Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✢ Holy Communion ✢

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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!

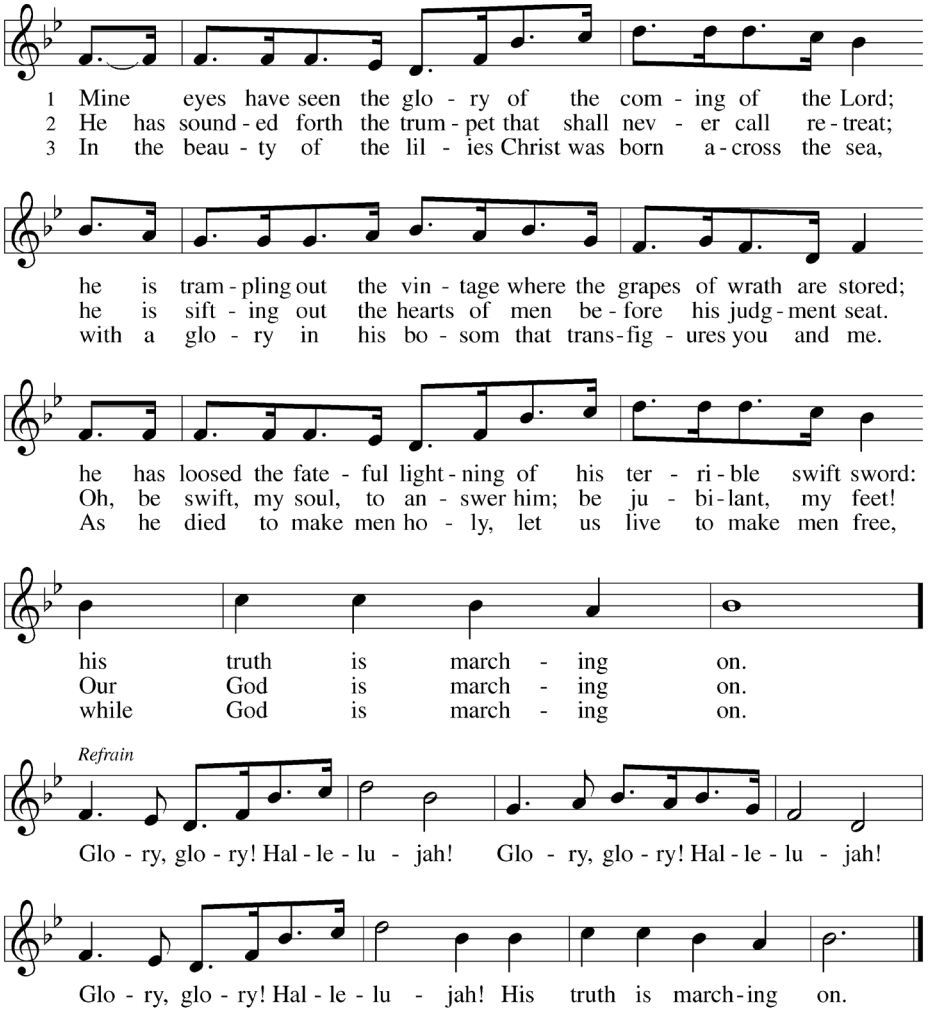
P: Almighty God, our Father in Heaven, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sin. As a Called and Ordained minister of the Church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and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

