

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET  
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059  
(717)-436-6213

***RADIO:*** AM 1700

***OFFICE EMAIL:*** mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

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#### ***TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:***

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today’s gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God’s reign, the great surprise is that God’s grace finds us first!*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister  
Andrea Cameron  
Bob St. Clair  
Randy Clark  
Linda Clark & Christina Martin

Vicar  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2020 – 9:15 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

### PREPARATION

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Reconciling God,

C **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through + Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## GATHERING

\* GATHERING HYMN

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

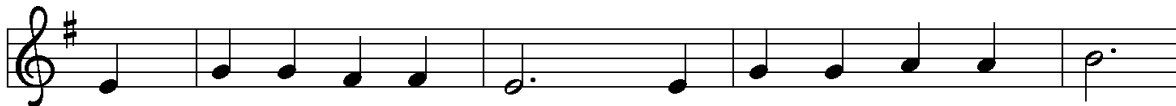
Bulletin, page 10

\* GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

\* KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

\* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (Verse One)



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.

2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

**C Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

FIRST READING.....1 Kings 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 119:129-136

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**<sup>130</sup>When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

**<sup>132</sup>Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**<sup>134</sup>Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

**<sup>136</sup>My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

*These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

SECOND READING.....Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

\* GOSPEL.....Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup>Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)**

CHILDREN’S SERMON  
SERMON

Vicar Sam Leister  
Vicar Sam Leister

\* APOSTLES’ CREED

**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.**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

\* **THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

**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.**

**SENDING**

\* **BLESSING**

**P** Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

\* **SENDING HYMN**

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Bulletin, page 11

\* **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C Thanks be to God!**

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!**

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**WELCOME TO ALL!**

WITH CHRIST'S LOVE AND GOD'S GRACE, we welcome all who worship at Messiah today. If you are a VISITOR or GUEST, we invite you to record your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Vicar. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Young children are also encouraged to join us in our worship experience! We are so thankful that you joined us for worship today!

FOR YOUR COMFORT, restrooms are located in the hallway through the double doors of the Adult Sunday School Room and to the left.

**CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

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

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com). If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

#### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JULY

CLEANING SUPPLIES & PERSONAL CARE ITEMS. BACKPACK PROGRAM: SINGLE SERVE MEALS (NOT RAVIOLI), SINGLE SERVE FRUIT CUPS, JELLO CUPS & PUDDING. WE GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS.

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are as follows:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.      Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.      Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or [gramcynthia49@yahoo.com](mailto:gramcynthia49@yahoo.com).

#### WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT FOR JULY 19, 2020

<u>Attendance 27</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Total Offering	\$4,537.00	Benevolence	\$180.00
Other Funds	<u>2,395.00</u>	Building Fund	<u>2,215.00</u>
General Fund	\$2,142.00	Total	\$2,395.00



## PRAYER LIST

Carole Baker  
Jane Ann Baney  
Donna Barton  
Lindsey Barton  
Bob Bell  
Nick Beward  
Joyce Bradley  
Andrea Cameron  
Pam Campbell  
Ruth Cisney  
Curtis Clark  
Terry Coder  
Will DeLancy  
Guy Dillman  
Fred & Dot Dowling  
Renee Dzikowski  
Neil Fisher  
Janie Fogleman  
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz  
Ed Fraker  
Bentley Fulkroad  
Joan Fulkroad  
Terri Gayer  
Edie Kay Gill

Paul Goss  
Jeanette Gross  
Harry Heikes  
Sue Henderson  
Jason Hockenberry & Family  
Josh Hohol  
Curt & Judy Houtz  
Jennifer Hutchinson  
Matt Hutchinson  
Brenda Imes  
Peggy Inch  
Denny King  
Kevin Kint  
Carol Lyter  
Carlen McClure  
Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler  
Tammy Metz  
John Miller  
Larry Miller  
Shirley Miller  
Jim Minick  
Landon Musser  
Darve Nace  
Madison Norman

Austin Parker  
Noel Peachey  
Dave Phelan  
Butch & Sandy Pines  
Steve Pontius  
Betty Ranck  
Keith Ranck  
Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed  
Mary Sanders  
Mackenzie Shearer  
Ronald Shearer  
Tim Smith  
Mike Sparks  
Donald Speece  
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair  
Dorothy Towsey  
Rich Walters  
Erma Williamson  
Dottie Wilson  
Jim Woltman  
Mackenzie Wray  
Barbara Yocum  
Dorothy Zeiders  
Linda Zimmerman

## PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Ray Bramm  
Ruth Cisney  
Max Ernest  
Margaret Guss  
Gail Henderson  
Mona Lawson  
Jane Marhefka  
Minnie Minick

Edith Nipple  
Esther Rhine  
Carol Simonton  
Sieber & Ona Stoner  
Ken & Kay Stuck  
Velma Suloff  
Kitty Walters  
Jim Yetter

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Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy  
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my  
 fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's De - struc - tion, land me safe on

pow'r - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me  
 jour - ney through; strong De - liv' - rer, strong De - liv' - rer, be thou  
 Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will

'til I want no more, (*want no more*) feed me 'til I want no more.  
 still my strength and shield, (*strength and shield*) be thou still my strength and shield.  
 ev - er give to thee, (*give to thee*) I will ev - er give to thee.

William Williams, 1745  
 St. 1, tr. Peter Williams, 1771  
 St. 2-3, tr. William Williams, 1772

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.rep.  
 John Hughes, 1907

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## My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my  
 My zeal in - spire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
 Be thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's  
 Shall o'er me roll; Blest Sav - ior, then, in love Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!  
 love to thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.  
 trust re - move; Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887  
 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

OLIVET  
 664 6664