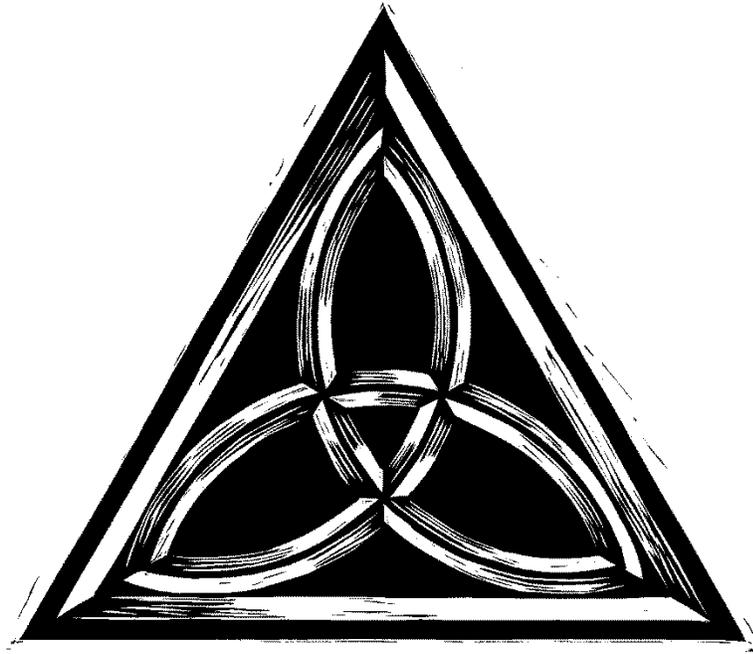


Messiah Lutheran Church Mechanicsville, Virginia



May 30, 2021

Holy Trinity Sunday

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

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

Holy Trinity Sunday

May 30, 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.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

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

P: Most merciful God,

C: *we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.*

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

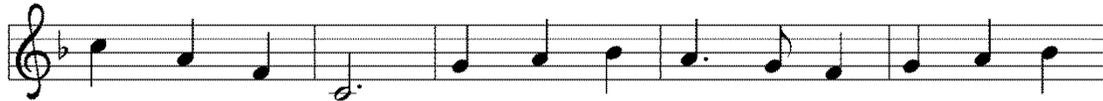
C: Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

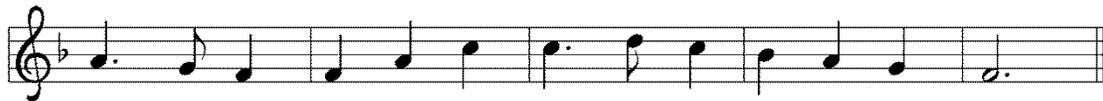
Come, Thou Almighty King



- 1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
- 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
- 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
- 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

*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: ***Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 6:1-8

Lector

A reading from Isaiah.

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:12-17

Lector

A reading from Romans.

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"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.

¹⁷"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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

I love a good mystery. As a kid I ended up watching a lot of detective shows, courtesy of my mom. *Murder, She Wrote*, *Magnum P.I.*, *Columbo*, *In the Heat of the Night*. I read the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew. I read Sherlock Holmes stories and Agatha Christie novels and watched the film versions of those, too. I even enjoyed watching the *Busytown Mysteries* cartoon my kids watched when they were younger. I still have a board game called “Crack the Case” I got in high school where you hear a few details about a crime and then have to ask questions to figure out what happened and whodunit. I still enjoy a good mystery – book, movie, TV show, it doesn’t really matter. I enjoy following the detectives as they sort through the clues, eliminate the dead ends, and track down the culprits, all for the big reveal at the end. And it’s fun when you figured out the mystery on your own before they make that reveal.

That’s one kind of mystery. The puzzle kind, the detectives-and-clues kind. The kind that gets solved, that has an answer. But there’s another kind of mystery. One that by definition is unknowable. Unsolvability. “Mystery” in the sense that it is beyond us, bigger than us, inherently beyond our understanding. And yet, at the same time, it draws us in. It makes us wonder, and want to explore it, even if that exploration is limited to simply dabbling around the visible edges. It’s like the Lord in Isaiah’s vision – the hem of his robe filled the temple; but it is only that edge that any of us can perceive. We do our best to describe and define these kinds of mysteries; but our words will always come up short.