C: **Amen.**

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

Battle Hymn of the Republic ..... LBW 332



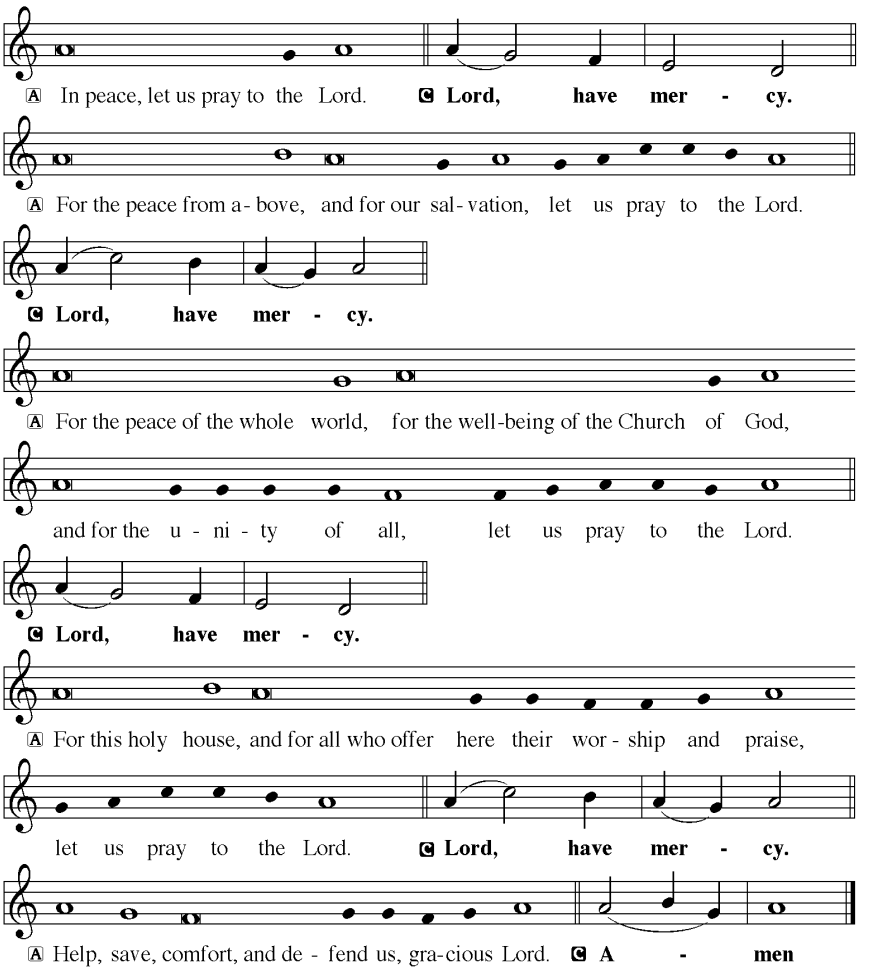
Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910
Music: BATTLE HYMN, American, 19th cent.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

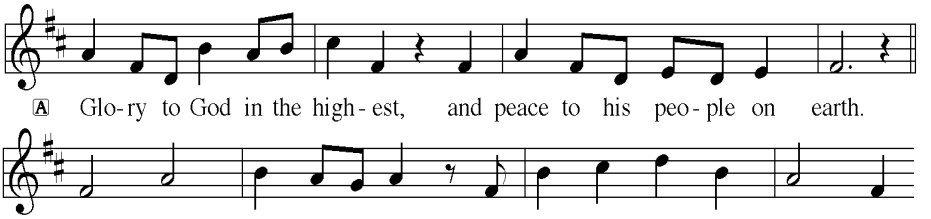
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

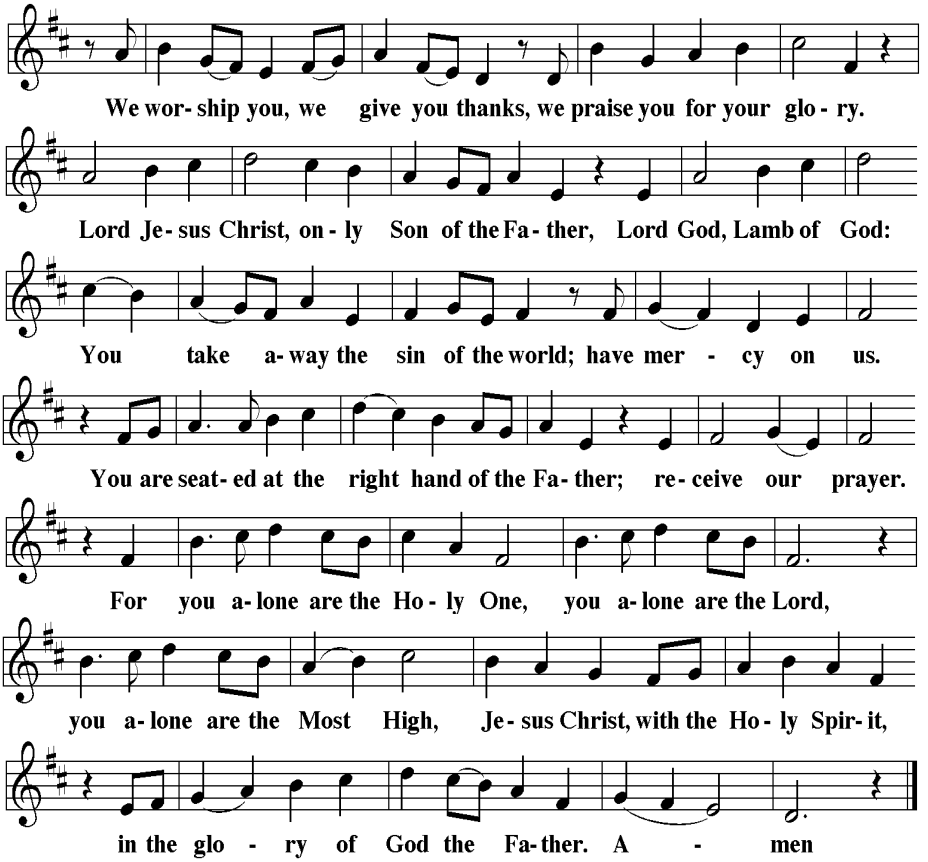
C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

