

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
Bob St. Clair
Diana Wise
Sandy Pines

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 16, 2012 – 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., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Fannie K., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., George, Jamie and Luke D., Ed and Ann B., Don C., Sarah D., Haylee Y., Erin H., Elda Mae R., George H. Jr., Julie B., Gene R., Ken A., Jr., Wayne M., Jason B., and Jesse K.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Three weeks ago we heard John's gospel's version of Peter's confession of faith. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

Today is the commemoration of Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage and martyr, who died around 258.

* BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that,

attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

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."**

GATHERING

*** ENTRANCE HYMN** "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

*** 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 (sung)**

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: C Lord, have mer-cy.

P Chri-ste, e-le-i-son: C Christ, have mer-cy.

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: C Lord, have mer-cy.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE (sung)**

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

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.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

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.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE **(spoken)**

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY **(spoken in unison)**

P *Let us pray...*

C **O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 50:4-9a

THE LESSON READS:

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens —wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9 **(Responsively)**

L – I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

²for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief

and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

⁶The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt well with you.

⁸For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;

⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

ALL – I will walk in the presence of the LORD.

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it is to reflect our faith.

SECOND READING

A reading from James 3:1-12

THE LESSON READS:

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue — a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)

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

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

* GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

* APOSTLES' CREED ('new version') **(all)**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

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

* 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, Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful God,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P As disciples of Christ Jesus called to love and serve all people, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P Lord, you are the Messiah. Grant us the willingness and courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow you for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, the heavens declare your glory. When hurricanes and floods come, keep your people safe from all harm and danger. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of justice, you are gracious and righteous. Hear the voices of all who cry out to you for an end to violence and warfare, hatred and racism, hunger and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy.

C hear our prayer.

P God, you are full of compassion. Bring hope and healing to those who are grieving, lonely, anxious, or sick (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresey, Don Clark, Sarah Dressler, Luke Davis, Haylee Yocum, Erin Harris, Elda Mae Rickenbaugh, George Hazard, Jr., Julie Berryman, Gene Rhine, Ken Arbogast, Jr., Wayne Miller, Jason Beward, and Jesse Kint). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Abiding Spirit, you are the love that binds this assembly into the body of Christ. May our words and deeds be a faithful witness to you. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Risen Christ, you have rescued our life from death. May we continue to walk in your presence with (Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, and) all the faithful who have gone before us, until that day when you come again in glory. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Here our prayers, faithful God, and renew us by your Spirit, that we may joyfully love and serve you and one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['new version'] **(all)**

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C 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 for ever. Amen

* BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

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

* CLOSING HYMN

"Thy Strong Word"

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOGUE (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy,

C for we come as God's invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

(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

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Barbara S. Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Clark

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the green 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 worshipping 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) worshipping 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.

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 – Paul W. Harrison, Christian Thinker: Wherever God rules over the human heart as King, there is the Kingdom of God established.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

BLANKET SUNDAY will be observed on Sunday, October 7, 2012. Along with all ELCA congregations, you are invited to make a donation to Lutheran World Relief in the special Blanket Sunday envelopes that are attached to the newsletters throughout the church (envelopes are also available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room). Please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA and take this opportunity to serve as Christ's helping hands in our world today!

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS – There will be a Property Committee meeting on Monday evening, September 24, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. We have not had a meeting since May, so there are items to be discussed. Please plan to attend. If you are unable to attend, please let Kay know.

THE NEXT PPC MEETING will be held on Sunday, September 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. PPC Board Directors are asked to submit their proposed 2013 budgets to Ken Eyler by October 14, 2012. You may place them in Ken's mailbox in the church office or by email to keyler@nmax.net.

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.

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA Juniata Valley Cluster meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 14, 2012** at Messiah Lutheran Church. Registration at 1:30 p.m. and program at 2:00 p.m.

SALES FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES BEGIN IN JULY!!!! The last Messiah Women of the ELCA project for the year is collection of items to fill 60 back packs for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. We have some supplies but need the congregation to help to add needed items. Collection will continue until September 9, 2012. Please place the items below on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

- Ballpoint Pens (5 needed for each kit)
- Pencil Sharpener
- Blunt Scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Unsharpened #2** pencils with erasers (5 needed for each kit)
- A box of 24 crayons
- 2½ inch erasers

COMMUNITY

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs a head cook and team for the fourth Tuesday of the month (beginning in November). Also needed, at least two people to help assemble the meals for delivery on the second Friday of the month (needed immediately). Drivers are also needed for several routes. If you can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER:

- FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE AND ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS.
- PERSONAL CARE SUPPLIES (SUCH AS TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE, SOAP, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, SHAVING CREAM, RAZORS, ETC.).
- CLEANING SUPPLIES (LIKE ALL-PURPOSE CLEANSERS, BLEACH, TRASH BAGS, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH DETERGENT, ETC.).
- PAPER PRODUCTS (SUCH AS PAPER TOWELS, TOILET PAPER AND TISSUES).
- BABY CARE ITEMS (LIKE DIAPERS, BABY WIPES, BABY SHAMPOO AND BABY LOTIONS).
- FIRST-AID SUPPLIES AND OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN AND COLD MEDICINES.

WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND LOCAL
GROCERY AND DISCOUNT STORE GIFT CARDS.

THE JUNIATA COUNTY CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2012 at Walker Township Park (RAIN OR SHINE!). Short Walk will be 3 laps and Long Walk will be 15 laps. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the Walk begins at 1:30 p.m. Please bring all pledge money on Walk day. Donated items for the Food Pantry will be collected at the Walk. Twenty-five percent of pledge money will go to the Food Pantry and the Meals-On-Wheels program. Prizes will be given to persons with pledges totaling \$100 or more. If you have questions, please contact Becky Zeigler at 463-2309 or Kathy Whitesel at 436-2401. (Sign-up sheet and donation envelopes are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

50 MENTORS IN 50 DAYS! That's the goal of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Juniata Valley now through October 30. Big Brothers Big Sisters has a long waiting list of area youth who are looking for a mentor. Your time commitment can be as little as one hour per week. Site BIGs are needed to mentor elementary children at after-school programs that meet just one day each week from October thru May. Community BIGs--who usually mentor older children and are free to choose the day, time, and length of their match activity--are also needed. Just an hour of your time each week can have a big impact on the life of a child! Call 248-4034 to Start Something Big in your community today! **Be a friend, be a mentor, just be there.**

NURSE'S NOTES – If you're missing out on the health benefits of fish oil's omega-3 fatty acids because you dislike the aftertaste, you're in luck. A new study from Virginia Tech finds that most people can't detect fish oil that's mixed with yogurt. Other solutions: take omega-3 pills before (not after) a meal, stash them in the freezer, or pick up a lemon-flavored brand. (*Prevention*, August 2012, pg. 12)

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Voters' Assembly following worship service.
- Monday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
-7 p.m., Bible Study.
-8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.