

PANDEMIC JOINT WORSHIP IN SWENSSON PARK SHELTER

October 11, 2020

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“Adagio cantabile” from Sonata 8

Ludwig Van Beethoven

GATHERING

People of God, we come today to celebrate God working

Working in, among, and through us

We come to affirm our intention to continue in the covenant God made with us

in holy baptism and in holy communion:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

We wear the waters of baptism

Walking wet in all our pathways

We journey through life

Robed in the waterfall of baptism

Robed in baptism that always, always, always washes us clean.

We come to worship, seeking God's movement

We come to celebrate the feast of life for all our days.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

We renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

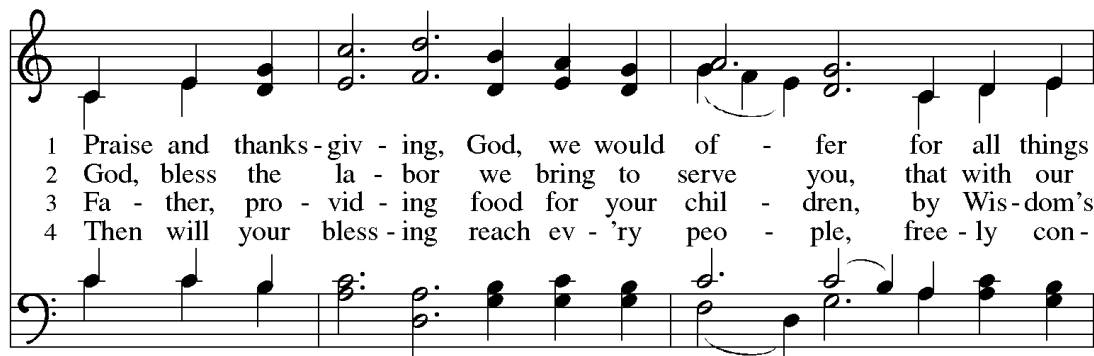
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

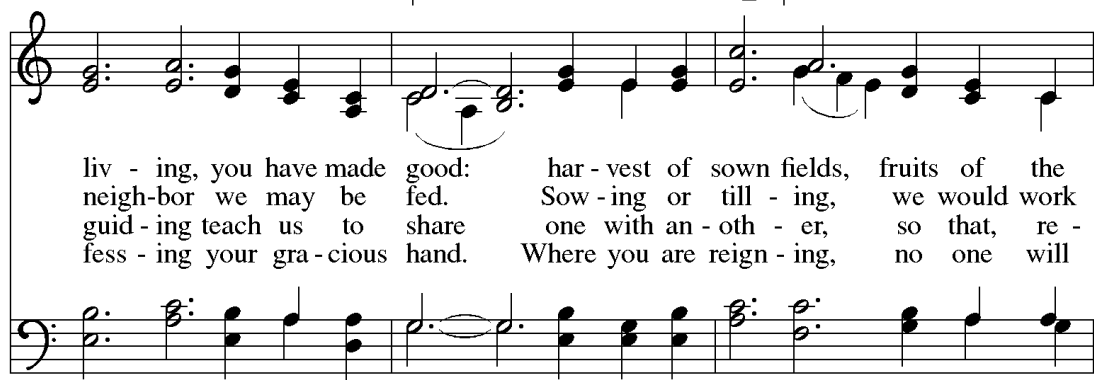
Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

