

*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*May 16, 2021  
Seventh Sunday of Easter*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ  
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. There is no pre-recording of the service on YouTube this week.

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 16, 2021

*\*Congregation standing*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today. You are invited to make Messiah your church home.*

### EASTER GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: ***He is risen, indeed! Alleluia***

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

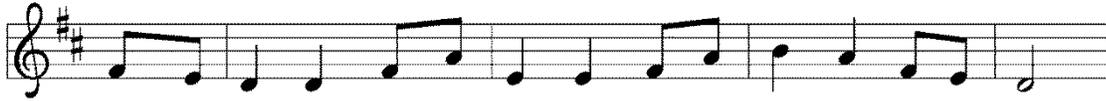
P: Gracious God,

C: ***have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

## \*GATHERING SONG Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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## \*THE 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.***

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: ***Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

FIRST LESSON Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Lector

A reading from Acts.

*In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.*

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." <sup>23</sup>So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND LESSON: 1 John 5:9-13**

**Lector**

A reading from 1 John.

*God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.*

<sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL: John 17:6-19**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

*In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Ryan Radtke**

Have you ever been on some sort of committee or board or student council, and it came to be that time when you had to elect officers? Or select someone to head up that special project? I've been to those before. Where the dreaded question is asked – “Who would like to take this on? You just kind of sit uncomfortably, not wanting to make eye-contact for fear that they'll see you...! Or the polite-off, where you say, “I'm not sure if I'd be right for this ...” At these moments it doesn't seem like your group is basing its decision on factors

like who might be best-suited to do the job at hand. It seems more like some advanced version of “nose goes” (you know: whoever is the last person to put their finger on their nose has to do it). It’s like diplomatically saying “Not it!” Or like some great silent game of chicken, where the last person to blink or flinch or waver off track loses and has to do the job.

Our story from the book of Acts brings us to one of these meetings. The big group of disciples gathers, Peter calls the meeting to order, and they go about the business of replacing Judas’s spot. Even though Judas turned away from Jesus and turned him over to be arrested, he had still been numbered among the twelve and allotted his share in the ministry, included at the last supper and the footwashing. Now that place of honor and leadership and service must be filled.

In effect, the decision comes down to what amounts to flipping a coin, deciding between Barsabbas and Matthias. It seems like the eleven disciples leave this big decision up to random chance. A blind sort of faith, but not in a good way. Maybe they just didn’t want to play nose goes; we’ll just cast some lots and move on. Leave it to divinely-sponsored chance.

Not really. I don’t think that’s what was going on in that gathering. I think that, among those followers of Jesus, that there truly was equality and trust, community and a shared mission, a firm belief that all of them had been chosen and gifted – in other words, any one of them could have filled Judas’s share of the ministry. And so they cast lots, because they knew it would work out no matter what. I’m sure Barsabbas and Matthias were two unique and different people, with different gifts and talents and personalities. But, in the end, they all knew and trusted that either of them could take on the role.

In John’s Gospel Jesus prays for the disciples to be one. I think the scene of choosing Matthias is what that one-ness looks like. This must be a taste of what that in-breaking eternal life feels like, that abundant newness of life that comes with the Easter promise of resurrection. And so, as we see a scene of radical one-ness going on, where the disciples trust one another enough to cast lots for a leader, I ask all of you: how is your one-ness?

Hold that thought for a moment, and let’s look at John’s Gospel a little closer. Acts tells a story, a history. John is filled with Jesus making these huge speeches. It’s like we talked about last week, how Jesus keeps repeating himself and saying the same things in slightly different ways, usually confusing his listeners, both then and now. Sometimes reading John’s Gospel makes me feel a little dizzy. You kind of have to parse out these long monologues in John until you can distill things down to something a little simpler.

One thing you can look for is when Jesus says “so that,” or “in order that.” Those are kind of like the blinking neon signs to get your attention. In today’s reading there are three places where Jesus cuts to the chase and says, “so that.” Three places where Jesus puts his main points in underline and bold and italics. First Jesus prays that the Father would protect the disciples, so that they may be one, just as Jesus and the Father are one. Second, Jesus says that he’s

saying these things in the world so that Jesus' joy may be made complete in the disciples. Third, Jesus says that he sanctifies himself (that is, makes himself holy) so that the disciples may also be made holy in truth.

Short version: Father in heaven, I pray that my disciples would be one; that their joy be made complete; and that they be made holy in truth. That's a little simpler.

