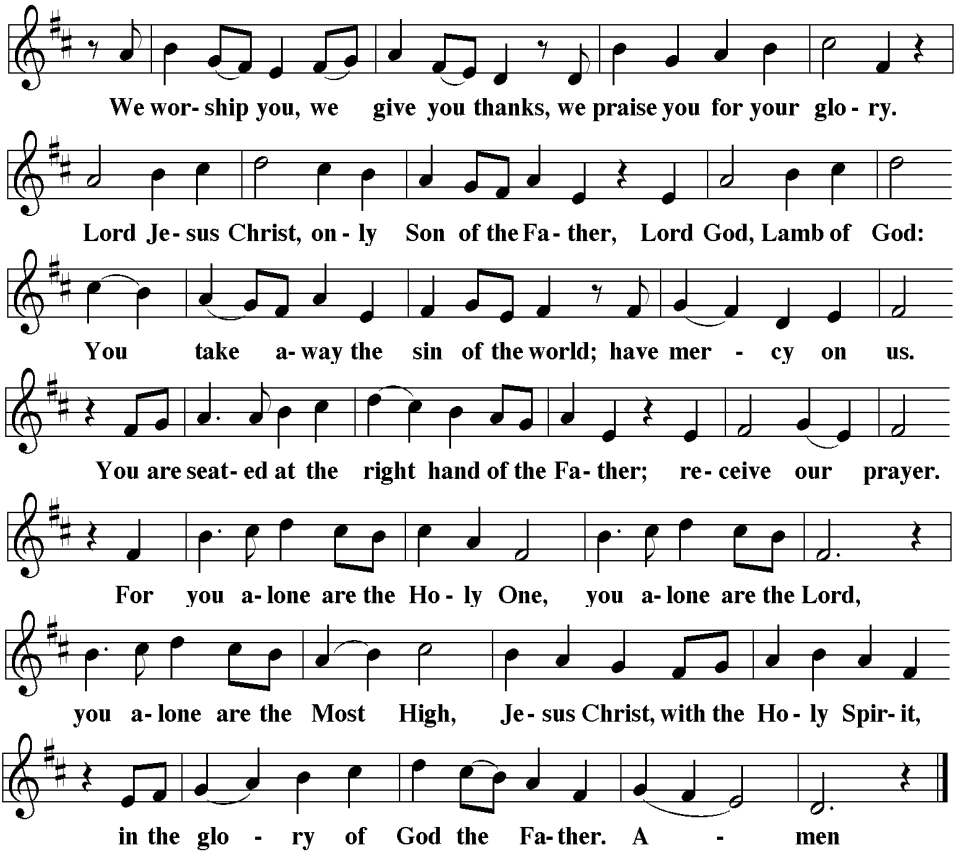
C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE
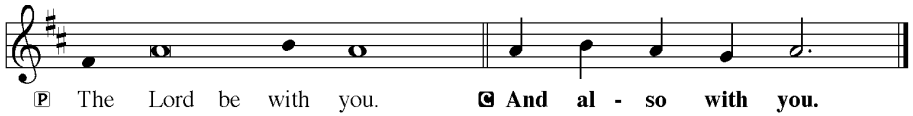


HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY



℗: Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

℄: **Amen.**

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

A: A Reading from Jeremiah:

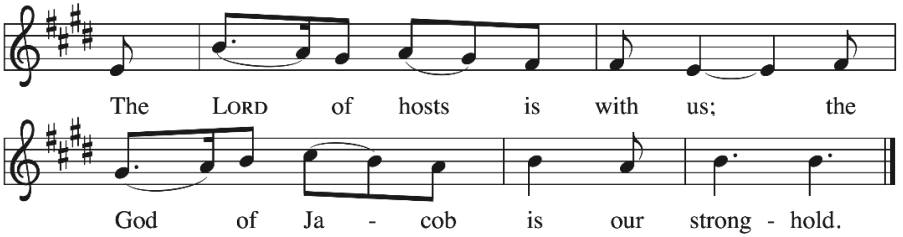
31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—
a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.
33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, says the LORD:
I will put my law within them,
and I will write it on their hearts,
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
34 No longer shall they teach one another
or say to each other, "Know the LORD,"
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD,
for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

A: The word of the Lord.