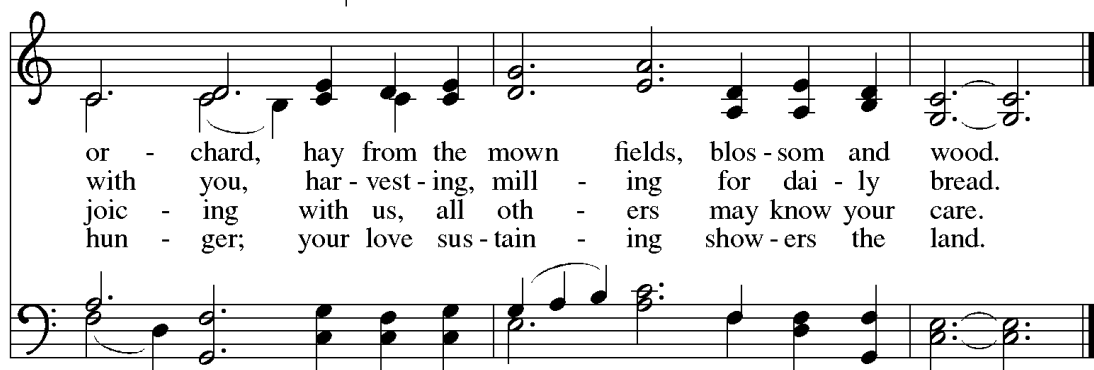
Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will




or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Canticle of Praise

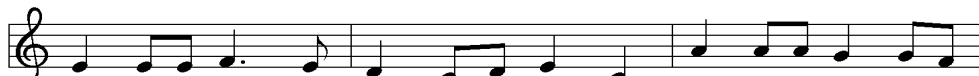
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain



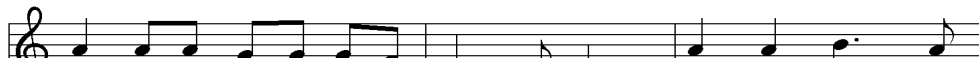
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Lord of the feast, **you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm: Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find

to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

Hymn of the Day

Seek Ye First

Words and Music by
Karen Lafferty

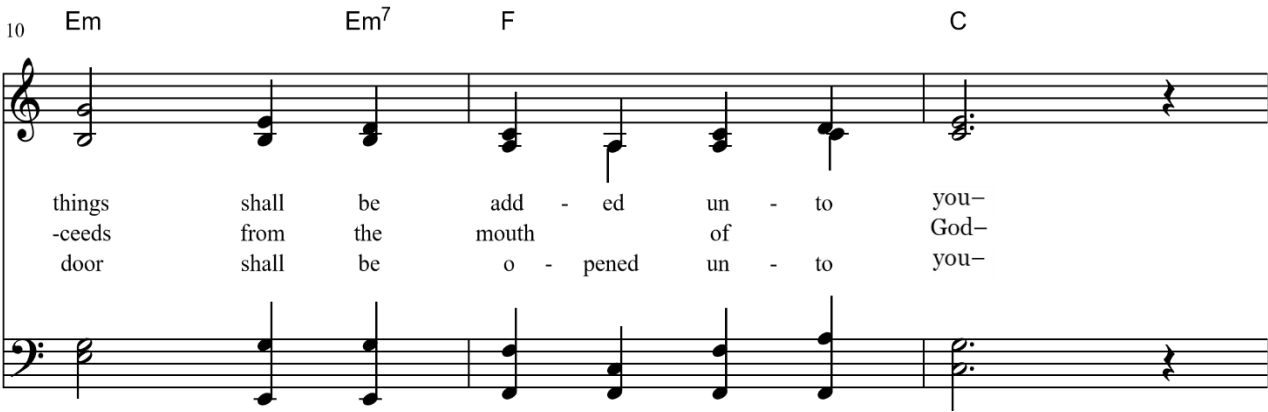
C C^{sus} Em F C

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2. Man shall not live by bread a - lone
3. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

