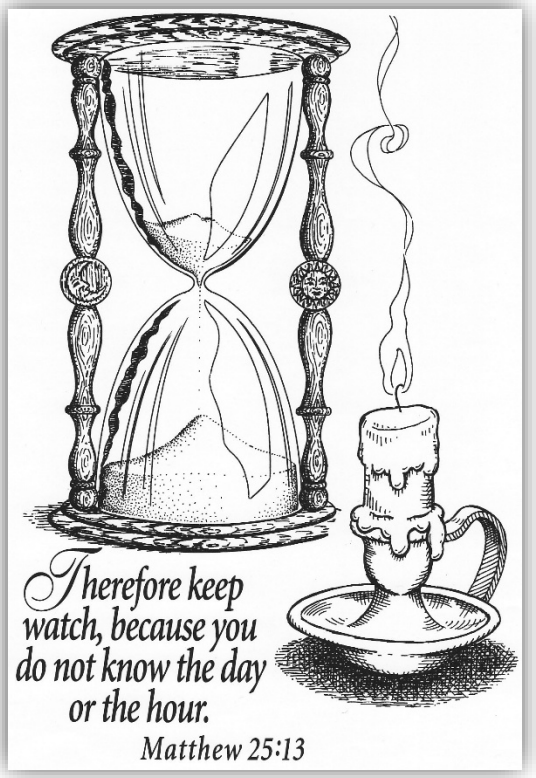
Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✢ Holy Communion ✢

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

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!

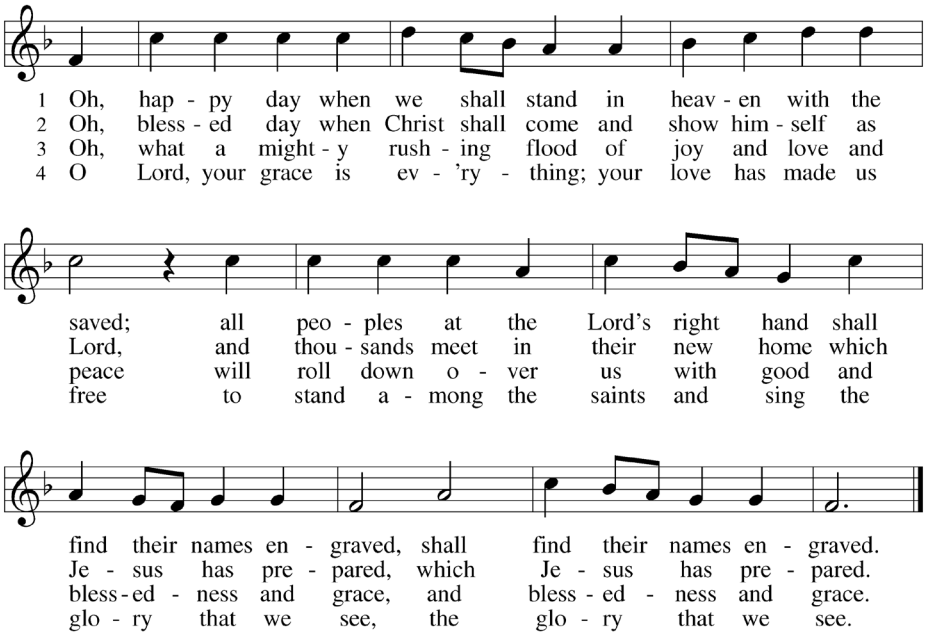
P: Almighty God, our Father in Heaven, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sin. As a Called and Ordained minister of the Church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and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

C: **Amen.**

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand ..... LBW 351



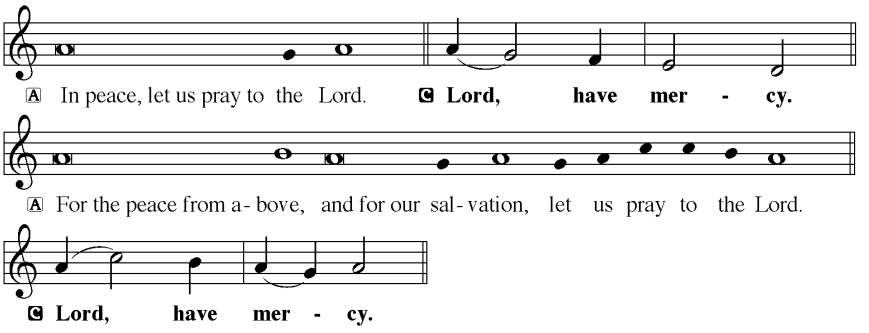
Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