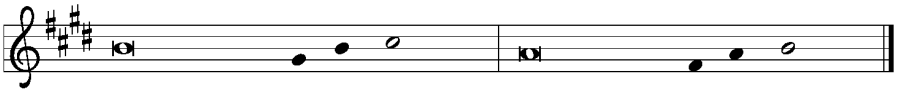
C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 46

Sung by the cantor and repeated by the congregation.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



1 God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths | of the sea;
3 though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.
4 **The LORD of | hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
5 There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
6 **God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;**
God shall help her at the | break of day.
7 The nations make much ado, and the king- | doms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall | melt away.
8 **The LORD of | hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
9 Come now and look upon the works | of the LORD,
what awesome things he has | done on earth.
10 **It is he who makes war to cease in | all the world;**
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the |
shields with fire.
11 "Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."
12 **The LORD of | hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

A: A Reading from Romans:

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says,
it speaks to those who are under the law,
so that every mouth may be silenced
and the whole world may be held accountable to God.
20 For "no human will be justified in his sight"
by deeds prescribed by the law,

for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been
disclosed, and is attested by the Law and the Prophets,
22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who
believe. For there is no distinction,
23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;
24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift,
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood,
effective through faith.
He did this to show his righteousness,
because in his divine forbearance
he had passed over the sins previously committed;
26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous
And that he justifies the one who has faith of Jesus.
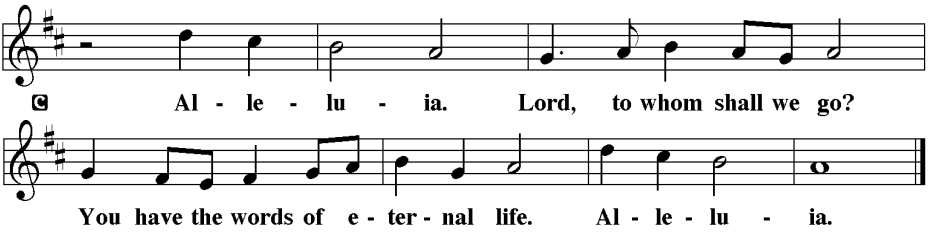
27 Then what becomes of boasting?
It is excluded.
By what law? By that of works?
No, but by the law of faith.
28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works
prescribed by the law.

A The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



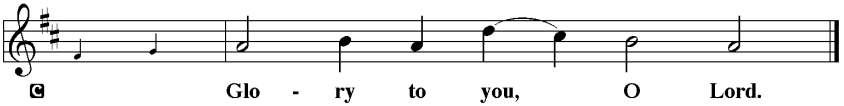
CANTOR: If you continue in my word, you are truly | my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will | make you free.

C: Repeat the Alleluias.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

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

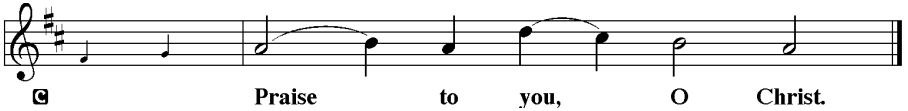


31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him,
"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,
32 and you will know the truth,
and the truth will make you free."
33 They answered him,
"We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone.
What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

34 Jesus answered them,
"Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household;
the son has a place there forever.

