



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MADISON, ALABAMA

July 12, 2026
7th Sunday after Pentecost



God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Good Morning and Welcome!

If you are an online worshiper or guest today, please leave a record of your time with us online. Thank you!

[Online Guest Form](#)

ORDER OF WORSHIP 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Settings Two and Four

PRELUDE “Meditation on *Beach Spring*” (Gilbert M. Martin)

Melanie Payne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT “Lamb of God” (ELW Setting Two)

Choir

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG** “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

ELW 533

The musical score is written for a choir or congregation. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are as follows:

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;

where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis-turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.

Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

*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.**

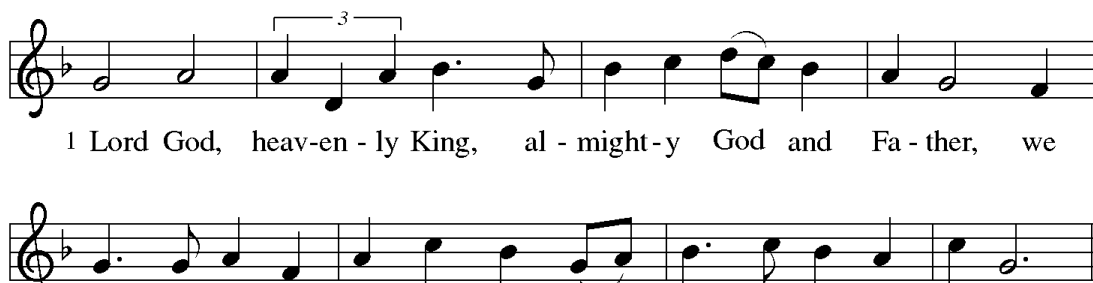
*KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor:



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp). It begins with a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, then a triplet of eighth notes B, C, and D. This is followed by a dotted quarter note E, a quarter note F, and a half note G. The second line starts with a half note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F, and a half note G.

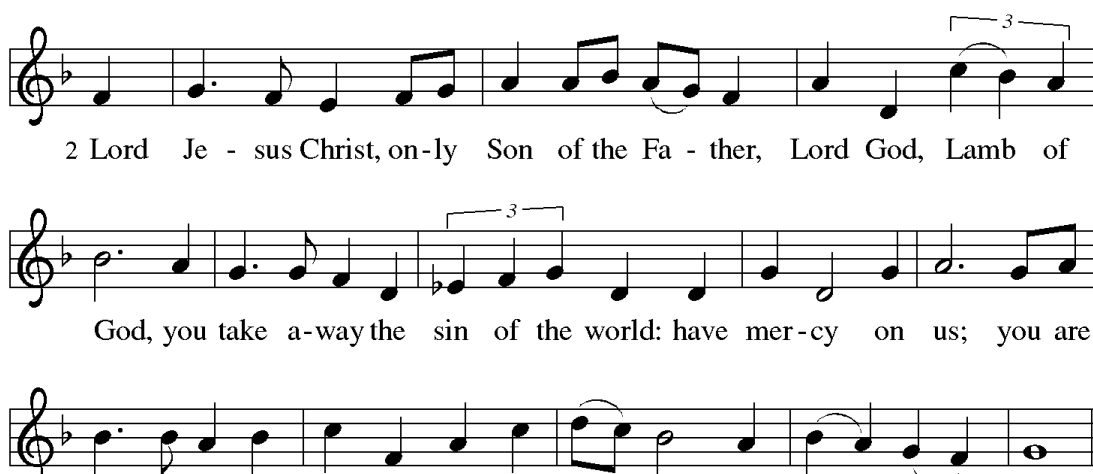
All:



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major. It starts with a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F, and a half note G.

Cantor:



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are
seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major. It begins with a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F, and a half note G. The second line starts with a half note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F, and a half note G. The third line starts with a half note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F, and a half note G.