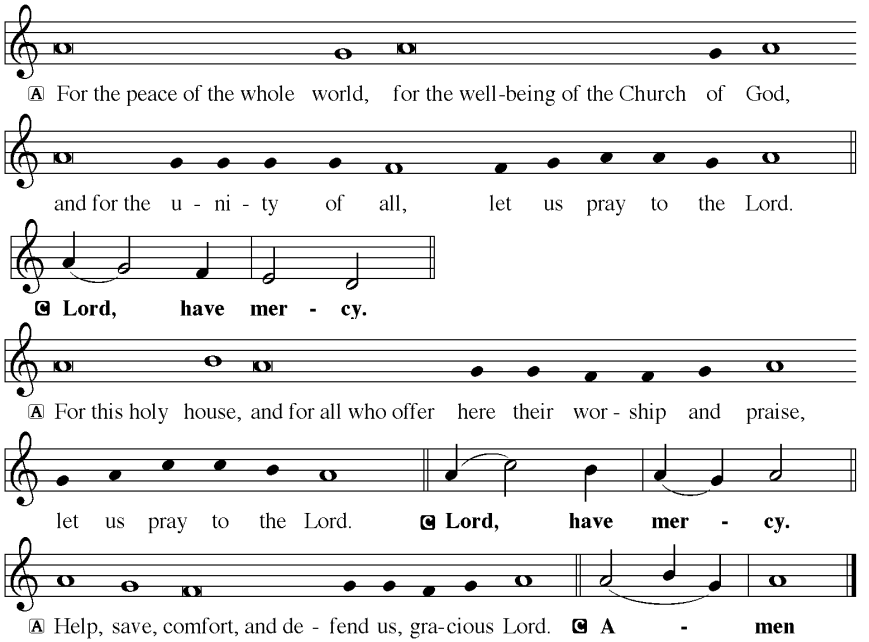
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

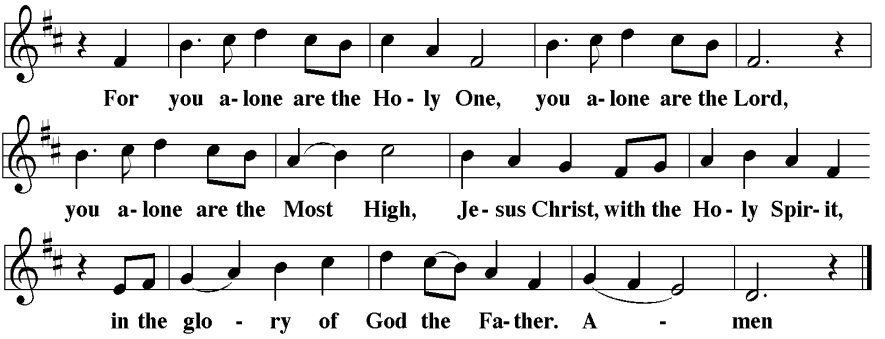
KYRIE





HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY



℗: Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

℄: **Amen.**

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

A: A Reading from Amos:

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.

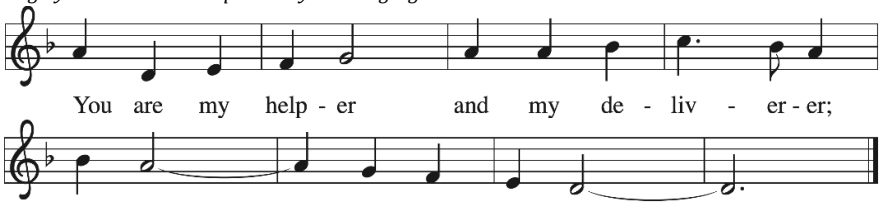
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 70