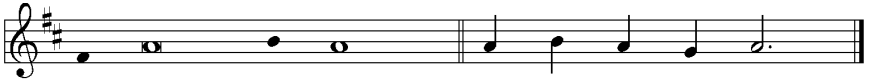


HYMN OF PRAISE



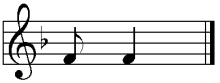


PRAYER OF THE DAY



℗: Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

A: A Reading from Zephaniah:

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

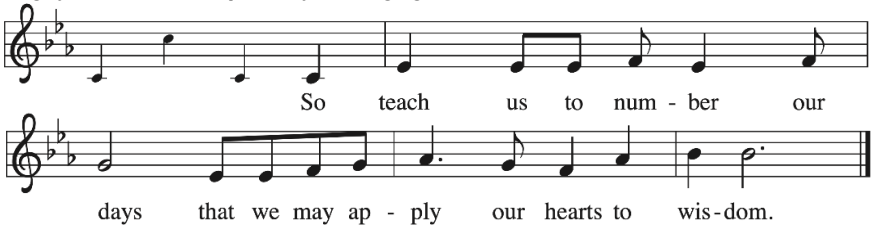
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-12

Sung by the cantor and repeated by the congregation.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



[1]Lord, you have | been our refuge*
from one generation | to another.
[2]Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,*
from age to age | you are God.
[3]You turn us back to the | dust and say,*
"Go back, O | child of earth."
[4]For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past*
and like a watch | in the night.
[5]You sweep us away | like a dream;*
we fade away suddenly | like the grass.
[6]In the morning it is | green and flourishes;*
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
[7]For we consume away in | your displeasure;*
we are afraid because of your wrathful | indignation.
[8]Our iniquities you have | set before you,*
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
[9]When you are angry, all our | days are gone;*
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
[10]The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;*
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.
[11]Who regards the power | of your wrath?*
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
[12]So teach us to num- | ber our days,*
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A: A Reading from First Thessalonians:

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,
you do not need to have anything written to you.
2 For you yourselves know very well
that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
3 When they say, "There is peace and security,"
then sudden destruction will come upon them,
as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman,
and there will be no escape!

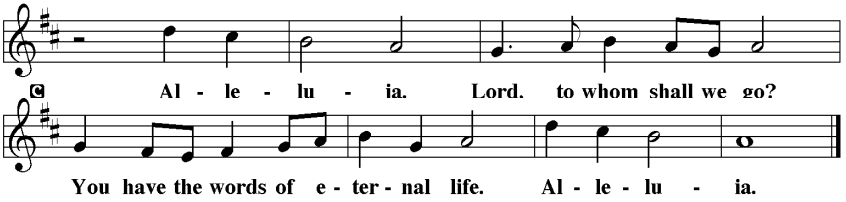
4 But you, beloved,
are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;
5 for you are all children of light and children of the day;
we are not of the night or of darkness.
6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do,
but let us keep awake and be sober,
7 for those who sleep sleep at night,
and those who are drunk get drunk at night.
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober
and put on the breastplate of faith and love
and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
9 For God has destined us not for wrath
but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us,
so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.

A The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



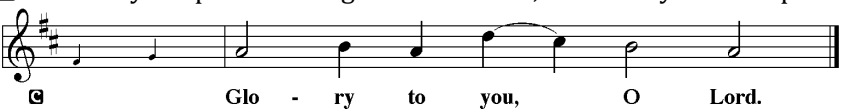
CANTOR: Abide in me as I a- | bide in you;* those who abide in me | bear much fruit.

C: Repeat the Alleluias.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



Jesus said to the disciples:
14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;
15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one,
to each according to his ability.
Then he went away.

16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once
and traded with them and made five more talents.
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more
talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off
and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

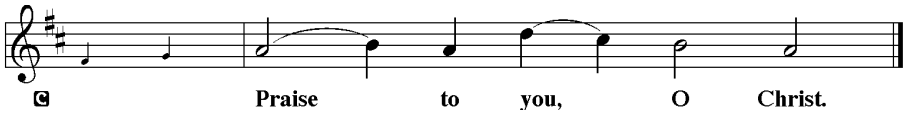
19 After a long time the master of those slaves came
and settled accounts with them.
20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward,
bringing five more talents, saying,
'Master, you handed over to me five talents;
see, I have made five more talents.'
21 His master said to him,
'Well done, good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy in a few things;
I will put you in charge of many things;

enter into the joy of your master.'
22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying,
'Master, you handed over to me two talents;
see, I have made two more talents.'
23 His master said to him,
'Well done, good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy in a few things;
I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.'