Now we can get into what this means a little easier. This whole prayer – and, again, a lot of what you find in John's Gospel and the three John letters – is sort of a unity chain. The Father and the Son are one, the Son and the disciples are one, the disciples are one in the Father through the Son, the Holy Spirit comes to help the one-ness, and please God let the disciples be one. Abiding. This unity, this harmony, makes disciples holy in truth, because the truth is coming direct from the Father through Jesus to them. This unity, this harmony, makes their joy complete, because it is God's joy in Jesus, and Jesus' joy reaching fruition in them. This unity is the answer to Jesus' prayer. Joyful, truthful unity.

So, back to my question: how is your one-ness? Actually, I'll change it: how is our one-ness?

How is our one-ness? How is our one-ness as a congregation? How is our one-ness as a denomination? How is our one-ness as a whole capital-C Church? How is our one-ness as the body of Christ? Are the communities we are a part of full of truth and joy? Is there unity?

To be clear, when we're talking about one-ness, unity is not the same as uniformity. Our unity is our one-ness is in Christ, and not in our policies or votes or stances. It is from Christ that we receive the joy and truth. There is room for disagreement within unity. Our one-ness is in Christ, he who prayed to the Father to keep us one. So I'm not asking if everyone is in agreement or in lockstep. I'm asking if we are unified in Christ, full of truth and joy.

And then answer this: how is our one-ness outside of strictly Christian circles? How "one" do any of us feel with those around us? Those around the country, the world, the political spectrum, the dinner table? Let's ponder that in our hearts.

Would we cast lots for God to pick our co-workers in the Gospel? Would we cast lots for God to pick who we get sent to serve? Who would be sitting next to us? Who we are asked to love as Jesus loved us? How is our one-ness?

Because, even though Jesus' prayer was specifically about the disciples, the inner circle of his followers, I don't think that's where he meant for the unity to stop. It's not just about us, about some sort of membership satisfaction poll for the Messiah Lutheran Church club or the ELCA club or the Christian club. Our internal unity is important, true; but it's important in large part because it's part of our witness to the world about Christ's love being deeper and stronger than anything that might threaten to divide or separate or conquer. That we can be full of truth that casts out fear. That we are so complete in our joy that it's spilling over.

In the midst of all the unity chains, all the connectedness among the Father and the Son and the disciples, there was also this: Jesus prays, “do not take them out of the world.” Don’t take them out of the world. The world to which Jesus says they do not belong. The world that Jesus says hates them. The world from which Jesus says they need protection. Do not take them out of the world. Leave ‘em there.

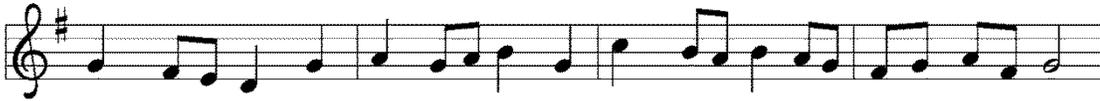
Why? If we are all connected, one with our Lord, then why not leave the world with him? To answer that, we look at the original “so-that,” the reason that John says Jesus was sent into the world in the first place: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” This is why Jesus “leaves ‘em there”; why his joy is made complete in them; why they are made holy in truth; why they are given God’s word; why they need to be one. Not only for protection. But so that the rest of the world can get in on this, too.

That’s why the “E” in our denomination stands for Evangelical, because we share the good news of God in Christ in word and deed, all the time. Ours is not a one-hour-on-Sundays faith. That’s why we have a sign. That’s why we have a website, a Facebook page, why we’ll keep recording services even after we get back to “normal.” That’s why we donate to MCEF. That’s why we work with Lutheran Family Services and Habitat for Humanity and more. That’s why we finish each service by saying, “Go in peace. Serve the Lord.” That’s why we can talk openly and truthfully about conflict or sticky topics. That’s why we spend time in study and fellowship, cultivating and harvesting joy. Jesus prays that we would be one...for the world.

Before I get too John-like and talk in circles until you’re all dizzy, let me really try to make my point. The point is that the chain of unity, of connectedness to God, God’s truth and joy and Word – does not end with us. God’s love encounters no dead-ends, not even nicely-kept cul-de-sacs. My point is that when we check our one-ness, we’re not just talking about this assembly. We’re talking about all of our lives. Are we willing and uninhibited instruments of God’s one-ness, so that Jesus’ joy may be made complete, more completely, to all? Or do we find ourselves playing polite games of nose goes and not-it and chicken, all of the time, hoping that the lot is cast is for someone else to take a share in the ministry, so we don’t have to. Or hoping that the lot is not cast for that person, those people, not trusting in God’s one-ness at all? What are we showing the world?

