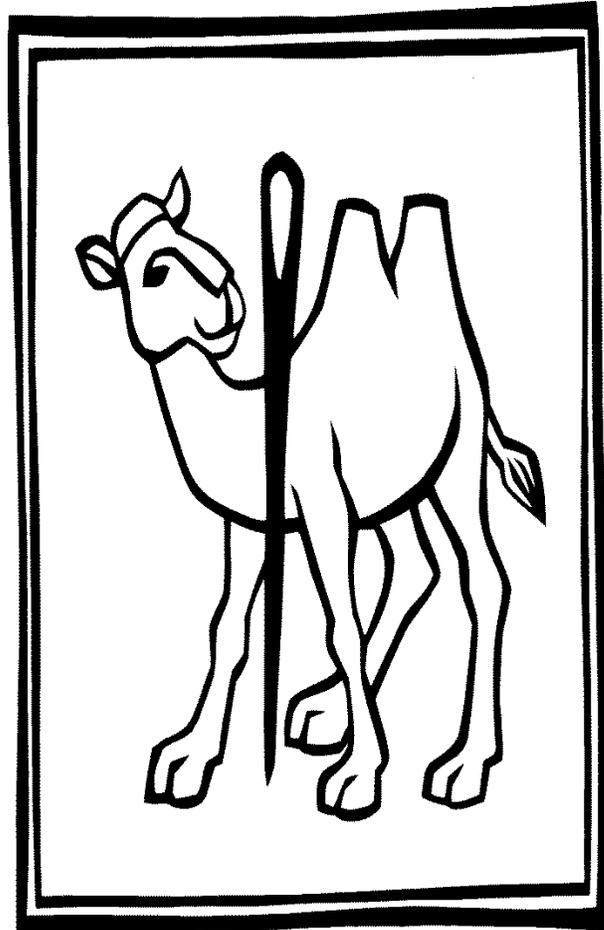


*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*October 10, 2021*

*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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

\*\*\*\*Please tune your radios to 103.1 FM\*\*\*\*

## 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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 10, 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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

P: God, our comforter,

**C: *like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.***

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

### \*GATHERING SONG We Come to the Hungry Feast



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943  
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever  
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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: *Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

## **FIRST LESSON: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

**Lector**

A reading from Amos.

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;

it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 4:12-16**

**Lector**

A reading from Hebrews.

*We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. <sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **\*GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

*Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.*

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. <sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed

at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” <sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Jim Berg**

What Must I Do?

Is the story found in our Gospel as startling and disturbing to you as it was to the disciples? It does help to have a little more background. If we look at Matthew and Luke’s version of this story as well, we learn that this man is young and a ruler. So, he was young, rich and powerful. In the eyes of their society, he was blessed by God because he had everything. Their view was that in general, if the person was faithful and rich it was God’s blessing and approval. So, when this man came and kneeled before Jesus it was quite a shock to see such an important man on his knees before a poor country preacher. Yet he knew that he was lacking something and so he asked Jesus for the answer he needed. He wanted to know what he could do to inherit eternal life. He knew that there was more and he wanted it. I would suspect that each of us would like to be assured of eternal life as well, so let’s take a closer look at what happened and what Jesus said.

As we look more closely at the fuller story we can see more clearly why it has made many people uncomfortable. These words of Jesus are meant to challenge us to ask what is truly important in this life. Some people have been inspired by those words to leave everything and follow Jesus, while others have left sad and angry.

So often when we think about getting into the kingdom of God, we think about what we can do to make that happen. “What must I do?” is not all that uncommon of a thought in the church even today. The disciples had a serious problem with Jesus words. They just could not understand, do we? I am not sure we do. Even when we know that we are saved by grace we still want to know

what we must do. We are action people. Actions are important but we need to understand that our actions and deeds arise out of who we are as God's children. As His children we need to live accordingly but eternal life is still a gift from God.

Today as we approach this passage, I would like to focus quickly on four areas.

1. There is eternal life.
2. We do not earn it. It is a gift from God.
3. Even today we are called to follow Jesus and that following can at times come at a high cost.
4. There are rewards in heaven waiting for us.