24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward,
saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man,
reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter
seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.
Here you have what is yours.'
26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave!
You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow
and gather where I did not scatter?
27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers,
and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.
28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

29 For to all those who have, more will be given,
and they will have an abundance,
but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken
away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

℗: The Gospel of the Lord.



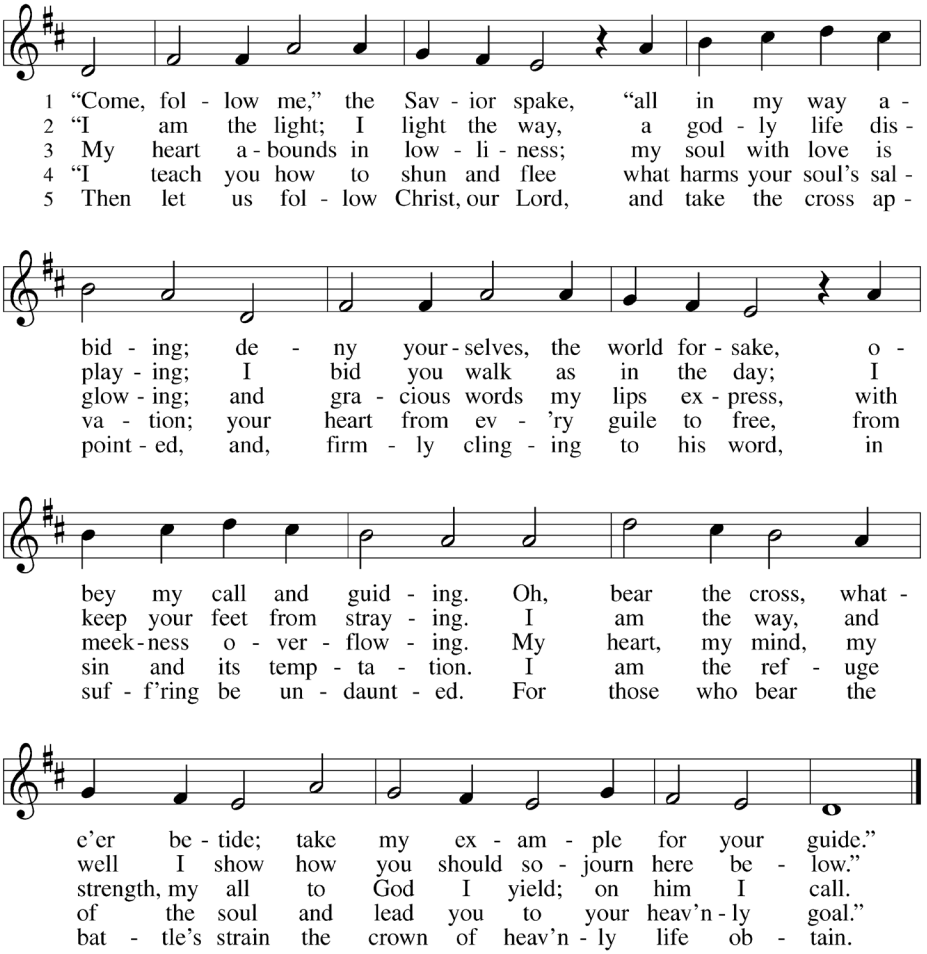
Sit

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

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

***"Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake*.....LBW 455**



Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813-1896, alt.
Music: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT, Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555-1613, adapt.

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.