36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
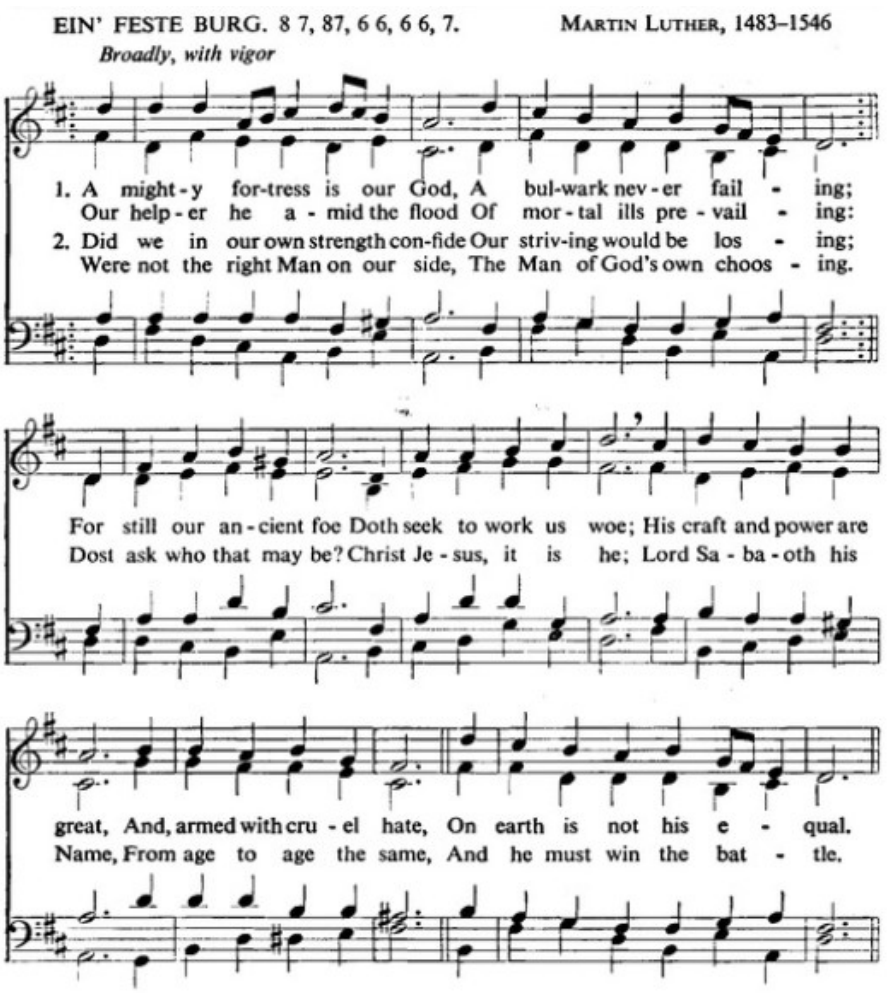