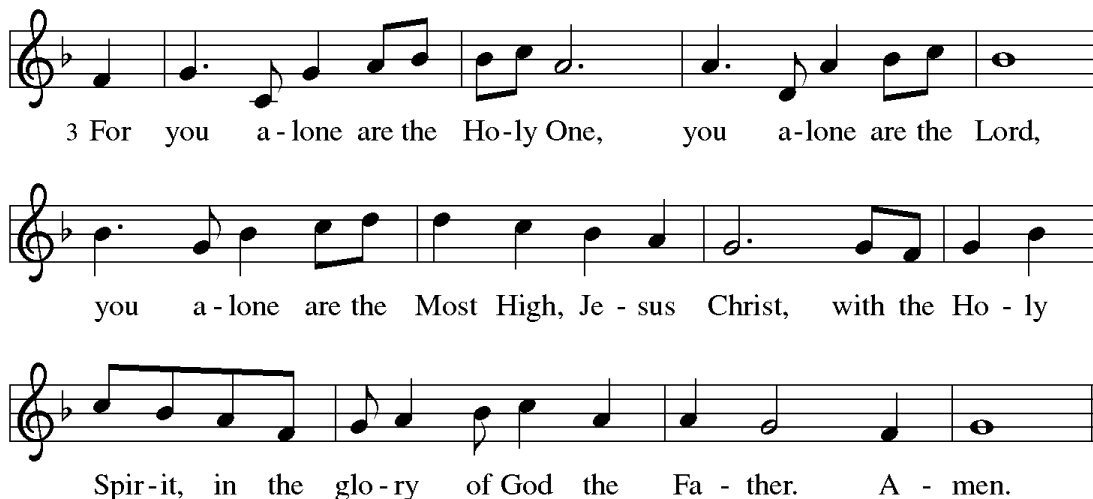
All:



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major. It starts with a half note G, followed by a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F, and a half note G.

Cantor:



All:



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 65:9-13

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL FANFARE

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and

does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Kris Schroeder

*HYMN OF THE DAY “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.

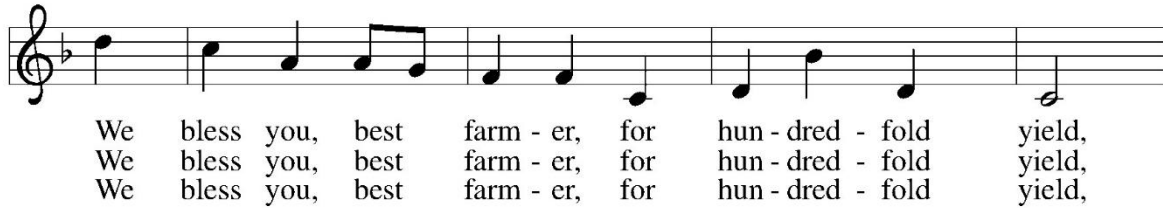
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



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;



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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

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*CREED

2025-2026 Confirmation Class

We believe in God, who created all there is and ever will be.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who was created by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus was made to suffer, hung on a cross, died and was buried. Jesus descended to the dead, rose on the third day, ascended into heaven and is now at the Father's right hand where he will judge all humans past and present.

We believe that through Jesus we are saved.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the worldwide church, that our sins are forgiven, and that we have been promised that we will live in God's kingdom forever. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING "Light Dawns on a Weary World" (Rowan/Cherwein)

Choir

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are aligned with the notes: 'Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of' on the first staff, 'bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that' on the second, 'we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of' on the third, 'all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble' on the fourth, and 'with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.' on the fifth. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

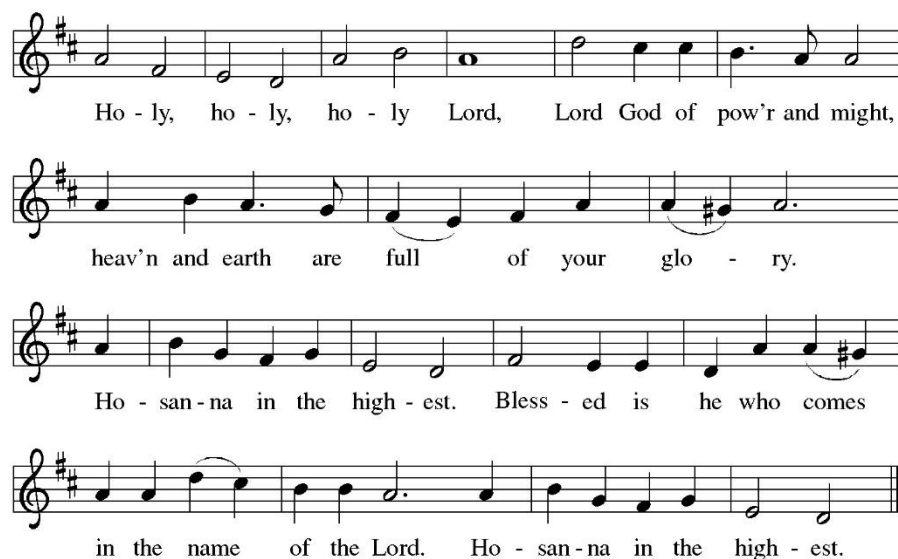
***OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PREFACE**

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.