Sung by the cantor and repeated by the congregation.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogeth- | er dismayed;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over | me turn back,
because they | are ashamed.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am | poor and needy;
come to me speedi- | ly, O God.
6 **You are my helper and | my deliverer;**
O LORD, | do not tarry. R.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

A: A Reading from First Thessalonians:

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,
about those who have died,
so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will by no means precede those who have died.
16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command,
with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet,
will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in
the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



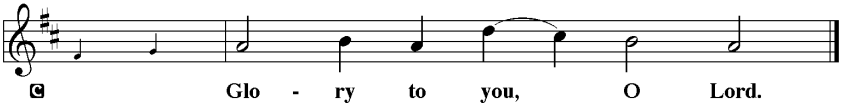
CANTOR: Keep awake | and be ready, for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming.

C: Repeat the Alleluias.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

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

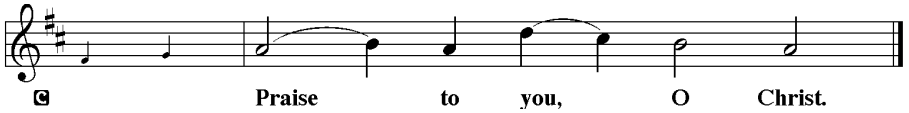


Jesus said to the disciples:
1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this.
Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,
4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

6 But at midnight there was a shout,
'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'
7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
8 The foolish said to the wise,
'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
9 But the wise replied,
'No! there will not be enough for you and for us;
you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'
10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came,
and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet,
and the door was shut.
11 Later the other bridesmaid came also, saying,
'Lord, lord, open to us.'
12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

℗: The Gospel of the Lord.