Sit

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

Stand



HYMN OF THE DAY ***A Mighty Fortress***



3 And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–90
Based on Psalm 46

NICENE GREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

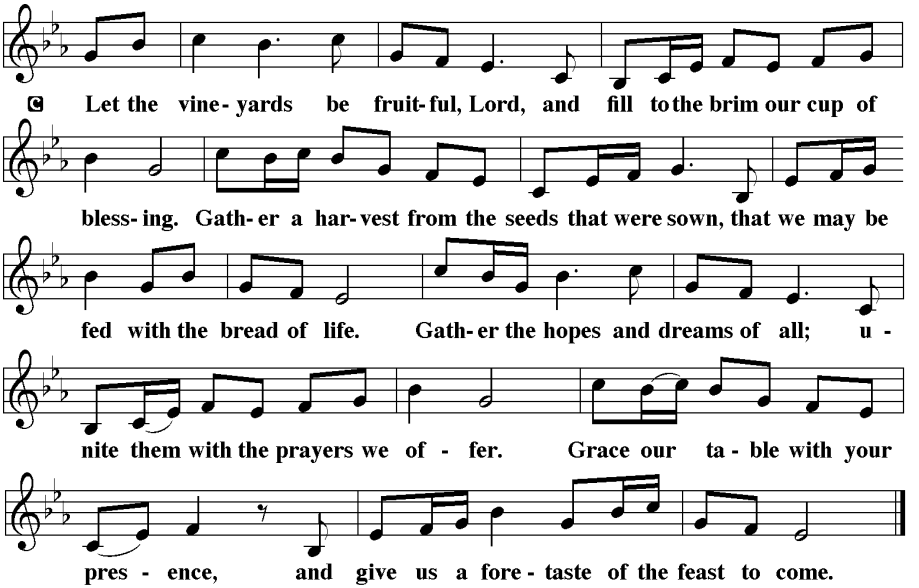
Anthem

How Firm a Foundation ..... **Samuel Walter**

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

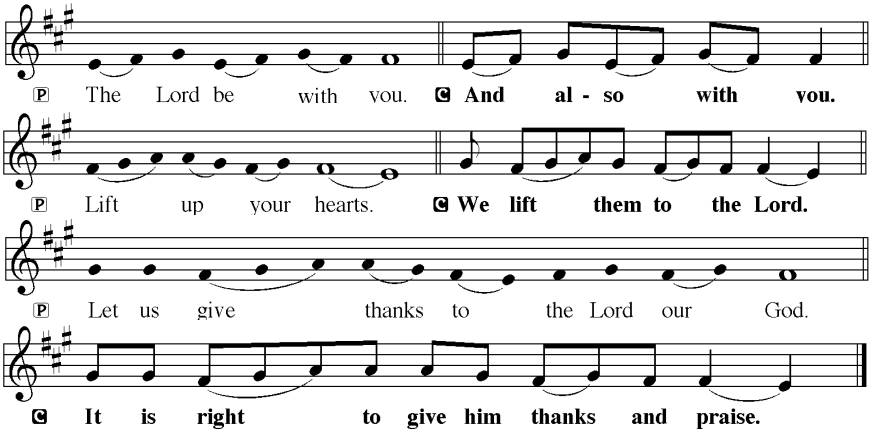


OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray… Merciful Father,

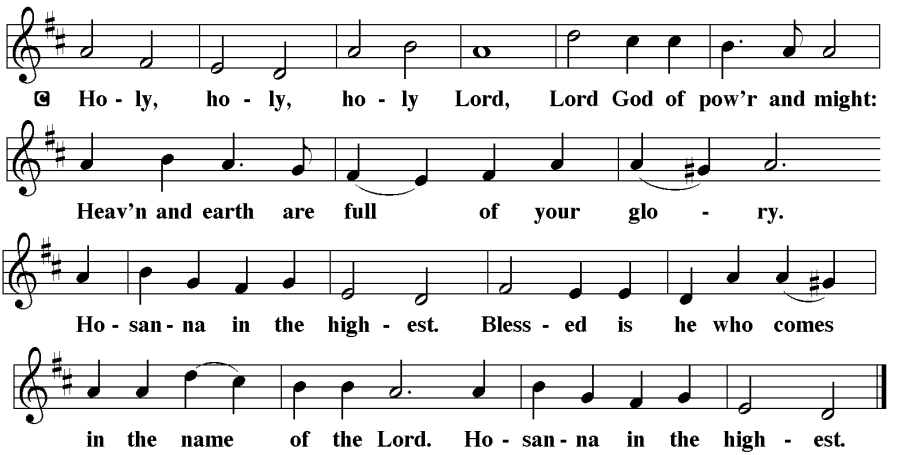
C: We offer you with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious Love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself to us, + Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary, that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your Name and join their unending hymn…



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Heavenly Father: endless is your mercy, and eternal is your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the Prophets, you renewed your promise; and at this, the end of the ages, you sent your only begotten Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your Kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life upon the Cross.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these the gifts of your Church, that they may be for us the very Body ☩and Blood ☩ of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us who receive our Lord's Body and Blood live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your Saints in Light.

C **Amen! Come Holy Spirit!**

P: For, in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ 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**.**

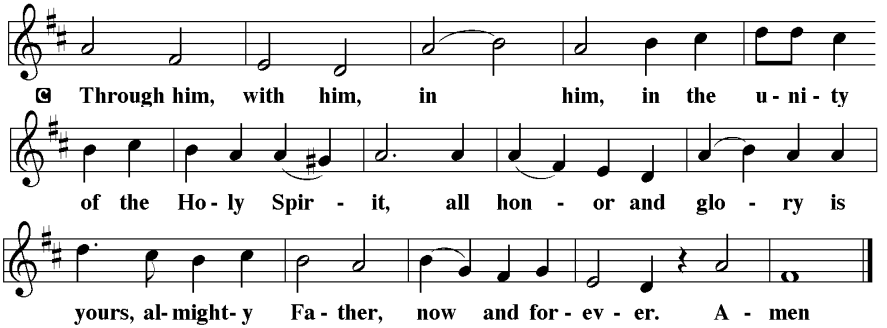
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again in his glory!