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



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

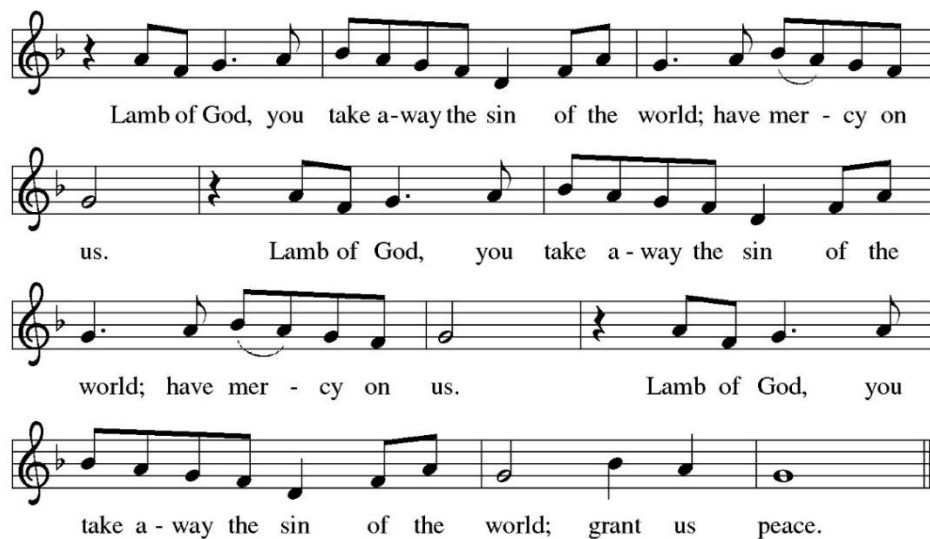
***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”

ELW 658



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
 chang-ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

ELW 807



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: “Hith-er by thy help I've come”;
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

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

ANTHEM “Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant” (ELW Setting Two)

Choir

HYMN “Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



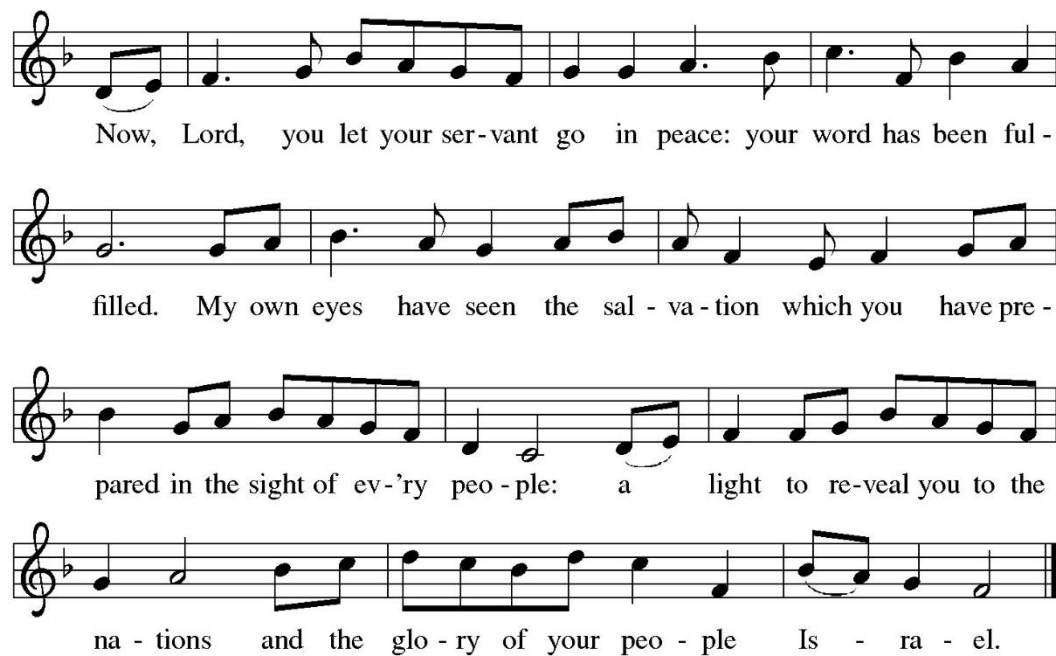
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904

Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE “Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant”**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