5 F C Dm⁷ G⁷ C C^{sus}

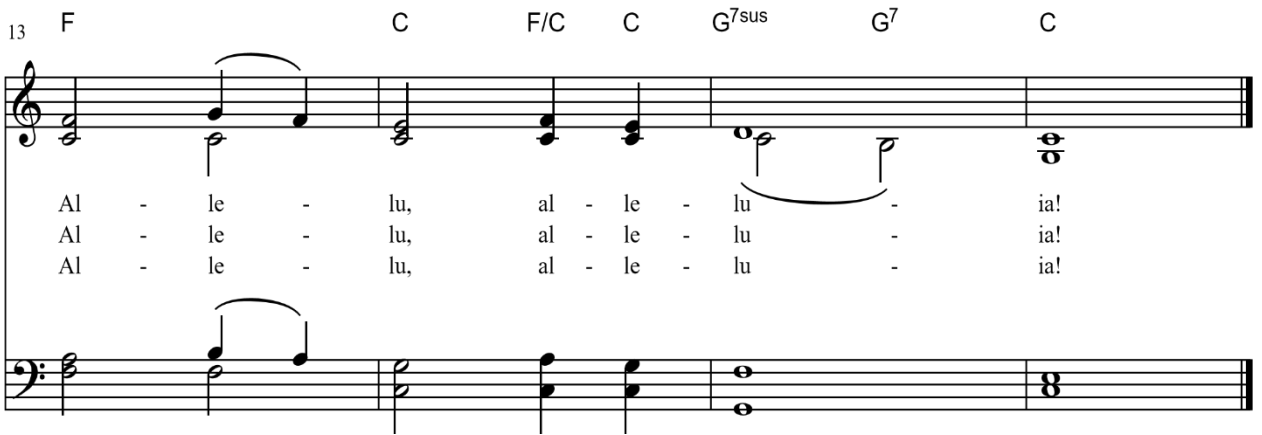
and His right - eous - ness, and all these
but by ev - 'ry word that pro -
seek and ye shall find, knock and the

10 Em Em⁷ F C



things shall be add - ed un - to you -
 -ceeds from the mouth of God -
 door shall be o - pened un - to you -

13 F C F/C C G^{7sus} G⁷ C



Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

CCLI Song # 1352

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.PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to your table of boundless grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill (*especially*). Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious host, when we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community (*local ministries can be named*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence. Assure us of your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Tyler Atkinson will play the pedal steel guitar Sunday on "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" written by Martin Luther and arranged by Bill Keith.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

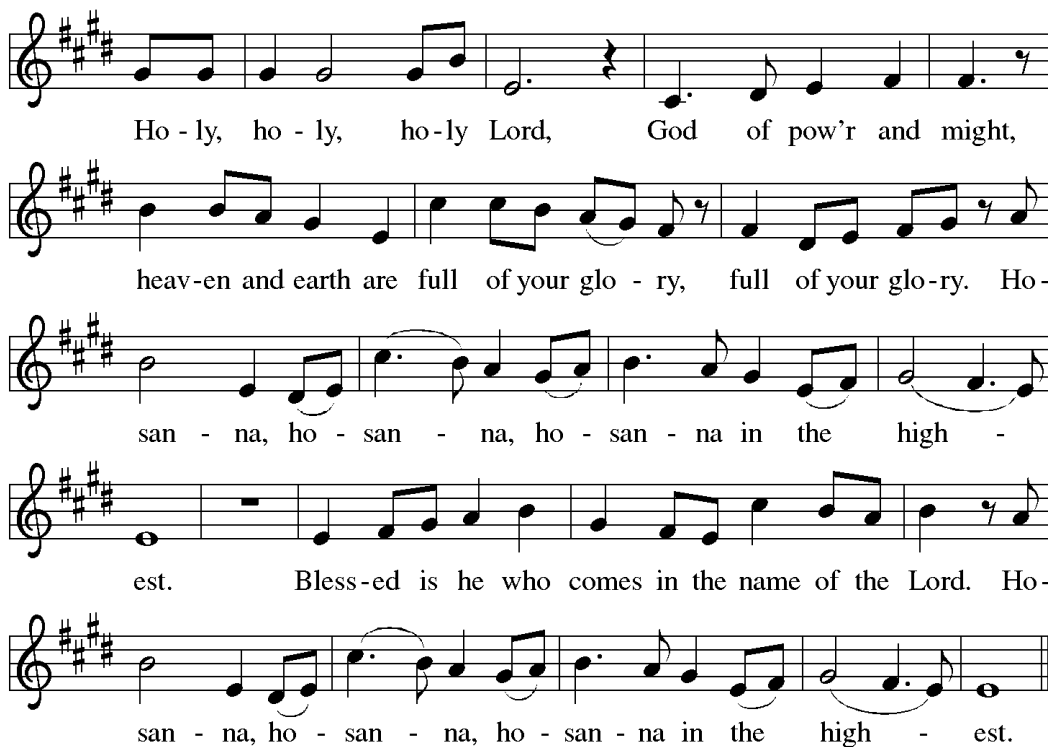
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow' r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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. **Amen.**