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, we pray: Look with favor on your Church, and see him 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, and believing the witnesses of his Resurrection, be sustained in the Faith and Hope of our Lord's coming in power and glory to share with us the great and promised Feast.

C **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

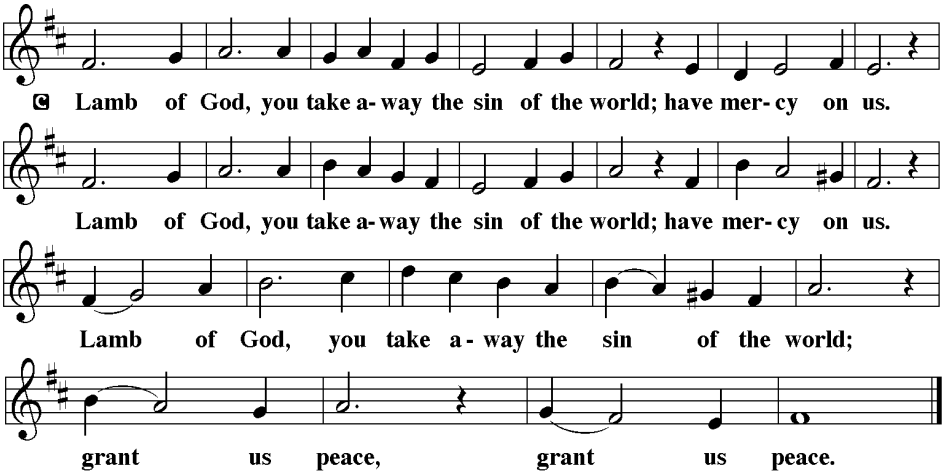
P: Join now our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the prayers of the Faithful throughout the ages—the Patriarchs and Prophets, the Holy Apostles and Martyrs, and all your Saints in Light who lived and died in Faith. Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim Church here on earth—together with our Bishops, Pastors, Deacons and the entire people your son has won for you through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Welcome into your Kingdom all our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in your friendship. Unite all these prayers with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest, Jesus Christ, until he comes as Victorious Lord of all…



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



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Pastor lifts the Bread and Chalice and says:

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

C: Thanks be to God!

P: The Holy Things for the Holy people:

C: One is Holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God!

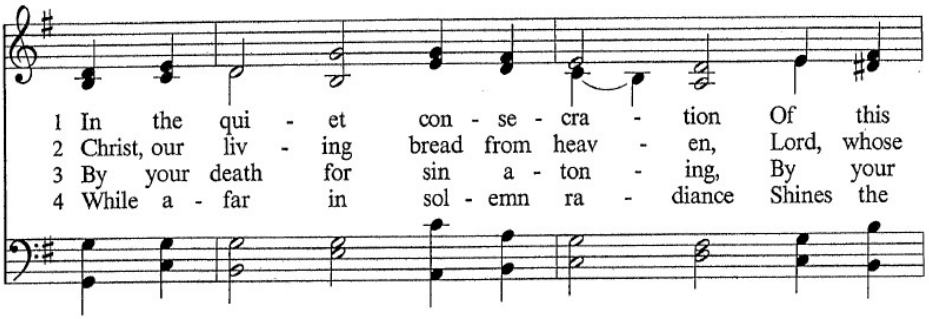
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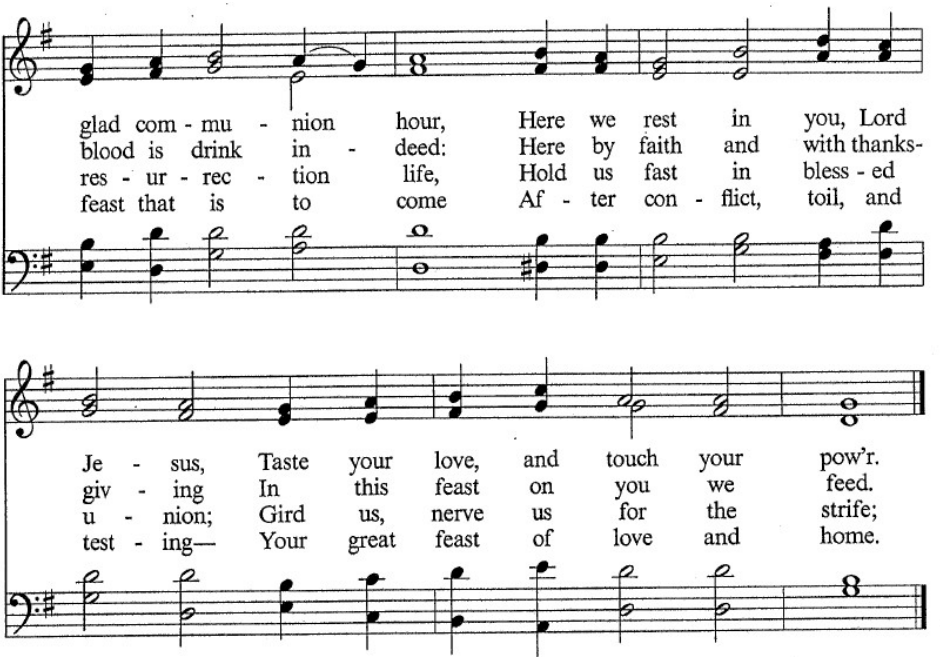
COMMUNION

