

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*August 24, 2025
Eleventh 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.**

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. 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

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available upon request.

** Please stand as you are able **

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

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 – As Rain from the Clouds**

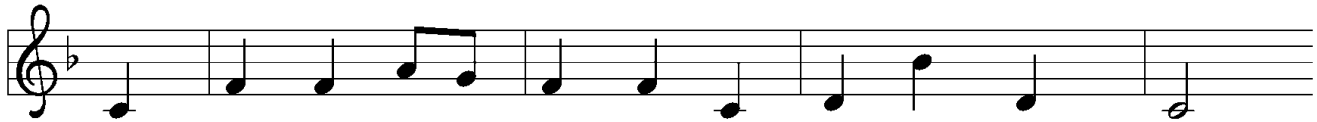
ELW 508



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



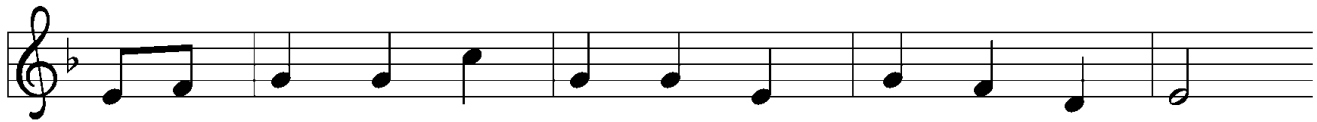
as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896

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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.***

KYRIE

Leader or All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
 O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

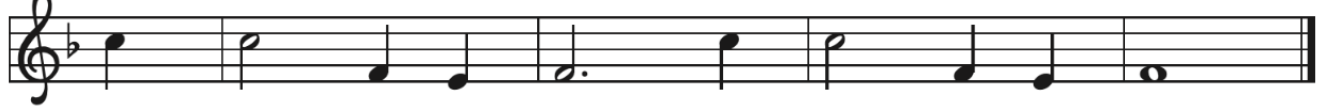
All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
 O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All

All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.
 Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!
 1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!
 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre! ¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre!
 To God be glo-ry for - ev - er! To God be glo-ry for - ev - er!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
 Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
 Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
 Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

2 Glory to God,
 glory to God,
 glory to Christ Jesus!

2 ¡Gloria a Dios,
 gloria a Dios,
 gloria a Jesucristo!

3 Glory to God,
 glory to God,
 glory to the Spirit!

3 ¡Gloria a Dios,
 gloria a Dios,
 gloria al Espíritu!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray:

C: O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

Lector

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

A reading from Isaiah.

- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

Lector

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

A reading from Hebrews.

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them.

²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris 'n in - deed.

***GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17**

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

*HYMN OF THE DAY – O God of Mercy, God of Light

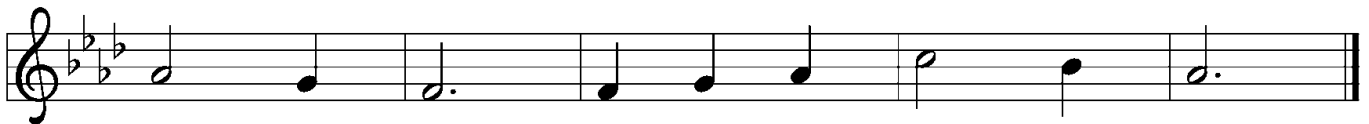
ELW 714



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

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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*,
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 OF INTERCESSION**

A: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A: You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders (leaders may be named) as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness (especially). Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: With all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, you created us to live in community. Bless our families, in all their shapes and sizes. Sustain and strengthen all our communal connections. We especially pray this week for the Martin, McKenna, and McMillen families, as well as our Messiah family. Grant all help where needed, and foster love and appreciation. God of grace,

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***OFFERING SONG – We Are an Offering**

ELW 692

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
Lord use our voices
Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives they are Yours
We are an offering

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
We are an offering

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You

*Dwight Liles
CCLI Song #16220*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

C: *Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW p. 206)

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 our 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:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



San-to, san - to, san - to Dios de glo - ria y po - der,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might,



cie - los y tie - rra pro - cla - man tu glo - ria.
heav - en and earth . . . are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ben - di - to a - quel que vie - ne en el nom - bre de Dios.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify,
you we worship and adore...

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he
comes:

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

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new
creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and
resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and
sorrows will be no more.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us
and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire
rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in
us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty
with all the world.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus
received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no
longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the
Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

(ELW p. 208)

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: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG – *Lamb of God*



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no -
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up -



so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - stros.
on us, have . . . mer - cy up - on us.



Da - nos tu paz. A - mén.
Grant us your peace. A - mén.