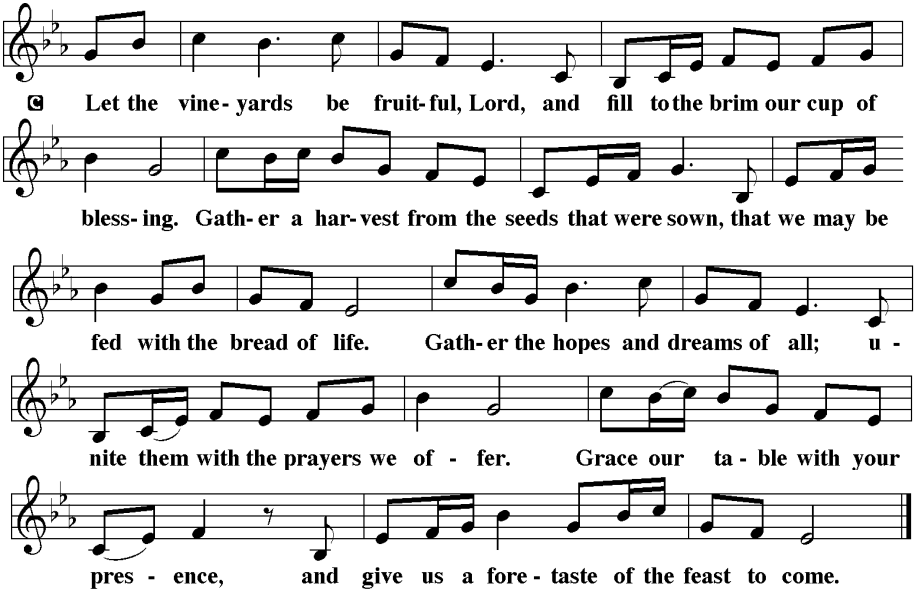
Anthem

Psalm ..... **Natalie Sleeth**

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

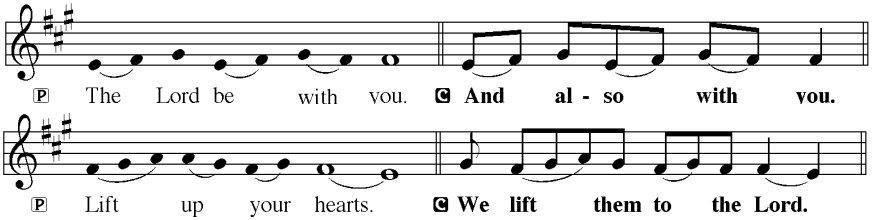


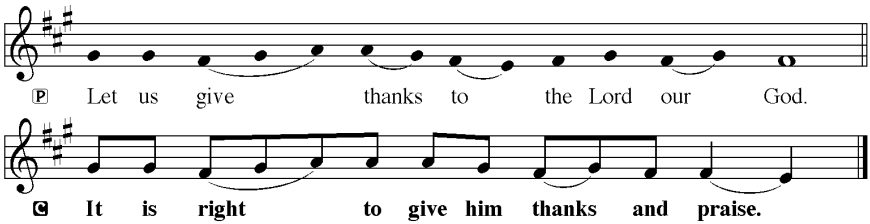
OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

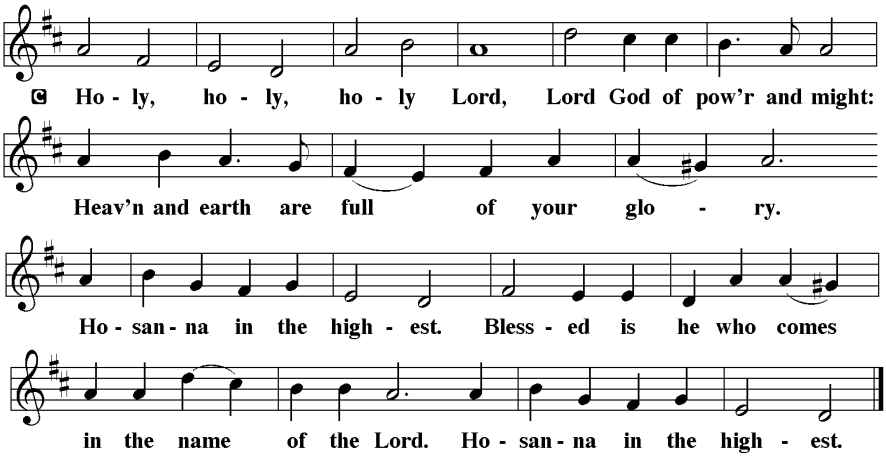
GREAT THANKSGIVING





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

℗: 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.

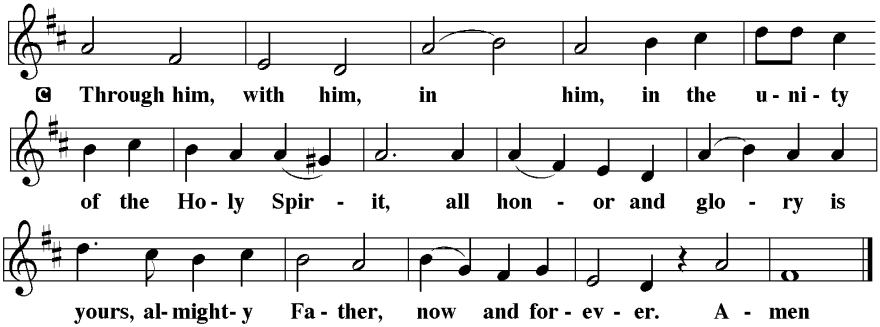
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again in his glory!

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!