Today I think that it is important to know that we simply say, that as Christians we believe in eternal life. Unfortunately, I cannot prove that scientifically, and that is why many people do not believe in God or anything beyond this life. Yet as I look around in faith, I can point you to many signs and wonders in this world. During my life they have led me to believe that there is a God who loves us and has prepared a place for us to be with Him eternally. I can talk about those who have had near death experiences or just situations that made it clear to me that God is present and involved in this world. Even nature teaches us that life comes from death, in the death of a flower and the birth of a seed. In the death of a caterpillar and the birth of a butterfly. But these proofs require eyes to see and hearts to believe.

As we think about this it is worth noting that many other religions past and present speak of an afterlife. Although I believe that they only have a partial understanding of the truth, they show us that there is something in our nature that shows us a hint of what is ahead and beyond us. I believe that this is part of what led this rich man to turn to Jesus for answers. He may have even read the book of Ecclesiastes that expresses the vanity of riches and life without God. He had tried that, following the laws of God closely but there was an unsatisfied hole in his life.

He knew he needed answers so he turned to Jesus. He was not concerned about what others thought, he wanted answers and Jesus had them. On his knees he asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" We cannot know what he expected Jesus to say but I doubt he was ready for the fullness of Jesus' answer. He could say he had kept the law from his youth and maybe he hoped Jesus would assure him that that was enough. Maybe he was looking for a quest or great feat to complete in glory as proof that he had done enough. But Jesus tells him that he had to give everything to the poor and follow Him. That was not what he expected. That was more than he was willing to do at that time. We can see he was disappointed with the answer because he left shocked and grieving because he valued his many possessions.

We don't know what he did beyond that day or his eternal fate, but we are told that in the midst of all of this that Jesus looked at him, and loved him as he gave him these challenging instructions. This is very important to note as we listen to these words. It is in love that Jesus spoke to this man and to his disciples a few moments later. Those who followed him may have been just as confused as the rich, young ruler. As I said earlier, this man had everything that people could desire and the Jewish leaders taught that blessings were a sign of obedience to God's law. If you obeyed that Law, you would be blessed. Unfortunately, many people today still believe this. If you are good, life should be good to you. I have even heard people say "I deserve this blessing because I have earned it."

As Jesus says, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" In the eyes of society that was just wrong!!! It is hard for the wealthy, and anyone else for that matter, to enter the kingdom of God. The rich in those days had it made because they had the resources to do a better job at keeping the law. If you will notice in Jesus' words that our Savior asked this man if he had kept only six of the Ten Commandments. Those were hard enough and if you failed there were very expensive sacrifices that needed to be made for atonement along with all the other offerings that were required on a regular basis. It was expensive to meet the requirements of the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus' day. The working class and the poor did not really have a chance. But the rich did not have the lack of resources that the others faced. Yet what they did was still not enough to earn God's love.

The problem here is that we often get in the way of what God is doing. Like this man we can let our wealth or accomplishments distract us or lead us the wrong direction. Our accomplishments can lead us to say "I can do it myself; I don't need others." Even our weak faith can cause us to believe that we will never enter the kingdom of God. The good news is that wealth or poverty, success or failure, even power and pride in self-worth are not what get us into the kingdom. It is faith in Jesus.

What must I do to inherit? Inheritance is more about who we are rather than what we do for the most part. As we hear these words from Jesus, we need to remember that the kingdom is for the children of God. The truth is that we became children of God in our baptism and as Lutherans that was long before we could do much of anything but be cute.

As Lutherans, I hope you know full well that we are saved by grace. We don't have to earn anything when it comes to God and his love. Before creation God chose to save us and give us eternal life. In other words, you cannot inherit eternal life or earn it because Jesus has already done that for us. Jesus died on the cross to do what we could not do for ourselves. Eternal life is a gift to all who believe in Jesus Christ.

So now what? We follow Jesus. Like the people of old, we are to believe and live lives active in faith. It was not just the people of Jesus' day who are called to follow, all of us through all of time are invited by Jesus to follow him. Not everyone, even those in the church, are going to do that. The rich young man heard the call but the price was too high for him. If he listened to Jesus his life would totally change. He would lose his identity and he would have to give it the "poor." For many in this world, those were the ones who were unworthy and deserved their fate. Jesus challenges this as he asks this man not only to give up but to give what he had to help others. Yet what this man wanted to keep what he had so he left grieving.