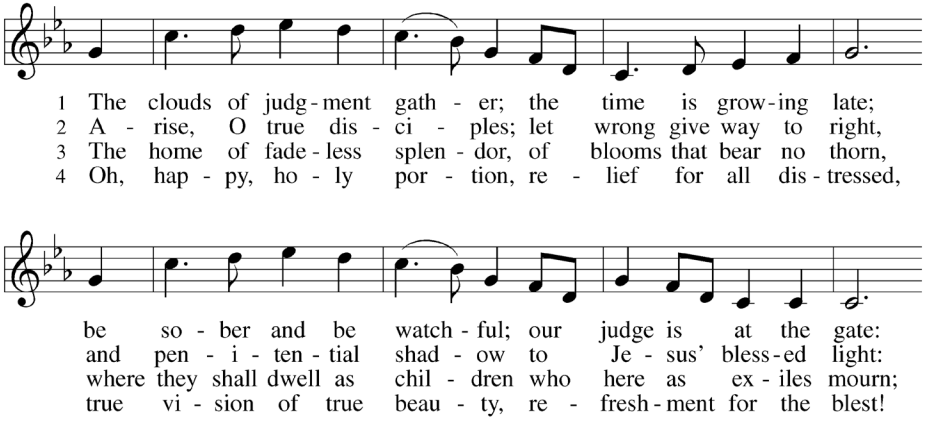
Sit

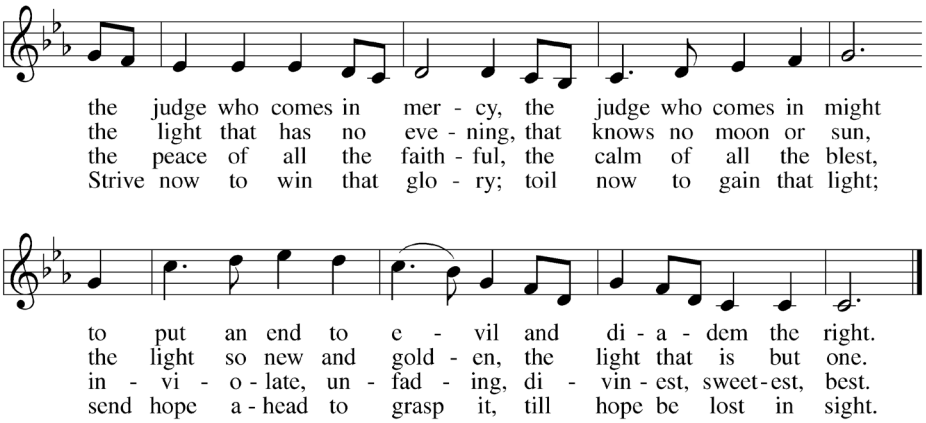
SERMON.....**Pastor Kliner**

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

***The Clouds of Judgement Gather*.....LBW 322**





Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
Music: DURROW, Irish tune

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

Keep Your Lamps**.....Andre Thomas**

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

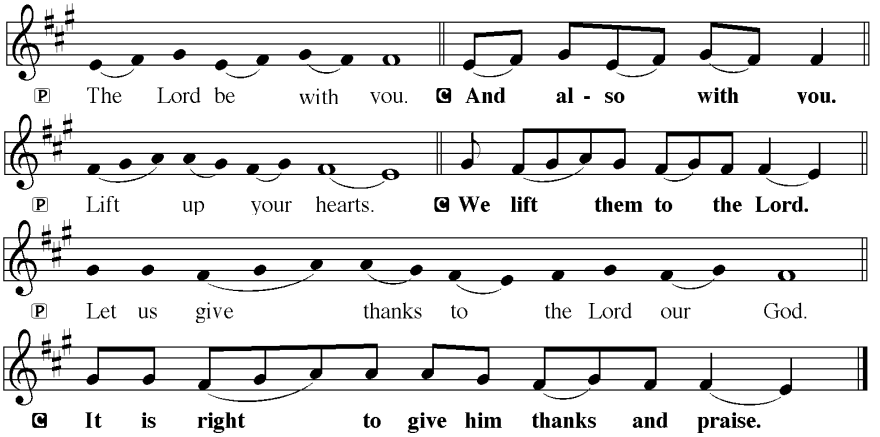


OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray… Merciful Father,

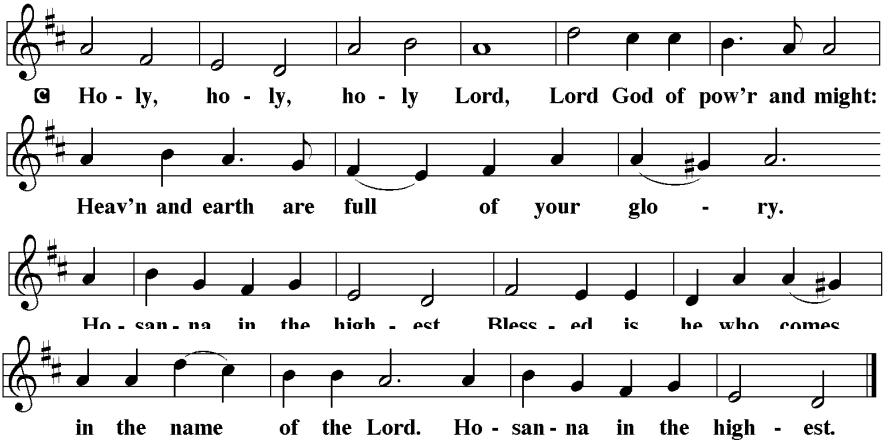
C: We offer you with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious Love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself to us, + Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**.**

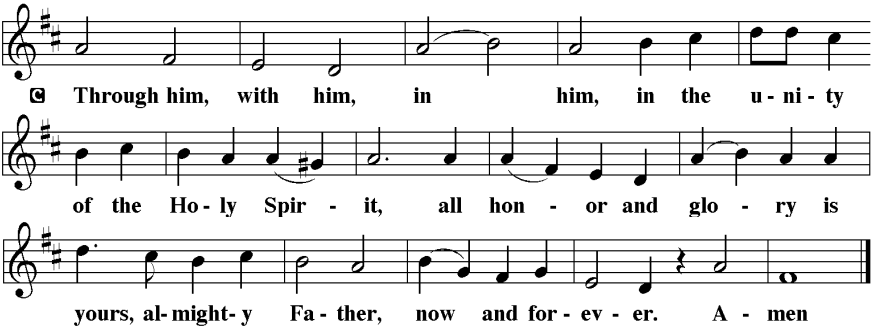
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again in his glory!