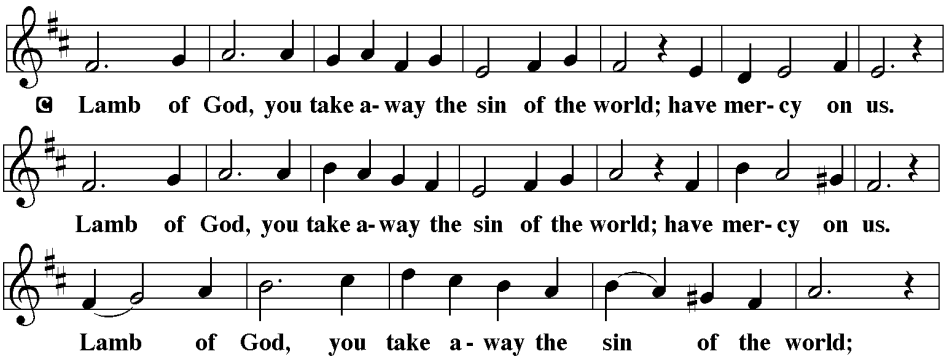
P: Join now our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the prayers of the Faithful throughout the ages—the Patriarchs and Prophets, the Holy Apostles and Martyrs, and all your Saints in Light who lived and died in Faith. Strengthen in faith and love your 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…

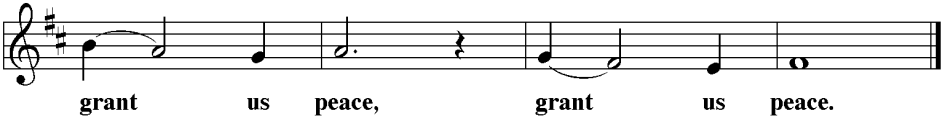


LORD'S PRAYER

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!**

Sit

COMMUNION

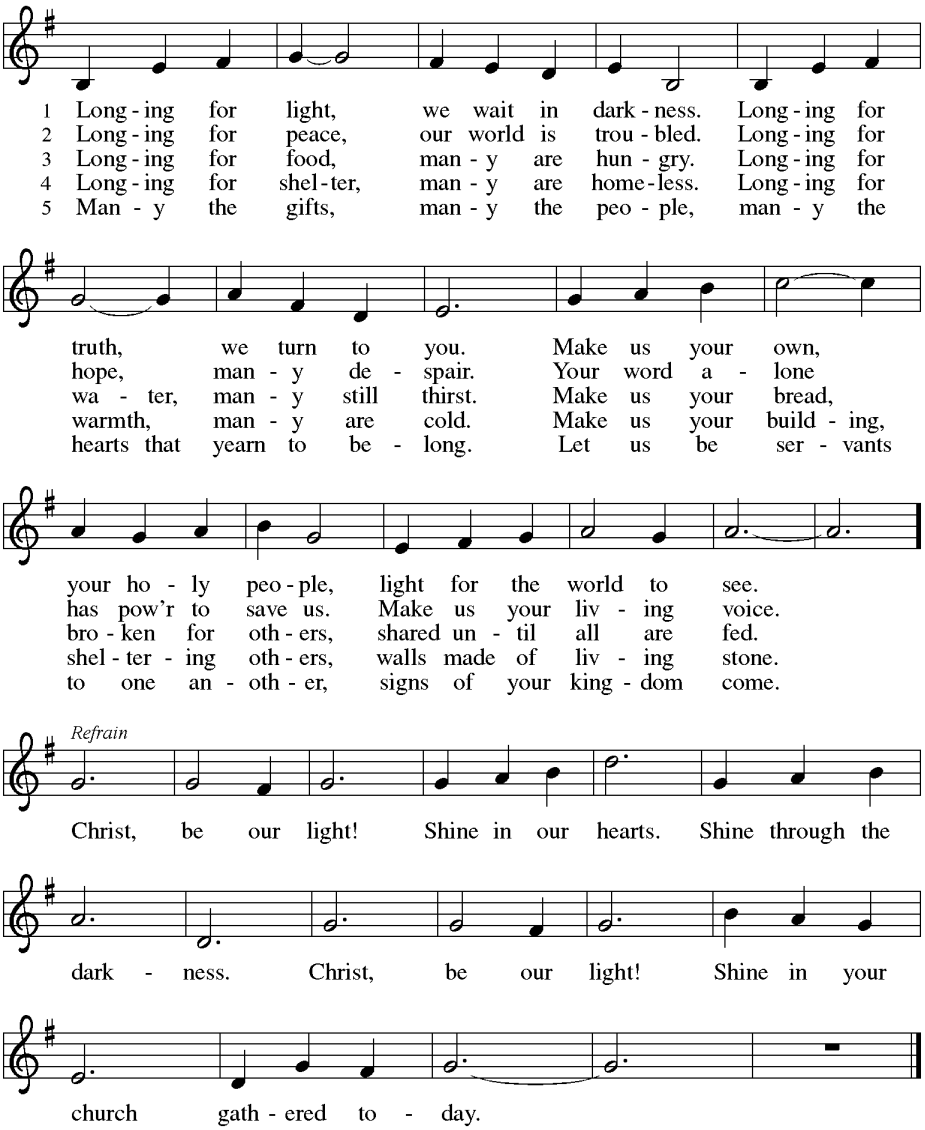
All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: **Amen**



COMMUNION HYMN ***Christ, Be Our Light***



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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

SENDING OF THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

P: Gracious God,
loving all your family with a mother's tender care:
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth.
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the comfort of your abiding presence.