The call to follow Jesus fills the Gospels and fills our lives as we hear the word of God. Are we willing to trust God enough to follow Jesus while leaving everything behind? Fortunately, most of us have not been asked to take up voluntary poverty. I think a lot of us would have trouble leaving our retirement accounts behind or emptying our saving accounts to help the poor. This may not be your calling; I am pretty sure it is not mine, at least right now. The question for us now is, what gets in the way of following Jesus more each and every day?

There are those who say that this is not part of our lives as modern Christians, but we need to remember that there are still those who give up everything to follow Jesus, and there are still those who suffer for the sake of their faith. We are not alone when we struggle with our faith in times of struggles, hardship or ridicule. Many have known difficulties in the face of the call to follow Jesus. Jesus is the answer to all of this so we seek to answer the call to follow.

This call challenges us to trust in Christ no matter what. In humility we know who we are as we stand before God. We are his children and nothing more. We cannot keep the law or accomplish great things without Christ. Yet in his strength we can leave the things we trust in too much behind, to trust in God alone. God alone promises to provide all that we need for life and keeps those promises. Total reliance that God will provide is difficult but that trust along with the struggles it brings with it can open us up to more of God's love and mercy. The blessings are always there if we have eyes to see.

In Ephesians 1:3-14 the Apostle Paul makes the details of this clear. Listen to his words.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of

his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

You and I are blessed with every blessing in the heavenly places. This is not a pie in the sky promise, nor is it a promise that if we are following, nothing will ever go wrong. Remember following Jesus involves a cross and we will have tough days. He told his followers that they would face persecution. But there are blessings promised with this as well. Our Gospel lesson makes this clear. As Jesus answers Peter who reminds him that many of them had left everything and followed Jesus. There Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Jesus promises his followers, including us that they will receive a hundred times what they had lost or given up. My experience has been that I have never lost because I have followed Jesus. Personally, I can say that I have benefited tremendously. The church is a family to me greater than the one I belonged to. The wealth and blessings of Christ are more of a treasure than all of the treasures I could have collected in a lifetime. I have experienced far greater blessings of love, joy and peace that I doubt I would have found on my own. I have been privileged to see the word and work of God come alive before my very eyes. On top of that Jesus says we have eternal life waiting for us as we follow him.

These promises affect our lives daily. As the Apostle John said, "We love because he first loved us." Because you and are beloved children of God we can let the love of God flow into the world through us. Nothing the world can do to us can destroy our future in Christ so we are free to love and give in remarkable ways. Following Jesus always changes things in our lives and in the lives of those around us for the better. Trust in Jesus and go forth in this world with hope and mercy because you are Children of God.

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY Faith Begins By Letting Go



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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## 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: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *[Brief silence]*

A: Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage

us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind, especially MCEF. We also lift up to you today... Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Heavenly Father, You have generously blessed us with families. Thank you for your guidance and protection. As you love and care for us, may we also always love and care for our families and keep them in our prayers. We pray this week for the Anderson, Anton and Arnold families as well as our Messiah family. May You keep us all from danger and sickness and guard our hearts so that we are reminded of Your Grace. Lord, in your mercy.

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE-IN-PLACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*\*\*Please share signs of peace with those in your immediate vicinity only. If any are not comfortable making physical contact during the peace, please share peace in other ways.*

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

*\*\*Offering baskets are located near the doors to the sanctuary. Please place your offerings in the baskets at the end of the service as you depart.*

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

**C: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 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, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**C: Amen**

*\*\*Please process up the center aisle as directed by the ushers. Please maintain social distancing between family groups while processing. Bread and wine will be available from the pastor and the first lay assistant, with empty cups available on your way to the front. Prepackaged grape juice and wafer servings will be available from the second lay assistant. Baskets for empty cups will be set out. Please return to your seats down the side aisles.*

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

P: 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.