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!**

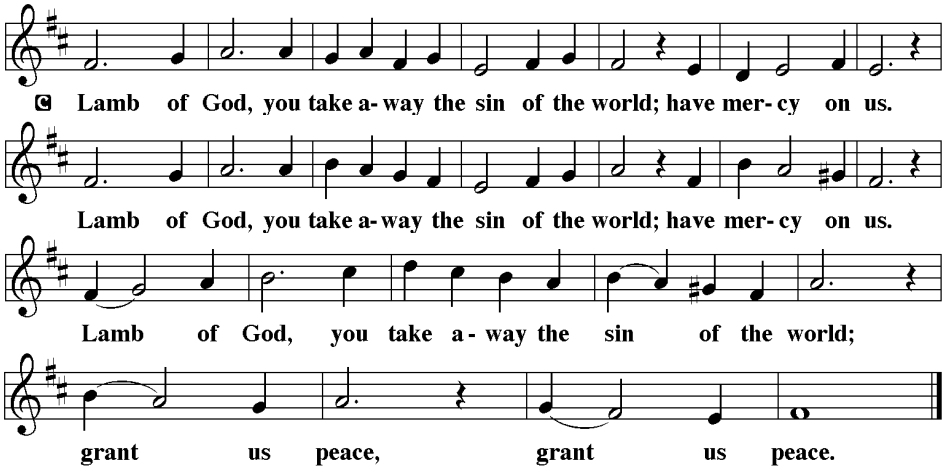
P: Join now our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the prayers of the Faithful throughout the ages—the Patriarchs and Prophets, the Holy Apostles and Martyrs, and all your Saints in Light who lived and died in Faith. Strengthen in faith and love your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

Sit

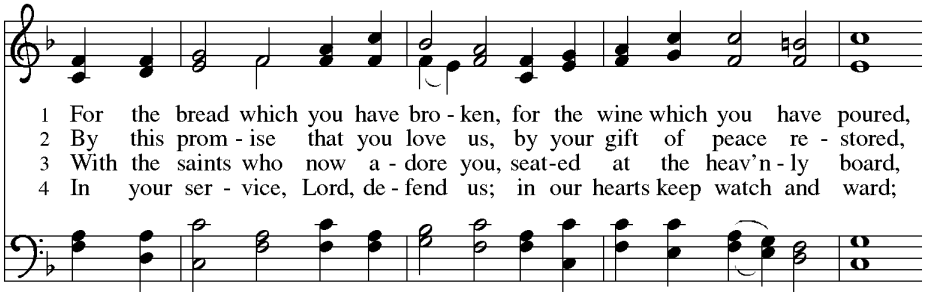
COMMUNION

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

***For the Bread Which You Have Broken*..... LBW 200**





Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.
Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