C: **Amen.**

Sit

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Stand

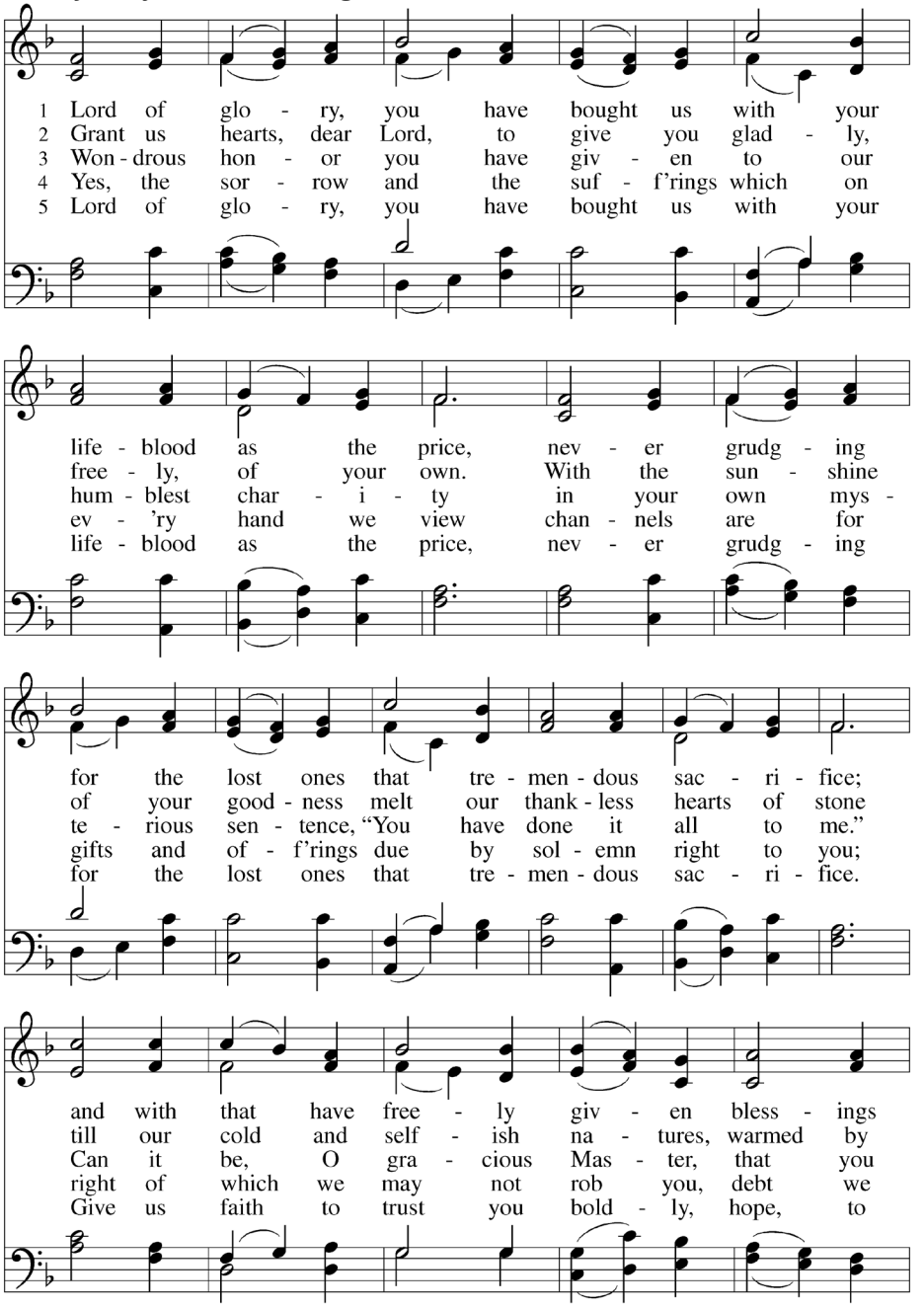
BENEDICTION

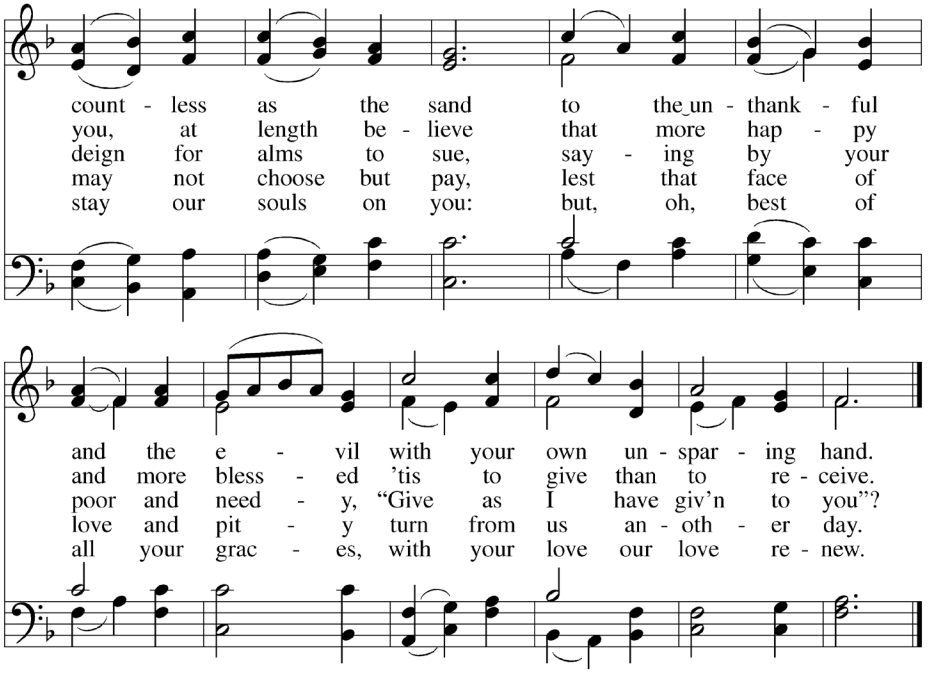
P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. And may almighty God—the Father, ☩ The Son, and The Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us **.....LBW 424**





Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL. Rowland H. Prichard. 1811–1887

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
Lay Assist: Carol Waltz; **Comm. Assist.:** Mandy Feinberg
Acolyte: Malory Klemick; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Lauren Russell
Greeters/Presenters: Georgette Copp, Ray Demarest
Cantor: Dave Bausinger; **Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

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 Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Richard and Dorothy Yeager, by their daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Stosh Wisniewski and grandchildren, Kyle and Jenna.

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.

The Annual Congregation Meeting is immediately following worship this morning. *Please plan on attending.*

Please remember to hand in your Time and Talent surveys and Estimate of Giving Pledge Cards. You may place them in the offering plate this morning or at the church office. There are still envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary to be picked up.

Bible Study is each Wednesday's at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

The Advent Kids in Mission will be held on December 5th and as always, we'll need some help. If you are able to help please let me know. More information will follow. Thank you for your support. Kathryn Pratt 570-244-6964

White Gifts Ministry - The Angel Trees are up! Each year, we provide Christmas gifts to families in need who are members of our congregation or whose names we get from the South Williamsport Area School District. Each child is provided with articles of clothing and a wish item. Requested items are listed on angel tags which adorn the trees in the narthex. If you'd like to help, please take as many tags as you'd like from the tree, purchase the needed item, and ***wrap the gift in white paper.*** Gifts should be brought in and placed in the blue bin in the Chapel alcove by December 13. