# "Growing God's Kingdom"



## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

## **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

RADIO: AM 1700 OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

**TODAY'S INTRODUCTION:** This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

### Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister Bob St. Clair Andrea Cameron Slone Smith Tawny Mummah & Tammy Smith Julia Martin Paige Martin

Vicar Organist Choir Director Lector Altar Guild Acolyte Offering Ushers

#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 2, 2021 – 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.]

#### GATHERING

- \* GATHERING HYMN
- "O Word of God Incarnate"

bulletin, pg. 12

- \* 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.

\* CANTICLE OF PRAISE ("Lord God, Heavenly King" -- In Unison)



- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)
  - P Let us pray...
  - C O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### WORD

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

FIRST READING ......Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: Here ends the reading.

#### C: Thanks be to God.

### <sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

#### <sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

## <sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Here ends the reading.C: Thanks be to God.

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)
 Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
 Alleluia.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

- \* GOSPEL ......John 15:1-8
  - P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

#### C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

Vicar Leister Vicar Leister (vss. 1-3) bulletin, pg. 13

\* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

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 Hear us, O God.
  - C Your mercy is great.
- \* 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

\* SUNG OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

#### \* OFFERING PRAYER

P God of love,

you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

#### SENDING

- \* BLESSING
  - P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
  - C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

#### \* SENDING HYMN "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

#### \* HOLY COMMUNION

- P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
- 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 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 We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

- P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)
- P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)
- P Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to the entire world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

#### C Amen.

- \* DISMISSAL
  - P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
  - C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
  - P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
  - C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

#### POSTLUDE

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

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#### WELCOME TO ALL!

JUST A THOUGHT – C. S. Lewis, Oxford Professor, Christian Writer and self-made Theologian (1898 – 1963): Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God because He said so. The other evidence about Him has convinced them that He was neither a lunatic nor a quack.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY</u> <u>NOON.</u>

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 <u>sleister@gmail.com</u>.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u>. 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 <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u> 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 <u>sleister@gmail.com</u>.

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.

THE MAY 2021 "MESSIAH HERALD" is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, pleace contact BOTH the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com and Bob St. Clair at stclairb@embarqmail.com prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at mlcmifflintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

COPIES OF JANUARY 13, 2021 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

ANYONE WITH CHILDREN entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade or higher in the fall of 2021 who would like to register their child for the upcoming confirmation class (and is not already registered) are asked to contact Vicar Leister or the church office.

MAY'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for our local Summer Backpack Program held annually at the Juniata County Food Pantry. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Food Pantry for this cause. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

#### WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

April 18, 2021 Attendance – 45

1 ,		Othe	Other Funds	
Total Offering	\$3,855.00	Summer Camp	\$ 100.00	
Other Funds	1,070.00	Building Fund	35.00	
General Fund	\$2,785.00	Memorial Fund	840.00	
		Benevolence	95.00	
		Total	\$1,070.00	

#### 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.

SUMMER SERVICES WILL BEGIN on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. Regular 10:30 a.m. worship services will resume on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

OUR WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE AT MESSIAH has begun talks about <u>possibly</u> changing the starting times of all Sunday services to an earlier time. Discussion centered around possibly starting services at 10 AM at the beginning of 2022, with the Sunday School hour then being adjusted as well. *HOWEVER*, we need your input!! Is 10 AM a time which would seem a good time to have all Sunday services? (Please remember that we now have air conditioning in our building. The lack of A/C in the past was a huge reason why we started having summer services at 9:15 AM). What do *YOU* think about a 10 AM start time? Would you prefer another, earlier time? What time would you like to see the Sunday School "portion" of the morning to begin?? Again, *WE NEED YOUR INPUT!* Please take the time to talk to any of our Worship & Music Committee members – Vicar Sam, Bob St. Clair, Diana Wise, Michelle Stoner, Andrea Cameron, or Jamie Miller – and share any ideas you may have concerning our start time in 2022. Remember, whatever time is selected will be that same start time all year round. But, as you may have heard, *WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!* Reach out to one of the committee members today!