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.

Come to the Table

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords and moving lines.

All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords and moving lines.

Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

The third system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords and moving lines.

Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942
 Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956
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I Come with Joy

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

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

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

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Mothering God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



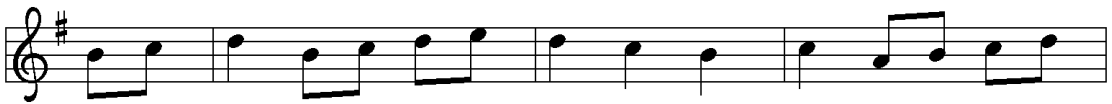
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach-ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ludwig Van Beethoven

Messiah Lutheran Church

9/30/2020

	Actual Sep 20	Actual Jan – Sep 20	Budget Jan – Sep 20
Revenue	\$11,759.25	\$123,389.55	\$111,195.00
Expenses	<u>11,407.81</u>	<u>117,556.03</u>	<u>123,672.72</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$351.44</u>	<u>\$5,833.52</u>	<u>-\$12,477.72</u>
Reserve Balance	<u>\$76,131.62</u>		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Har Shogren, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, we hold in prayer family and friends of Louise Benson

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Chip Brock	Bill and Caroline Brock's son	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter		

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson	T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Daniel & Miranda Norland Randy/Gretchen's son & wife

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Bethany Church Members:

<u>Anita Nelson</u>	Maridene Lundstrom	Eralene Johnson
Lou Swenson	Jolene Reese	Elly Ostlind
Gladys Anderson	Jim Attleson	Allyn & Sue Gillberg
Jane Brunsell	Rev. Elwin Bergstraesser	Heath Harris
Joan Hopp	Dolores & Walter Pelz	Betty Finney
Keo O'Rourke	Mija Stockman	Marilyn Cooper
Lois Howe	Mary Parker	Isaiah Ruble
Clarice Eckstrom	Toni & Lloyd Haukom	Dave & Beth Crouse
Clifford Carlson	Mary Swenson	Marvin Anderson
Fred & Elly Briggs	Mark Dahlsten	Harry & Ann Ylander

Please pray for all affected by Covid-19: Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. Also, we pray for all who are being negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption.

Birthdays This Week:

Ingrid Pohl

10/16

Anita Johnson

10/17

WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS

Bishop Susan Candeia of the Central States Synod has shared her thoughts about being the church in these difficult days.

Where, she asks, is God calling us? Every congregation and ministry of our synod is encouraged to step into this disorienting time. What is the Spirit calling us to do? What is God up to in the world that we are invited to be part of? What we thought of as "normal" no longer exists; instead of looking back to the time before the pandemic and unrest, how do we move forward boldly loving God?

How are we loving our neighbor? We should serve in response to God's love by meeting human needs, caring for the sick and aged, as well as those living alone, laid-off workers struggling to pay for groceries and rent; small business owners; and young families with no extended family support. Loving our neighbor also means working for justice.

