

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

August 30<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](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com)

***WEBSITE:*** [mlcmifflintown.org](http://mlcmifflintown.org)

***TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:*** *The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister  
Andrea Cameron  
Bob St. Clair  
Randy Clark  
Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner

Vicar  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING

August 30, 2020 – 9:15 a.m.

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

### PREPARATION

CHIMES

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.

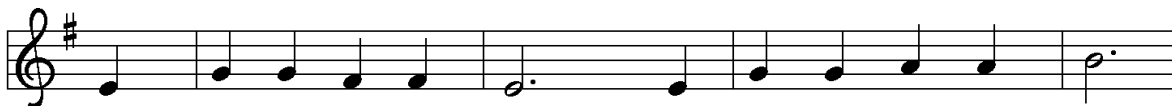
**C Amen.**

## GATHERING

- \* GATHERING HYMN “All Creatures of Our God and King” (vss. 1-4) Bulletin, page 12
- \* 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 Two)



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 **O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

FIRST READING.....Jeremiah 15:15-21

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. <sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 26:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

SECOND READING.....Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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.

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

\* GOSPEL.....Matthew 16:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but

on human things." <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

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 RITE OF HEALING**

Those who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may receive the gift of prayer. This sign, first given in baptism, tells us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and may be marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. The church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith.

P Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

P Let us pray,

Loving God, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth, for our human bodies and all you have created. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring your saving health to all people. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Restoring God, your Son Jesus brought the gift of healing and wholeness. Bring your healing presence now to all who are in any distress. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Sustaining God, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of all who are suffering. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all for whom we pray; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF COMMITMENT & BLESSING OF HEALING (for all)**

P Living God, grant comfort to all those in suffering. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore our sure defense, and help us to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

**\* 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            “All Creatures of Our God and King”            (vss. 5-7) Bulletin, page 12

\* HOLY COMMUNION

P 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.

P 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.

P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P 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. 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.

JUST A THOUGHT – J. B. Phillips, Bible Translator (1906 – 1982): Every time we say “I believe in the Holy Spirit,” we believe there is a living God able and willing to enter human personality and change it.

**CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

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



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).

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.

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).

REMINDER – Worship Services will return to the regular 10:30 a.m. time on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEND A CARD to Alice Swartz who is recuperating from a fall, her address is: 23642 Rt. 35 N., Mifflintown, PA 17059.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Alice McClure and family on the passing of husband and father, Al McClure on August 23, 2020. Please keep Alice and family in your prayers.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin this Fall for students entering grade 7 and above. Please notify the church office at 717-436-6213 (email [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) or Vicar Sam Leister at 717-436-8589 (email [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend the class.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS – Please let the church office know if you would like your child to attend a First Communion Class and a date and time will be arranged with those who are interested.

BAPTISMAL & NEW MEMBER CLASS – If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to become a member of Messiah and attend the New Member Class, please let the church office know so a class can be scheduled.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL – Depending on the pandemic, Sunday School teachers and substitute teachers will be needed for the Fall in the youth department. If you are interested, please contact Linda Clark at church or by calling 717-436-8262.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS students, parents, teachers, administrators, and all staff in our schools as we approach a new school year during this uncertain time.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST

DISH SOAP, CLEANING SUPPLIES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES (ESPECIALLY SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS & SISSORS). WE GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

August 23, 2020 - Attendance 31

Total Offering     \$1,882.00

Other Funds             235.00

General Fund         \$1,647.00

Other Funds

Benevolence     \$ 90.00

Building Fund   145.00

Total     \$235.00

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).

**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.

## 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  
Leann Crimmel  
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  
Beth Harris  
Harry Heikes  
Jennifer Heikes  
Sue Henderson  
Nox Hepburn  
Jason Hockenberry & Family  
Curt & Judy Houtz  
Jennifer Hutchinson  
Matt Hutchinson  
Brenda Imes  
Peggy Inch  
Denny King  
Kevin Kint  
Pam Lawson  
Carol Lyter  
Family of Al McClure  
Carlen McClure  
Marilyn MaCoy  
Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler  
Tammy Metz  
Ellwood Miller  
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  
Mike Sparks  
Donald Speece  
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair  
Alice Swartz  
Messiah's TEEM  
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