On some level, God will always be a mystery. On the one hand, God reveals God’s self to us: through the Word made flesh, Jesus. Through the Scriptures. Through dreams and visions, through apostles and evangelists, through martyrs and mystics. Through the work of the Spirit that manifests. Through tangible elements in the sacraments, like water and bread and wine. Through the mutual consolation and love of other flesh-and-blood people responding to God’s love and presence in their lives. On the other hand, God will always be God: transcendent, unknowable, and Other. As Paul says, for now we see in a mirror dimly; only after our own resurrections will we see clearly, and know God as we have been fully known.

“Trinity” is a word that never appears in the Bible. But it is the word that the early Christians used to describe what we could perceive of the essence and nature of God as revealed, in part, through the scriptures and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. John’s Gospel talks about the Word made flesh. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that moved over the waters at Creation. God the Father created all that there is, heaven and earth, galactic and subatomic, physical and metaphysical, and everything else.

“Trinity” is the word that testifies to the truth of God that God’s people have experienced – one God in three persons, eternal relationship that desires us to be in loving relationship with one another and with the whole of creation. We are created in the image of this trinitarian God, and so therefore we are created to live in relationship, seeking unity in the midst of diversity.

Trinity is one of the most central of Christian doctrines and teachings. It is also one of the doctrines that is the hardest to explain and describe, because it is steeped in the mystery of God. It is one of the teachings that has probably inspired the most heresies and the most hypotheses.

And so, each year on this Holy Trinity Sunday, we lift up the teaching and the presence of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. And we do our best to embrace the mystery, and dabble and explore in the hem of God's robe that we can touch and perceive, the revelations of God that we can engage with.

Why? So what? What does this have to do with us who aren't professional theologians? How does the doctrine of the Trinity play a role in your daily faith? Why get all abstract when we have so many other things that teach us more clearly about God's love, God's will, and our identity as Christians? We have the Ten Commandments, the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer. We have the Golden Rule. We have the commandment to love one another the way Jesus loves us, to and through a cross. We have the patriarchs and matriarchs of Israel; we have the prophets; we have the Gospels; we have Paul's letters and more in the New Testament; we have all the teachings and stories of the heroes of the faith, our ancestors in the faith, and more. So why do any of us here, in this parking lot or watching from home, try to wrestle with the mystery of God, or the concept of the Trinity? Why does it matter?

To answer that question, I'm going to borrow some terms from the other kind of mystery, the kind of mystery I'm a little more familiar with. I'm going to talk about motive, means, and opportunity.

First up is motive. In our Gospel lesson today, we have the Pharisee Nicodemus coming to Jesus for answers. Jesus tells him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above," or, as other translations put it, "born anew." Our motive for asking questions about God, for exploring mysteries that are beyond us, for fleshing out our understanding of the Trinity, is actually quite straightforward. We want to see the kingdom of God. We want to be touched by God, like Isaiah was in his vision. We want to see God, and then we want to be able to see from God's perspective. We want to be closer to God and God's ways. Even in our limitations, we want to understand God and God's purpose in our lives. We want to be oriented by God. We want to be born anew, from above, from God, the better to experience God's love more fully and share God's love more freely. That's why we join the dance of the Trinity, even if we don't know the steps.

Second is means. We have an idea of why we engage with Trinity. Now the question is how. How do we wade into mystery? We get some help with that. "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." The Holy Spirit stirs things up, within us and around us, so that we may experience God's love and so that we may share God's love; we're called to pay attention and be ready.

It's kind of crazy, but the means by which we learn more about the mystery of the Trinity is by getting more concrete. We hear these famous verses: "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." We hear these verses, and then we respond to them, by sharing them with others and by seeing others as the very ones God sent the Son for: other sinners who need saving, who are not under God's salvation but who are under God's salvation and love.

Third is opportunity. We already had "why" and "how." Now it's "when" and "where." Paul says, "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." We have truly endless opportunities to be led by the Spirit of God and to live as children of God. The Spirit never stops leading, and the world never stops needing. God washes away our sins and places the symbolic coal to our lips so that we can readily say, "Here am I; send me!"

"Trinity" is the best way we Christians have to talk about the "who" of God. And, like any good mystery, of either type, we are inspired to ask questions. Good questions. Healthy questions. Questions that lead to exploration and discovery and discernment and growth and even more questions. Why and How and When and Where and Thensome.

