

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
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Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Cantor
Altar Guild

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Jesse K., Tammy W., Wilma P., Audrey L., Josh B., George and Lorraine H., Carl K., Morgan T., Karl and Margaret G., Sarah D., Clara S., Justin T., Connor L., Carol D., Don L., Don and Arlene D., Terry F., Darlene Y., Mildred H. and family, and family of Joe F.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. The risen Lord Jesus provides visions of peace that passes human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "Shall We Gather at the River"

* GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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 (C - sung)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

* HYMN OF PRAISE I & II Choir (C – Congregation)

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

I 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.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (sung)

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

C Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WORD

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15

The First reading is from the 16th chapter of Acts.

THE LESSON READS:

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

L – Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

ALL – Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplant sun and moon.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

The Second reading is from the 21st chapter of Revelation.

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who

practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

* THE VERSE (**Congregation**)

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

* GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

* THE VERSE (**Congregation**)

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, He that for three days in the grave had lain; Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

* HYMN OF DAY "When Peace like a River"

* NICENE CREED (all)

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

P Rejoicing with all the witnesses of the resurrection, let us pray in confidence for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P Send your Holy Spirit to teach and remind us of the ways of your love. Shape the church by your word and guide the proclamation of your grace for the sake for the sake of the whole world. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Reveal to us the splendor of creation and inspire gratitude in our hearts for the yield of the earth. Show us your ways of abundance and healing for the sake of our world. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Guide judges, magistrates, and juries to deliberate with equity and fairness. Be the hope and inspiration of all who are imprisoned or detained. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Relieve the fears and troubles of those who suffer. Grant shelter to the homeless, assistance to those in any need, and healing to the sick (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Jesse Kint, Tammy Walton, Wilma Pyles, Dorothy Patterson, Audrey Landis, Josh Beitz, George and Lorraine Hazard, Carl Krow, Morgan Treaster, Karl and Margaret

Guss, Sarah Dressler, Clara Schlegel, Justin Tabb, Connor Lauver, Carol Dasen, Jane Marhefka, Don Lewis, Don and Arlene DeLauter, Terry Frymoyer, Darlene Yutzy, Mildred Hostler and family, and family of Joe Forney). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Inspire the community by the enthusiasm and joy of the newly baptized. Enliven this congregation by stories of conversion and transformation in the gospel. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Shelter us in the shade of the tree of life, granting refreshment and healing in our weariness and despair. Strengthen our faith with the witness of all the saints and join our voices together in the song of praise that never ends. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P In resurrection hope we commend to you all for whom we pray, trusting in the promise of new life; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

ANTHEM

"I Am a 'C' " "Well, If You Love Jesus"
"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Junior Choir

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

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 now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

MEAL

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung responsively)

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And al-so 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 him thanks and praise.**

* PREFACE

P *It is indeed right and salutary ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

C **Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav-en and earth are 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 in the high-est.**

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P *Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.*

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P *O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.*

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P *Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.*

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P *With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

(Sung) Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] **(all)**

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 The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

* LAMB OF GOD **(sung)**

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.

(In hospitality and attempting to meet the needs of individuals, Messiah now offers gluten free communion hosts. If you wish to receive gluten free hosts, please come to the side where Pastor Esborn is serving).

DISTRIBUTION

["INTINCTION" – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

* COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

* POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE **(sung)**

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re – jice and proud-ly bear his name. He re-calls his prom-is – es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le – lu – ia. Al-le-lu – ia.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of + Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)

* CLOSING HYMN "Thine the Amen"

* DISMISSAL

P Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Randy Clark

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Holderman

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the yellow portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads, but also in the guest book provided in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshiping with us. We invite you to return. Visitors are invited to commune with us if they are baptized and, if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshiping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Harry "Preach" Fairman by family.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Pat Forney and family on the death of her husband, Joseph Forney, who died on April 27, 2013 at Lewistown Hospital. Please keep Pat and family in your prayers. Sympathy is also extended to Mildred Hostler on the death of her sister, Annabelle Ryan, who died on April 27, 2013 at Geisinger Medical Center. Please also keep Mildred and family in your prayers.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

JUST A THOUGHT – Richard Halverson, Former Chaplain of U.S. Senate: If a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, his witness will not be optional or mandatory – it will be inevitable.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly on June 14 and 15, 2013 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

PRAYER CHAIN WILL BE UPDATED – The current Prayer Chain will be deactivated and a new one started. If you would like to receive emails for persons needing prayers, please contact Stacie Kint at dskint@nmax.net. A new phone chain will also be established. If you wish to receive phone calls for persons needing prayers, please contact Stacie at 436-6341.

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES will begin on June 2, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. (Sunday School at 8:15 a.m. if classes are being held) and end on September 1, 2013. Regular worship services will begin on September 8th.

HELP AVAILABLE – If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael "Doc" Johnston at 436-9209, or Cynthia Smith at 436-8512.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

PERSONAL CARE KITS are the project for the Women of the ELCA for the beginning of 2013. Needed for the project are the following items:

- dark colored bath towels approximately (52 x 27),
- adult toothbrushes (can be large packages of more than 1)

- sturdy combs with wide teeth
- nail clippers (with or without attached nail file)
- bath size bar of soap (4—5 oz.) in its original wrapping

Please donate as many items as you are able. You can share God's grace and love by providing simple comfort, starting with a bath! Soap is always needed too! (any brand in original wrapping).

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. **Reminder:** USS WELCA Convention will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2013 at Camp Mt. Luther (open to all women). Contact Barb Geedey at 436-6433 if you are interested in attending. We had a good attendance last year and hope for the same this year.

COMMUNITY

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer drivers, cooks and people to help assemble meals. If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Sq. Dance, Line, Round, Polka in Fellowship Hall. (Caller: Mark Brosius).
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.