Gathering to worship God and caring for one another in community means considering ways to gather either online or in person for worship and other events. Our decisions should be based on recommendations from our public health organizations, including the CDC.

Our words and actions, decisions and commitments in these days reflect our love of God and our love of neighbor. In these days it's important to continue being the church who gathers to hear the gospel, be fed by the means of grace, care for one another, and to be sent out as disciples of Christ to love our neighbor and proclaim hope in these days.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bethany College and Smoky Valley HS Fellowship of Christian Athletes are hosting Fields of Faith 2020, featuring former K-State Wildcat Ty Zimmerman on Wednesday, 10/14, at 7pm at the Bethany College softball field.

Please **pray for Bethany College, the students, faculty, administrators, and staff**, that all remain healthy and mindful of best health practices, that learning be deep and strong, and that all might live into their vocation.

Please pray for **USD 400 and all teachers, students, administrators, and staff**, that they might remain healthy and mindful of best health practices, that learning be deep and strong, and the all might benefit from the community of learning.

KICK (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) will be on hold for the fall until we see how the virus remains contained or spreads. If you have innovative ideas about how our congregation might engage our youth or any other population in the community or congregation, please talk with Rachel Ann Atkinson.

Dala Pantry – Remember that Messiah Lutheran members are asked to provide the following items for the Dala Pantry donations – canned chicken, tuna, pickles, vienna sausages, peanut butter & jelly; Bethany is asked to bring single serving macaroni and cheese, ravioli, applesauce, fruit cups and canned tuna.

The Dala Pantry has gained a few new volunteers but is still looking for people to be of assistance from time to time. Please let Logan know if you are interested! daweslm@bethanylb.edu.

OCTOBER 11, 2020
NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God's grace makes a difference in our lives.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast
Monday	Isaiah 25:1-9	A prayer of thanks to God
Tuesday	Philippians 4:1-9	Paul encourages his co-workers
Wednesday	Exodus 32:1-14	The people make an idol
Thursday	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	A nation asks for forgiveness
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **Philippians 4:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, guide our thoughts and actions in ways that reflect your reign of goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who promise us a feast of rich food, help us to take joy in this meal today. Amen. (Isaiah 25:6)

A Blessing to Give:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Just As I Am, without One Plea

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you went to a party filled with friends, food, and laughter.
- Would you invite someone off the street who you do not know to a party? Why or why not?
- God's love in the Bible is seen sometimes as an invitation to a great party or feast. What does this say about God?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 22:1-14.

It is said we can have our own opinions, but not our own facts. Similarly, you can have your own message, but not your own Christian gospel. Matthew makes it clear that the good news of Jesus is powerful. God's mercy has the last word; it includes a divine judgment that says that the marginalized, the belittled, the "poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3) will be blessed (v. 10). If we take the grace of God for granted, we not only miss the feast, we miss the fact that "many are called, but few are chosen" (v. 14). This text is from Jesus' final week before his crucifixion. The people see him as a prophet, a true messenger of God (Matthew 21:46), but soon he will suffer, be humiliated, and die. There will be false prophets who come along. They are like the guest who is not wearing the proper clothing and their message will be rejected. Our life in Christ will not be associated with messages and actions of hate, racism, prejudice or contempt for the poor. God's grace makes a difference in our lives and in the world in which we live. How does God's grace challenge your thoughts and actions toward people who are different from you?

Pray: God of grace and mercy, cleanse us of our way of life that can become indifferent to the people you love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

There is a theme this week about feasts and hospitality. Hospitality is receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, kind, and generous way. Think about what it means to show hospitality. Invite someone you may not know very well to your house for a meal.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 23 is one of the most well-known scriptures in the Bible. This psalm is the shepherd David's song to God. David likens how a shepherd cares for sheep to how God loves each one of us. Write a list of ways a shepherd cares for sheep. Look at your list and think about God caring for you in these ways. Pray: **Lord, thank you for caring for me and leading me with love. Amen.**

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org