

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18th, 2020

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
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TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *In today’s first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister
Andrea Cameron
Bob St. Clair
Kate Swailes

Vicar
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Acolyte
Offering Presenter
Altar Guild

Tammy Smith & Tawny Mummah

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST October 18, 2020 – 10:30 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, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Faithful God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

“Abide with Me”

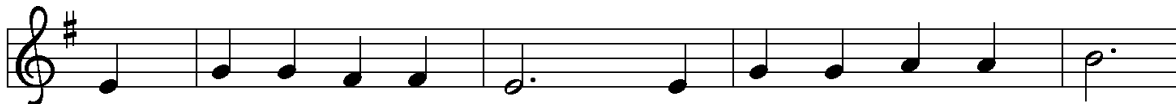
(vss. 1 to 3) bulletin, pg. 11

* 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 Three)



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 Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

FIRST READING.....Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:.....Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,

O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.]

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

SECOND READING.....1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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 Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

* GOSPEL.....Matthew 22:15-22

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Vicar Sam Leister

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Abide with Me"

(vss. 4 & 5) bulletin, pg. 11

* 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.

* OFFERING PRESENTATION

* OFFERTORY ("Create in Me")

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

SENDING

*** BLESSING**

P Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

*** SENDING HYMN**

“Jesus Shall Reign”

bulletin, pg. 11

*** 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. Remember the poor.

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 – Allister McGrath, Anglican Priest and Theologian (b.1953): The means by which we are justified is faith. Faith is like a channel through which the benefits of Christ flow to us. We are not justified on account of our faith, it is the work of Christ not our faith which is the foundation of justification, faith itself is a gift of God.

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.

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. 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 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.

MESSIAH’S NEW “MISSION OF THE MONTH” INITIATIVE – At the Parish Planning Council meeting on Sunday, September 27th, our members chose unanimously to seek donations for the fire victims on the west coast of the United States. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Lutheran Disaster Response. One hundred percent of the donations are provided directly to those devastated by the record-setting fires. Additionally, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This money comes from budgeted funds that have been unused this calendar year due to the shutdown from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

COPIES OF JULY 29, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

HARD COPIES OF NEW UPDATED MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

DUE TO THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND CONCERNS, the start of Sunday School at Messiah for adults and children will be delayed until further notice. The Parish Planning Council in close consultation with the Board of Christian Education will evaluate conditions and make a determination as conditions improve. Thank you for your patience and please stay safe!

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.

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.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

October 11, 2020 - Attendance 43

Total Offering	\$3,630.00
Other Funds	<u>1,425.00</u>
General Fund	\$2,205.00

Other Funds

Benevolence	\$ 55.00
Building Fund	1,170.00
World Hunger	50.00
Matthew 25 Fund	50.00
Fire Disaster Relief	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$1,425.00

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

Items for the Seafarers Bags will be delivered to the Synod Office by November 8th. Items needed are:

- HOODED SWEATSHIRTS, (L-XL)
- ATHLETIC SOCKS, (THERMAL OR WHITE GYM SOCKS)
- T-SHIRTS, (M-L)

COMMUNITY

Again this year the Food Pantry will join forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, and **YOU** to bring Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to as many Juniata County families living in poverty as possible. When the Boy Scouts come to your door in November for their annual food drive, please give generously. If you can help us to begin stockpiling the foods listed below, we would really appreciate it. Our goal is to provide 400 meals for Thanksgiving and 400 for Christmas.

FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY MEAL DONATION NEEDS

(These are the foods that are hard for us to get), Turkeys, Turkey Breasts, Hams (3-5 lbs.), canned Sweet Potatoes, and Fruit Cocktail. A donation of \$20 will purchase one complete meal!

PRAYER LIST

Carole Baker
Jane Ann Baney
Donna Barton
Lindsey Barton
Family of 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
Amy Hart

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
Darvin Krouse
Pam Lawson
Gwen Swisher Lewis
Carol Lyter
Anthony Martin
Carlen McClure
Marilyn MaCoy
Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler
Tammy Metz
Cecilia Miller
Ellwood 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
Charles Stump
Alice Swartz
Messiah's TEEM
Dorothy Towsey
Rich Walters
Erma Williamson
Jim Woltman
Mackenzie Wray
Barbara Yocum
Dorothy Zeiders
George Zimmerman
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