Don’t wait for someone else. God has given us His Son. His Word. His Truth, and that’s written on our hearts. We are all chosen and gifted. We all have a part in God’s mission, and we all have God’s joy to share. God makes us one. Amen.

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

**\*CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. [*Brief silence*]

A: Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need (especially). Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: God, you are life. We pray for our world, our country, our community, and our church as we face the challenges of coronavirus. We pray for those who grieve the loss of loved ones, for the sick and their families, for those fearful of an unknown future. We pray for the millions of unemployed, for children and others at home - that they be safe from abuse. We pray for those who are alone and isolated during this time that they may feel your loving presence. We pray for all the hospital and health care workers, and all first responders, that they receive needed supplies and be kept protected in the work they do. We pray for those making decisions about how to live into the future and when that will happen. Keep us all in your care as we wait for a new day. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all families, you have given us families to be sanctuaries of blessing, comfort, and love for each other. Under your protection fill us with harmony, hope, and health. We pray this week for the Combs, Deagle and Deere families as well as our Messiah family. Guard all of our hearts that we may display love instead of hate, anger, or bitterness. Lead us all to be grateful for your abiding love and enable us to glorify you by sharing that love with others. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

**C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

### **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

### **\*PREFACE**

P: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: *Christ has died.  
Christ has risen.  
Christ will come again.***

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C: *Come, Holy Spirit.***

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C: *Come, Holy Spirit.***

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C: *Amen.***

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**C: *Thanks be to God.***

### **COMMUNION**

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

**C: *Amen***

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

A: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: *Amen***

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: **Amen**

## \*BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen**

## \*SENDING SONG      I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835  
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## \*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

(Text used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #11886-S)

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, May 16, 2021**

Pianist: Debbie Walker  
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Karen Morris (2nd Lay Asst.) Marilyn Gunn  
Lectors: Marilyn Gunn  
Acolyte: Karoline Combs  
Ushers: Daren & Max Williams; Jake Addair  
Altar Guild: Marilyn Gunn & Donna Combs  
Counters: Donna Combs & Erna Jung

\*\*\*\*\*

*Announcements*

**PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Ryan's office hours for this week are listed below. You can also reach Pastor Ryan via email at messiahmechpr@gmail.com or by phone at 507-360-7276 if you'd like to talk or set up an appointment.

***Wednesday-Friday 11:00 am-4:00 pm***

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Here is this week's information based on our 2021 budget.

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,013.87 (slightly up from \$3,000.19 through May 9, 2021).
- We are \$17,367.50 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$16,698.50 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

**WORSHIP OUTSIDE YOUR CAR**

Our new step forward in this long journey is that you are all invited to worship outside your car! Please bring your own chair(s), and stick to the following guidelines:

- Sit in front of your cars
- Maintain social distancing between your car's occupants and other cars' occupants (don't mix households).
- If you visit before or after the service, wear a mask or face-covering.
- You should be able to hear everything from the amp that's set up for the livestream.
- Check the weather ahead of time and dress/do sun-prep accordingly.
- Keep in mind that this is also a gauge: if you can handle this, it shows you can handle coming back in the building when the time comes. (:

We're excited to try this out before the weather really turns hot and humid. And maybe we can hear each other singing! If you have any questions, please check in with your Church Council members or Pastor Ryan.

### **MCEF FUN-RAISER AT CHICKEN SALAD CHICK FOR MAY 17**

The "Fun Raiser" at Chicken Salad Chick continues on the 3rd Monday of each month, mention that you support MCEF and 10% of the sale is donated to MCEF. Thank you for your support of your of your neighbors in need through MCEF

### **MCEF UPDATE**

Mechanicsville residents in need are being served with food, clothing, linens, and financial assistance for qualified services throughout this year of Covid. The Senior Rides program has been awarded a grant which will help to rebuild the program post-Covid. Rides are continuing to be offered. MCEF was gifted 4 cemetery plots at Signal Hill Cemetery which are available for a donation. If interested, call Pat Hubert, 814-449-2612. Current needs of the One Stop Shop include canned peaches, black-eyed peas, jelly of any flavor and mayonnaise. Clothing needs are knit boxer briefs for men, kids' underwear in all sizes and women's' underwear in average sizes, all new please. Thank you to all for your generous donations.