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.**

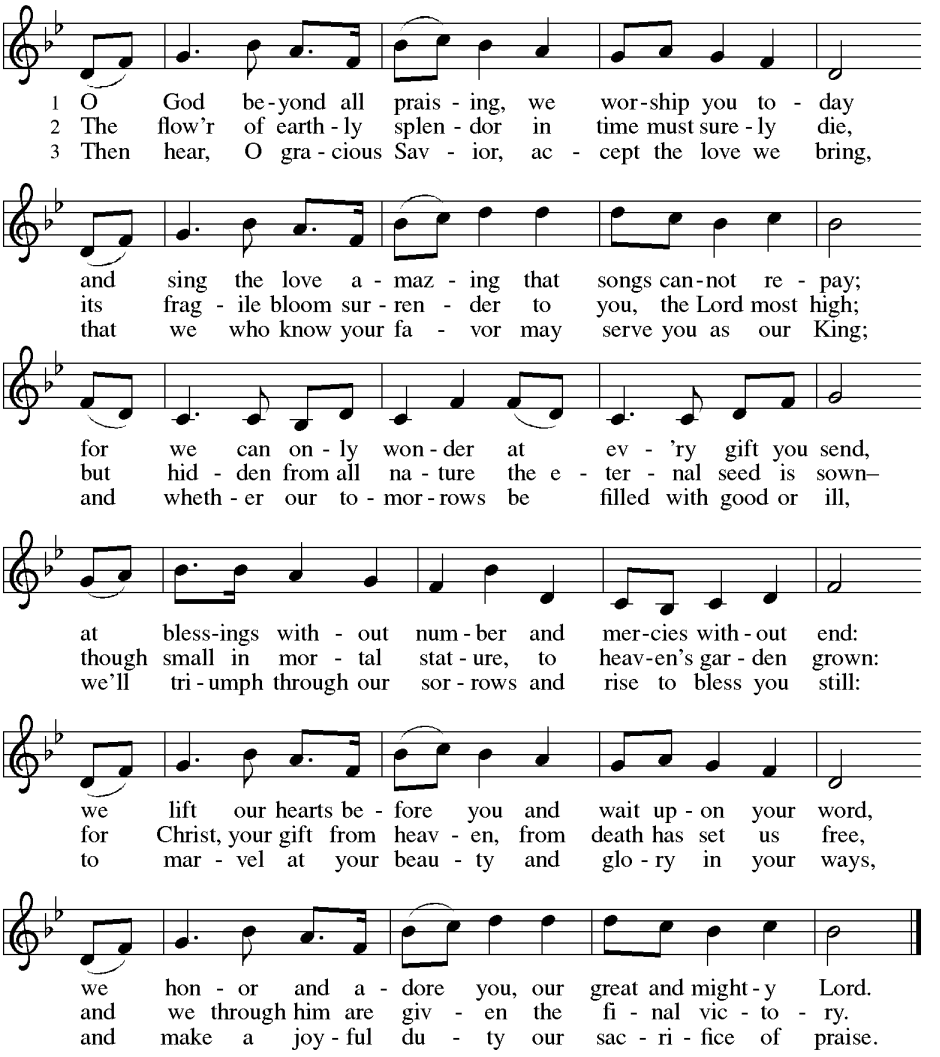
SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be 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 ***O God beyond All Praising***



Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
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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 Assistant: Georgette Copp; **Comm. Assist.:** Candy Watkins
Acolyte: Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt
Greeters/Presenters: Doris Butt, Kim Brofee
Cantor: Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, David C. Reigel and Gladys Reigel Batey, by their daughters, Evelyn, Merry and Penny.

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.

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

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be next **Sunday, November 15th** 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!

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 Tags preparation for the Angel Tree will begin in a few days. **Tag Requests:** We often receive requests from individuals who wish to take all of the tags for one child, or sometimes for two or more children in the same family. If you would like to "adopt" a child by taking all of his/her tags, ***please contact one of our coordinators no later than Wednesday, November 11.*** This will make it easier for us to set the tags aside before they are put on the tree. To reserve tags ahead of time, **contact Kathy Wither (570) 651-2802 or Jeanette Green (570) 916-7500 *talk or text.***

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

The Challenge of Waiting

For many of us, waiting is not a pleasant experience. Whether our waiting is mundane, like waiting in a long line at the grocery store checkout counter, or profound, like waiting for a medical diagnosis or for a new stage of life to begin, we often feel anxious or uneasy, impatient or frustrated, longing for the wait to be over. Over the course of our lives, we get plenty of experience with waiting but might never learn to be patient, even amid the frustration.

As uncomfortable as waiting may be, it is a necessary aspect of the life of faith. We live in the days between Christ's coming at his birth and his return, that longed-for day of hope and promises fulfilled. Seasons of our liturgical life train us in the art of holy waiting. We wait during Advent for Christ's birth, longing for the joy of his arrival as a child in Bethlehem. We wait during Lent for the bright joy of resurrection, abstaining from "alleluias" and quieting ourselves with prayer and fasting. Just as the young women in today's parable had to continue their daily living until the bridegroom returned (all of them, even the wise ones, went to sleep that night!), in all seasons we go about our lives faithfully, even as we wait with eager longing.

Many generations after the telling of this parable, how are we living as people prepared for the coming of Christ? How are we opening our daily lives to the possibilities that Christ will come among us at any moment? We are invited to live with eager expectation, watchful for the grace and love of God through Jesus Christ, which meets us when we least expect it.

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