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 *In the Quiet Consecration*





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

Let us pray… Father in Heaven, you provide the true Bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his Body and Blood, may abide in him, and he in us, so that we might abound in Faith, Hope, and Love; to the glory of your name.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING
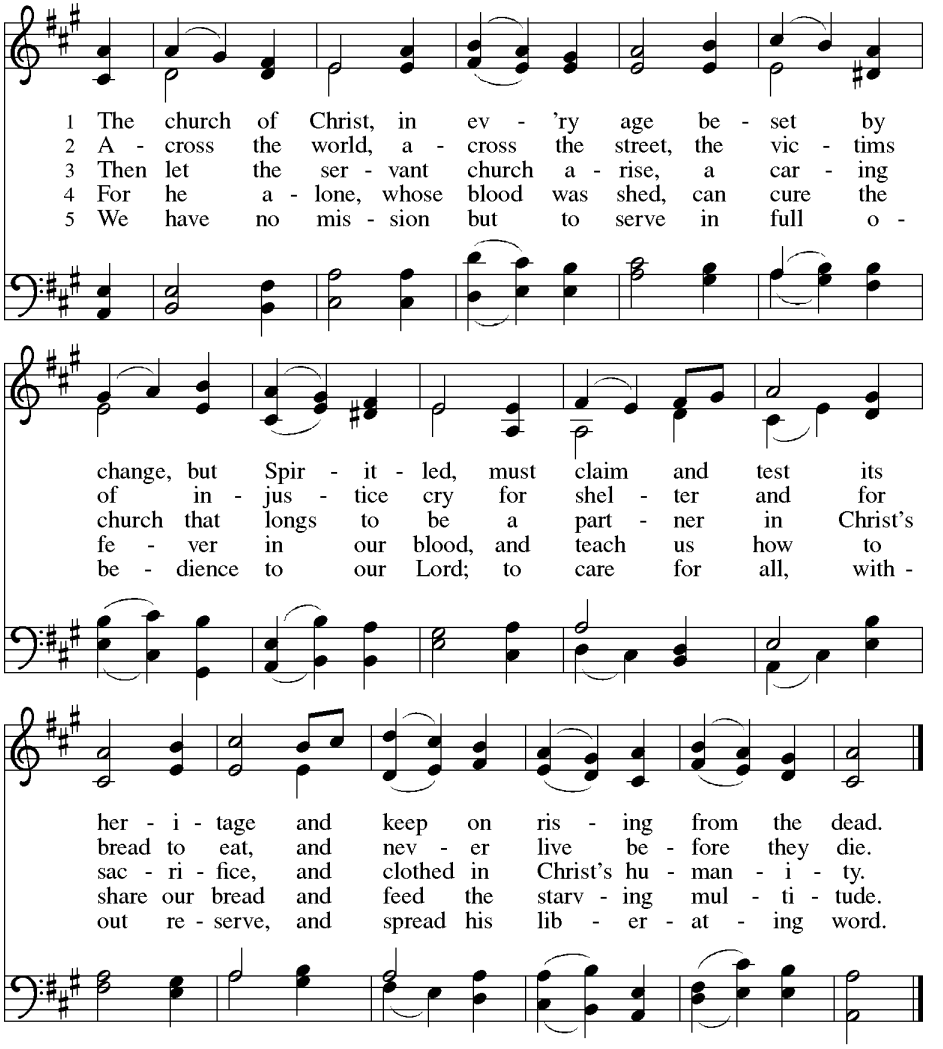
BENEDICTION