### **MESSIAH WORK DAY (5/22/21)**

Work day for Messiah on 5/22/21 starting at 8 am through 2pm. Lunch will be available. We have been worshipping in our cars at church and now in our lawn chairs outside as well as at our homes through Facebook Live and YouTube. Now we are working towards being able to get back indoors to worship in our sanctuary after many months! As our building has stood unused in most areas, it needs our TLC!

On this cleanup day, we will mostly concentrate on the outside. Please bring clippers, rakes, hoes and whatever needed for sprucing our church yard.. If the painting outside is completed we will also wash the windows inside and outside. Several people have been decluttering, reorganizing and working on different projects on the inside of the building and will continue to do that. However, a list of projects will be available for inside jobs that would include the kitchen.

If you are able to come, please email [lmahovtas@verizon.net](mailto:lmahovtas@verizon.net) so we know how many to count on for lunch. All the help is greatly appreciated!!

## **COMMUNITY- ALL SOULS COMMUNITY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS**

Help put the "Community" in the Garden! The All-Souls Community Garden depends on the good hearts of volunteers to plant and harvest the vegetables. The Garden is located on Atlee Rd. in Mechanicsville. Items are shared with MCEF and other Mechanicsville food banks. Church and community groups as well as individuals are needed. Students in middle and high school, and even college ages are especially welcomed. Garden lessons are available for younger children. Jobs include planting and picking produce, tilling, pulling weeds, washing and weighing produce, and delivery to food banks. To schedule a time to volunteer, contact Lee Hanchey at lghanchey@gmail.com or by phone 804-514-3020.

## **2021 JOAN BARNES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

We are pleased to announce that the applications for the Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship will be available beginning May 3, 2021. Please go to the church website, <https://messiahmech.com/> and click on the "About" tab. The Application(s) and Application Information for the scholarships will be found on the drop-down menu. Applications should be received or postmarked on or before the absolute deadline of June 21, 2021 with no exceptions. There are applications for first time applicants and a different application if you have received a previous scholarship. You can contact Sally Bennett at sallybennett3317@gmail.com if you have any questions.

## **ONE CHAPTER WONDERS**

Tune in this week for our second Midweek Message from "One Chapter Wonders." This week: Jude. Maybe you've heard of a "one-hit wonder"? You know, a band that only ever had just one big hit? Well, there are five books of the Bible that are only one chapter long (and one more that's only two). Each week you'll get a bite-sized Bible study on one of these books, that will hopefully still fill you up. ☺

## **INFORMATION ON VACCINATIONS**

The Virginia Department of Health recently released a downloadable Virginia COVID Info Toolkit with information on vaccines and the vaccine registration system. You can access the information at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/patient-education/>. If you need to register for the vaccine, confirm your registration, or update your record, go to: <https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/>

## **SMALL GROUPS**

If you'd like to have a small group or committee meeting at the church, please check out the Small Group Meetings and Cleaning Protocols. You can contact Davina when wanting to schedule a time for your group to meet and get the latest protocols. The only areas open at this time include the Fellowship Hall, the hallway to the restrooms, and the restrooms. All other parts of the building remain 'closed' for now. There are also copies of the forms at church on the kitchen

counter for you to use at your meeting along with necessary cleaning supplies. Davina will maintain the completed forms in her office. Thanks for all you do! Stay well everyone!

### **REBUILD! VA – SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM**

All available funds for the Rebuild VA Grant Program have been exhausted at this time. They are hopeful that Congress will soon pass a stimulus package that provides additional relief to small businesses. To be notified of any additional developments, please sign up at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7TRWMD6>.

### **VIRGINIA RENT AND MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM (RMRP)**

The Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic. Depending on availability of funds and household need, the RMRP may provide financial assistance for rent payments for eligible households. This includes financial assistance for rent payments past due beginning April 1, 2020 and onward. For more information please visit: Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): [www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp).

### **SMILE! MESSIAH RECEIVES .5% DONATION WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!**

Even though the most recent holiday shopping season is behind us, the Stewardship team would like to remind everyone to sign up and use Amazon Smile! Signing up is easy and does not interfere with Prime Membership benefits. Amazon donates .5% of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Step 1: visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com); Step 2: sign in with your amazon account credentials; Step 3: Search for "Messiah Lutheran Church Mechanicsville"; Step 4: Start SHOPPING! \*please remember to bookmark [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for easy access every time you shop. You must add the "smile" for this program. Thank you all and happy shopping!