So here is my question for all of us today: in our loving, our sharing, our worship, and our witness, are we drawing people in? Do they see something almost mysterious and inexplicable in the grace we have received and the grace we exhibit and the grace we extend? Do they want more? Are we inviting our communities to join us in the mystery, to discover and discern alongside us? When people encounter us Christians, do they encounter the Trinity? That is, do they experience community, and unity in diversity, and woven relationships, like the trinitarian God in whose image we are all created? Or do they experience a closed community, with incomprehensible God-talk, insider language, and no room for exploration and no encouragement to ask questions?

By the grace of God, it is not only up to us. The Trinity is eternal love and relationship, and in our creation, our redemption, and the Holy Spirit's ceaseless stirring, that eternal love and relationship is imprinted on us, sealed into us through the waters of baptism, and available to us. This is in us; it is not from us. We tap into it and share it, with help from the Spirit.

The mystery of God and God's love is bigger than any one of us, bigger than any church, bigger than any denomination. We can't solve it. But we have the motive, means, and opportunity embrace it. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Come, Join the Dance of Trinity



1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter - weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.
set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.
we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,
The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
Let voic - es rise and in - ter - weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.
when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune
Text © 2001 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

CREED

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary**

and became truly human.

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,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who 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**

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer. *[Brief silence]*

A: We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

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; for the sick and their families; for the anxious – comfort them. We pray for those who have lost businesses and jobs – restore them. We pray for those working and schooling at home, and for those who remain isolated – sustain them and protect them. We pray for all hospital and health care workers, and all first responders – provide for them and protect them. We pray for those who are making decisions about how to live into the future and when that will happen – guide them. We pray with thanksgiving for vaccines and treatments; for those who develop them, test them, and administer them – encourage them. Keep us all in your care as we continue to love our neighbors near and far. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

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 Ewing and Ford 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

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: *Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

P: The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C: *We praise you, O God.*

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C: *We bless you, O God.*

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C: *We thank you, O God.*

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. Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: *Christ has died.*

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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

P: 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.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen

*BLESSING

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

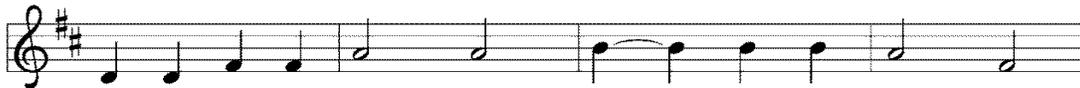
C: Amen

P: The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

*SENDING SONG

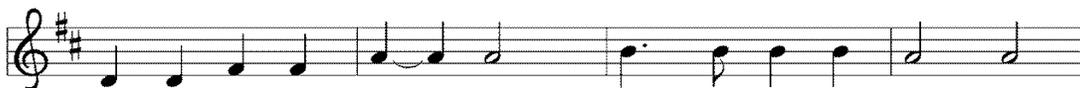
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

*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 30, 2021

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Dianne Absher (2nd Lay Asst.) Donna Combs
Lectors: Donna Combs
Acolyte: Ella Anderson
Ushers: Jake Addair & Gordon Gunn
Altar Guild: Marilyn Gunn & Donna Combs
Counters: Becky & Johnnie Collie

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 \$2,986.12 (slightly down from \$3,076.93 through May 23, 2021).
- We are \$19,810.50 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$17,033.50 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

HELP NEEDED

We are close to being finished in getting the sanctuary ready for our return. The 'cove' lights surrounding the sanctuary, however, are in desperate need of cleaning and replacing. It is easiest when two people are involved in the process. If you are able or know of someone outside of Messiah who may be able to help us out, please let Donna Shaw know at dmslaw70@gmail.com or 804-205-2943. Your help in this task is greatly appreciated!

FREE STUFF!

As we've been cleaning and organizing in the building, we've come across a number of items that are in need of a new home, including books, hymnals, toys, tote bags, and much more. Please check out the tables full of items in the fellowship hall, and consider making some of these items yours! Anything that doesn't get claimed will be donated to other worthy recipients. Thanks!

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 or on the grassy areas near the cross.
- 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.

MIDWEEK MESSAGES FOR JUNE – LUTHERAN STORIES

Pastor Ryan will be sharing some Lutheran stories for Midweek Messages for the month of June. The stories will be selected from two relatively recent books: *Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans*, and *Stories from Global Lutheranism: a Historical Timeline*. Both books feature a multitude of short essays about Lutherans and Lutheranism throughout history and around the world, and look forward to what comes next in this, the sixth century of the Lutheran movement.

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.

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.

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; 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 for easy access every time you shop. You must add the "smile" for this program. Thank you all and happy shopping!