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.**

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

SENDING HYMN ***The Church of Christ, in Every Age***



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768
Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Paul Ulrich, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner; **Lay Assistant:** Susan Bryan; **Comm. Assist.:** Rhonda Koch; **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Doriann Morris; **Torchbearers:** Dylan Sherman, Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower **Greeters/Presenters:** Pam Eveleth; **Cantor:** Janet Stroble; **Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dwain Butt with love from his family.

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.

Today is Reformation Sunday. Immediately following worship, we will celebrate Reformation in Shaheen Hall. The menu will be pork, sauerkraut, hot dogs, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce and various desserts. *Please join us!* **Included in your bulletins is** *"A Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences"* prepared by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther on the Eve of All Saints, October 31, 1517 AD.

Official Notice is hereby given of the **Annual Congregation Meeting** to be held on **Sunday, November 15th.** This meeting will be held immediately after worship. Please plan on attending.

WELCA members will be packing cookie tins and other goodies on November 17. We need names and addresses of Messiah's college students and military personnel. Please give this information to the Church Office as soon as possible. Closer to the time we'll also solicit cookies and other packable foods from the congregation and hope you will contribute generously. Thanks!

White Gifts Project Soon to Begin ... Each year, Messiah has put up an angel tree to provide gifts for children in the South Williamsport Area School District and in our congregation whose families are experiencing a need and can use a helping hand. Families of our congregation who are experiencing such a need and can benefit are encouraged to call the church office. *Forms will be provided for gift suggestions, which will need to be returned to us no later than October 30* so that we have time to prepare the tags for the tree.

Christmas Basket Food Donations: food collection has begun for our food baskets that we give to families in need at Christmas time. **Food donations** may be placed in the bin in the narthex on Sunday mornings or in the specially marked bin in the elevator alcove during the week. **Monetary donations** are also needed for the purchase of perishable items. Please place your gifts in an envelope marked "Christmas Baskets" and place it in the offering plate during worship or mail to the church office. Checks are to be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with "Christmas Baskets" written in the memo line. **All donations are due no later than Sunday, December 13.**

The 2027 offering envelopes are here and available for pick-up in the Narthex. Please be sure to take yours.

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

Welcomed In

A crowd gathered in the church basement like they did every third Thursday of the month. They walked past the kitchen window. They grabbed their plates. They filled up cups of ice water and coffee and swung by the dessert table on their way to folding chairs situated around circular folding tables throughout the room. Conversations bubbled up as old friends greeted each other around the free meal provided, as it was every month. Everyone was welcome, no questions asked.

This image of a free meal in the church basement, attended by any and all comers, is reminiscent of the wedding feast the king gives in today's parable. When those who are invited fail to show up, the king sends his servants out into the entire surrounding countryside to bring to the meal any and all who will attend. The king doesn't check credentials; the king doesn't ask questions. The joy of the wedding feast is open to all.

The parable tells us of one guest without a wedding robe, who winds up outside the joy of the feast. This can cause us to worry or despair. Do we have a wedding robe fit for the kingdom of heaven? What happens to us if we do not? Our baptism in Jesus, however, reminds us that we have no need to fear. We have been clothed not with a robe but with the grace of Jesus, which assures us that we, who have been gathered into the feast of the reign of God, have a place and an inheritance among God's people. Gathered around that table of grace, we too are sent to share the good news and welcome others into the reality of God's reign.

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