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C: Amen**

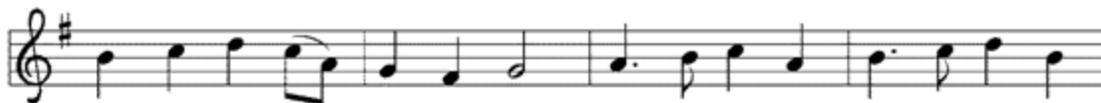
**\*SENDING SONG** God of Grace and God of Glory



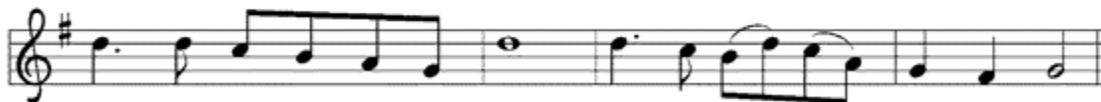
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we do adore: let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

**\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*\*Please exit through either set of doors, maintaining distance between family groups. You are welcome to enjoy fellowship time outside in the parking lot.*

## **POSTLUDE**

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

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### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, October 10, 2021**

Pianist: Debbie Walker  
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Marilyn Gunn (2nd Lay Asst.) Anita Philp  
Lectors: Anita Philp  
Acolyte: Grace Anderson  
Greeters: Donna Combs  
Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Jake Addair  
Altar Guild: Becky Collie  
Counters: Donna Combs & Erna Jung

### *Announcements*

#### **PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Ryan will be off October 4-10. Pastor Jim Berg will preside at worship on the 10<sup>th</sup> – thanks, Pastor Jim! In case of an emergency, please contact Rev. Katherine Dougherty at her cell number, 434-989-5067.

#### **OUR NEIGHBOR'S FAITH**

We're continuing our discussions of various faith traditions and denominations this week by talking about our neighbors the Presbyterians!

#### **WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$2,927.25 (down from \$2,898.95 through October 3, 2021).
- We are \$42,549.88 behind the year-to-date budget needs (\$42,589.88 the last time reported).
- This includes our monthly donation from All Souls.
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

#### **COME ONE COME ALL: MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN!**

Would you like to learn to quilt? Are you wondering what you can do to make a difference? Even non-sewers can help make a quilt! Here are the 5 Ws and 1 P.

Who: anyone interested

What: quilting

When: November 10, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

Where: Messiah Lutheran Church - narthex

Why: With a November start, a Thanksgiving theme of gratitude and thankfulness, can illustrate our thankfulness for all the blessings God has given us by quilting for others.

Purpose: This fellowship activity sponsored by the evangelism team with the hope of assisting others beyond our walls.

If you are interested but cannot attend, please contact: Glady Hubert - gladyh43@gmail.com or Cheryl Griffis - candlgriffis@gmail.com

### **HELP NEEDED!**

We now have SIX greeters! And that means that each one will serve only once in six Sundays! I want to thank Sue Gilnett and Jean Martin, former Greeters, who have volunteered to serve again. In addition, Donna Combs will serve for ten months on the rotation, and I will serve in the months that Donna has Altar Guild Duty. We will join in that rotation with our current Greeters, Gladys Hubert, Dianne Absher, and Marilyn Gunn, all dedicated "servants" in multiple slots at Messiah for many years.

On the Usher and Acolyte rotations, however, we still need help. Roger Schroeder is serving inside for all Sundays in the rotation, and Gordon Gunn, Jake Addair, LeRoy Albertson, Chris Sondor, and Daren Williams will be serving in rotation with Roger. We do have six ushers, but often at least one, and sometimes two write back to me that they are "unavailable" for certain Sundays. We have one member who is considering becoming an Usher, but we do need at least two more volunteers to have a complete six person rotation for our Sunday services. Please email Sally Bennett at sallybennett3317@gmail.com with any questions you might have; or if, after prayerfully considering, you will volunteer to help out, and many thanks in advance.

We also have only FOUR Acolytes, one of whom is very involved in sports, and one who now has a job and doesn't know very far ahead of time what Sundays are available for serving. Our other two Acolytes are siblings, so when the family is away, we often have no one left to serve on a particular Sunday.

Pastor Ryan is planning to have one or perhaps two training sessions for Acolytes this fall, so if you are in 4th grade or older, have received your First Communion, and are interested, please have one of your parents write to me at the email address above as soon as possible, and I will give your name(s) to Pastor Ryan. Blessings to you and yours, and I look forward to hearing from you, Sally Bennett, Worship Team Chair

### **PRAYER LIST RESET**

The current prayer list has been reset. Please contact Davina with names that need to remain on the list. Email her at MessiahMech@gmail.com or phone 746-7134 with your requests.

### **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!

### **LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: HURRICANES AND WILDFIRES**

Please visit ELCA.org/disaster for information on how to help those affected by these natural disasters and the long period of recovery ahead.