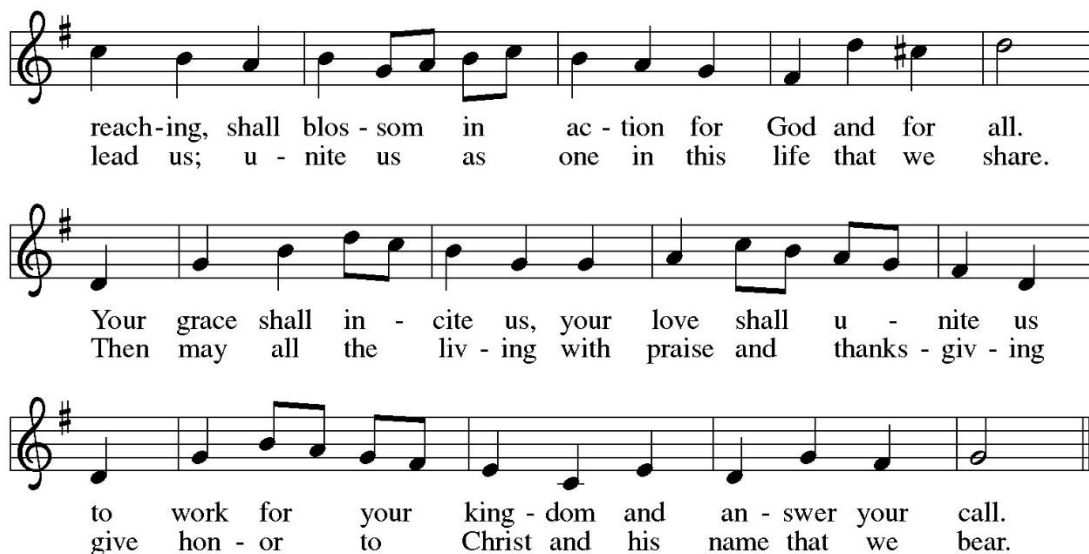
***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG “Sent Forth by God's Blessing”**

ELW 547



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 our 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



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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*DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **We will! Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “Voluntary on *Ein’ Feste Burg*” (Gordon Young)



WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Lindsey & the Porter Family
 Kevin
 Leighann
 Connie Stanger

Victoria Zutter
 Brittany
 Stephen
 David

Rich
 Bob Gustafson
 Greg Beamer

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by Rick and LeeLinda Baggett in celebration of their 35th anniversary on July 15th and Rick's birthday on July 11th.

A NURSERY staffed by Hannah Seitz, is available through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

DROP IN FOR THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING TODAY AFTER WORSHIP IN THE PARISH HALL. Everyone is welcomed! We are looking for ideas and inspiration in planning the 2026-2027 year. Do you have an activity you've wanted to see happen at Messiah? a fun social event? We welcome your input! Grab a cup of coffee and pop in at the meeting or contact Greg Kilby: thekilbys87@hotmail.com and let us hear from you!

WHO ARE OUR 2026 COLLEGE GRADUATES? We would love to recognize Messiah's 2026 college graduates. Email us at newsletter@mlutheran.org with their name, school, and degree by this Wednesday, July 15, so we can give them a shout out in our e-newsletter. Thank you!

DINNER THEATRE -- SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 6:00 P.M. Messiah presents The Tragedy of Orpheus, A Comedy -- an evening of merriment, laughs and great food for a great cause! Tickets on sale until Sunday, July 26th. Contact Laura Peterson at lpeterson256.lp@gmail.com. All proceeds benefit Lunches for Learning.

PASTOR KRIS CONTINUING EDUCATION -- AWAY MONDAY, JULY 13 TO MONDAY, JULY 20. If the need for emergent pastoral care arises while Pastor is away, please contact the church office. If you have a prayer request for the Sunday bulletin or for the prayer chain, please contact the church office or email prayerchain@mlutheran.org.

KIT MINISTRY – Crayons (24 ct box)

FOOD PANTRY – Bars / Crackers

****CHURCH CALENDAR****

Sunday, July 12

8:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study

8:30 a.m. - Choir Warmup

9:30 a.m. – *Service of Worship ELW Settings Two and Four with the Lord's Supper

10:30 a.m.- Fellowship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 15

7:00 p.m. - Dinner Theater Rehearsal

Thursday, July 16

11:00 a.m.- ArtReach

6:30 p.m. - Kit Ministry

Saturday, July 18

9:00 a.m. - Church Council Retreat (off-site)

10:00 a.m.- Contemporary Worship Set Up/Rehearsal

Sunday, July 19

8:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study

9:30 a.m. – *Band Led Service of Worship Bread of Life WOV with the Lord's Supper

LOOKING AHEAD

August 7 - Dinner Theater Dress Rehearsal

August 8 - Dinner Theater: The Tragedy of Orpheus, A Comedy

August 9 - Sunday Worship returns to 2 services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

August 9 - Rally Day! / Backpack and Teacher Blessing

August 23 - Blessing of Quilts / Kits

August 30 - Loading of LWR Truck

ATTENDANCE

June 28 Online: 36

July 5: 9:30 – 67

Greeters

John and Mary Burke

Ushers

Bruce Peter, Glen Long

Cantor

Emily Reed

Lectors

Hannah and Valerie Christensen

Altar Guild

LeeLinda Baggett

Stream Team

Joe Huwaldt, Stephen Strand

Flower Guild

Beverly Berry

Pastor

Kristine Schroeder

Director of Music

Randall Fields

Organist/Accompanist

Melanie Payne

Communications Director

Jan Morrison

Office Manager

Jill Casey