THE NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE for July, 2021 through June, 2022 will be completed soon. We are currently in need of more people to serve on Altar Guild, as a few of our long-serving members are no longer able to help. If you would like to serve or have any changes you would like to make, please contact Diana Wise. All Altar Guild members will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve.

THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE for July, 2021 through June, 2022 will be completed soon. If you are not already serving as a lector and you would like to read the weekly scripture readings, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship service.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER – Kate Swailes is serving as our congregation's camperson with Camp Mount Luther again this year. She has information on programs for the summer. If you have additional questions, you can contact her or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or <u>cml@campmountluther.org</u>. Since our congregation has a camperson, each camper from our church will receive Camel Bucks from Kate for use at the camp store this

summer! Campers who attended camp at Mount Luther in the past should have already received the camp brochures in the mail (additional brochures are available in the Adult Sunday School Room). For more information on Camp Mount Luther or to print the camp registration form, visit <u>www.campmountluther.org</u>. Submit your camp registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther. Because Camp Mount Luther is accepting a lower number of campers this summer, Chad Hershberger recommends that families register their campers as soon as possible. Registration will not be accepted within the two weeks prior to each camp week.

#### 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.

THE NEXT MESSIAH WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

#### **COMMUNITY**

#### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, CLEANING SUPPLIES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, ALL-PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS. DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

#### THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- **Today:** -9:15 a.m., Confirmation Class meeting in Fellowship Hall. -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday: -6:00 p.m., Lions Club meeting in Fellowship Hall. -7:00 p.m., AA in Youth Area.
- Wednesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday: -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.

#### PRAYER LIST

Shirley Aumiller Tyson Aurand Carole Baker Donna Barton Lindsey Barton Donna Bell Julie Berryman & Gary Bechtold Andy Berrier Nick Beward Roxanne Boyer Wanda Boyer Dan Brown Charlotte Burd Andrea Cameron Pam Campbell Dan Carlin Issac Carlson Ruth Cisney Curtis Clark Randy Clark Terry Coder Leann Crimmel Will DeLancy Guy Dillman Fred & Dot Dowling Renee Dzikowski Tom Ernest Neil & Pat Fisher Janie Fogleman Jerald (Jerry) Foltz Bentley Fulkroad Joan Fulkroad Michal Gaver

Terri Gayer Ken Geedev Eddi Kay Gill Sam & Diane Goshorn Paul Goss Amy Hart Beth Harris Harry & Jennifer Heikes Sue Henderson Ken Henry Nox Hepburn Jason Hockenberry & Family Curt & Judy Houtz Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson Brenda Imes Annie Ingle Doc Johnston Guy Kerstetter Denny King Darvin Krouse Pam Lawson Michael Lozano Carol Lyter Zaden Mabey Anthony Martin Carlen McClure Alice McClure Isabel Meinsler Messiah Mutual Ministry Cecilia Miller Ellwood Miller Larry Miller Shirley Miller

Jim Minick Claire Mummah Ken Mummah Landon Musser Darve Nace Austin Parker Noel Peachev Rick & Audrey Peters Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine Dave Phelan Butch & Sandy Pines Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Mike Rhoades Mackenzie Shearer Ronald Shearer Bobby & Eva Sieber Mike Sparks Donald Speece Andy Spigelmyer Bob & Jeanette St. Clair Charles Stump Alice Swartz Dorothy Towsey **Rich** Walters Dr. Glen Webb Erma Williamson Jim Woltman Mackenzie Wray 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 Carol Simonton Sieber & Ona Stoner Ken Stuck 231

### O Word of God Incarnate



BEGINNING OF SERVICE



5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore, From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

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Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1593
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–1561
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OLD HUNDREDTH L M