***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.

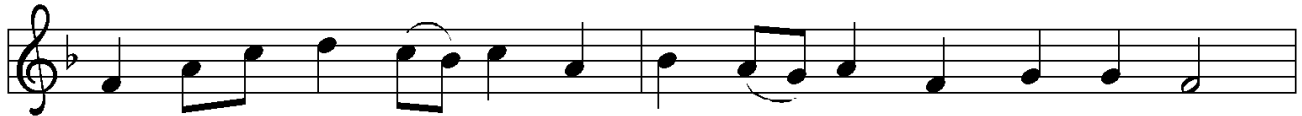
C: **Amen**

***SONG AFTER COMMUNION – Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise**

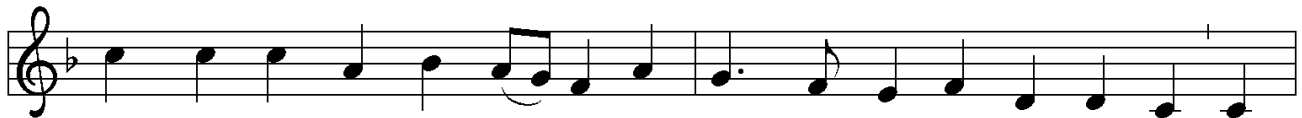
ELW 204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

***BLESSING**

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

C: **Amen**

***SENDING SONG – Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven**

ELW 864



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un-chang-ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

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***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

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SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – August 24 2025

- Pianist: Anita Tarbox
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Kate Radtke (2nd Lay Asst.) Diana Sondor
- Lector: Marilyn Gunn
- Acolyte: Ella Anderson
- Greeter: Sue Gilnett
- Ushers: Daren Williams & Max Williams
- Altar Guild: Donna Combs & Marilyn Gunn
- Counters: Gordon & Marilyn Gunn
- Live Streamer: Teresa Gigante

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

August 24	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Shepherd's Team Meeting	12:00 PM
August 27	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
August 28	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
August 31	Worship Service	10:45 AM
September 1	Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day	All Day
September 3	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
September 7	Rally Day	
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	First Sunday Fellowship	
September 11	MCEF 9/11 Patriotic Concert	7:00 PM
September 14	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week but especially aims to be in on Tuesday and Wednesday. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day. On Tuesday, September 2, office hours will change to Mon/Wed/Fri 10:00AM – 3:00 PM, Tue/Thur Noon – 5:00 PM.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Numbers For the 32nd Sunday of 2025:

- Average Contributions to current were \$3,607.81
- Contributions for current Aug 17th were \$2,492.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$115,450.03
- For comparison, current YTD 2024 was \$122,351.87
- Designated Giving for the 32nd Sunday was \$95

HEALING SERVICE

There have been many in our congregation these last months who have been in the midst of serious health concerns, or who are caring for loved ones in the midst of health issues, or who have lost a loved one. Our time of worship on August 31st will include a rite of healing, with an opportunity to come forward for individual prayers and laying on of hands. If you or someone you know would like specific prayers, or would like to participate, please let Pastor Ryan know.

MORE THAN DECOR: FAMOUS PROPHETIC VERSES IN CONTEXT

Maybe you've seen - or maybe you even have - some beautiful wall art with a Bible verse in a nice font, maybe with a nature scene or something like that in the background. What a nice way to display important Scripture! But sometimes we see some verses so much in neat and tidy frames that we can forget the messy contexts into which they were originally spoke, and the power they can, and should, have on our lives.

This fall we'll look at some well-known and often art-ified verses from Micah, Amos, Jeremiah, and more. We'll dig into their original contexts and prayerfully discuss what claims these verses make on our lives today.

ALTAR FLOWER PRICE INCREASE

The price for altar flowers from Coleman Brothers will increase to \$56 effective September 1.

Y.O.U.T.H. IN ACTION (YOUTHFUL OUTREACH TO UPLIFT AND THRIVE IN HOLINESS)

Thanks to everyone who came through the MLC Youth Car Wash! We raised over \$600 for the 2027 NYG trip!!! We appreciate your support!

The MLC Youth Group will be meeting for fellowship and bowling at Bowlero in September (date to be announced soon!)

SAVE THE DATE, SEPTEMBER 11

Join the celebration to honor the memory of 911 by attending the MCEF 911 Patriotic concert featuring the music of the Hanover High School String Orchestra on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at The Walnut Grove Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m.

Admission is a suggested donation of \$5 and 2 nonperishable food items for the food pantry of MCEF. This concert is a benefit for MCEF and the Hanover High School Music Boosters.

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

The Church Council has recently received and approved requests from two different community groups in need of meeting space, since the two separate churches they've been using are both closing their doors. One is a garden club with some members from All Souls who will meet in the building once a month on Tuesday mornings. The other is an AA group that will be meeting weekly on Tuesday nights. Both groups will begin meeting at Messiah in August. We give thanks to God that our building can serve our community!

SUMMER MIDWEEK MESSAGES

This year marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Please check out Pastor Ryan's videos that will delve into the history and significance of the Nicene Creed, and why the word "filioque" matters. By the end of the summer, we hope that you'll be able to better profess your own beliefs in your own words, and come away with a deeper understanding about our Trinitarian God who is both bigger than we can ever imagine and closer that we'll ever know.