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Christmas Food Baskets: Our holiday project to fill the baskets we give to families in need at Christmas time is now officially under way! Please see the Messenger for a list of food items we are collecting. Cash donations will also be accepted. All donations are needed no later than December 13.

Christmas Basket recipients are now being identified. If you know someone who could benefit from receiving a Christmas basket, ***please contact the church office by Friday, December 4.*** Baskets will be ready for pick-up Saturday, December 20.

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

Politics, Religion, and Money

A strong impulse to avoid discussing certain contentious subjects exists within many communities. Perhaps you have heard the conventional wisdom to avoid talking about politics or religion at a dinner party, for instance. Or maybe you have been in family or social relationships in which money was never discussed. Sometimes we even prefer not to engage these aspects of our lives through the lens of faith.

Throughout the gospels, however, Jesus challenges his followers not to avoid difficult topics. He challenges systems of economic and political inequality, overturning the tables of temple money changers and dining with those who lived on the margins of society. He has conversation after conversation with religious leaders whose views differ from his own. And in the parable of the talents, he tackles matters of wealth head-on. These events and stories in the life of Jesus invite us not to shy away from challenging topics of faith and life.

Are there aspects of our lives—within ourselves or in our community—that we would prefer to exclude from deeper examination? What is it about those parts of our lives that makes us wary of deeper introspection and conversation? The life of faith involves the *whole* of our lives, including our political action, religious convictions, and financial choices. Just as the enslaved ones in this parable were charged with carefully stewarding the resources entrusted to them, we are invited to probe our own choices around money and wealth through the lens of faith. Nothing is outside the bounds of our call to live faithfully!

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.