



12th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am - August 31, 2025

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion. We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention--all are welcome!

*Please stand as comfortable, in body or in spirit.
The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text.
You are invited to read the bold portions.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Lamb of God,
You unveil what is hidden—
not to shame us,
but to heal us.
You reveal the powers we've trusted,
the silences we've kept,
the idols we've served—
and you still call us beloved.

We confess our complicity:
when we have bowed to the beasts of our day,
when we have traded courage for comfort,
truth for approval,
faithfulness for fear.

We confess our weariness:
when we have grown lukewarm in love,
numb to suffering,
slow to listen,
quick to judge.

We confess our forgetting:
when we have lost sight of you walking among us,
radiant, wounded, and near.
Unveil us, O Christ.
Unbind us from all that distorts your image in us.
Open our eyes to what is real,
and remake us in the shape of your love. Amen.

Church, hear the good news:
 The One who stands among the lampstands
 is not ashamed to stand among us still.
 The One who bears the wounds of empire
 has overcome it in love.
 The One who holds the keys of Death and Life
 has never let go of you.

In Jesus Christ, we are seen.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
In Jesus Christ, we are made new.

So do not be afraid.
 The Lamb reigns.
 The story is not over.
 You are free to live as people of hope.
 Thanks be to God.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

#915 "When a Star Is Shining"

1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,
 2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
 3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;

when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"
 guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;

when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
 Where an earth - ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,
 show us in a man-ger our re - demp-tion's sign;

then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
 there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
 bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.

Refrain

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the
 prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,
 to a morn-ing where the prom-ise shines.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

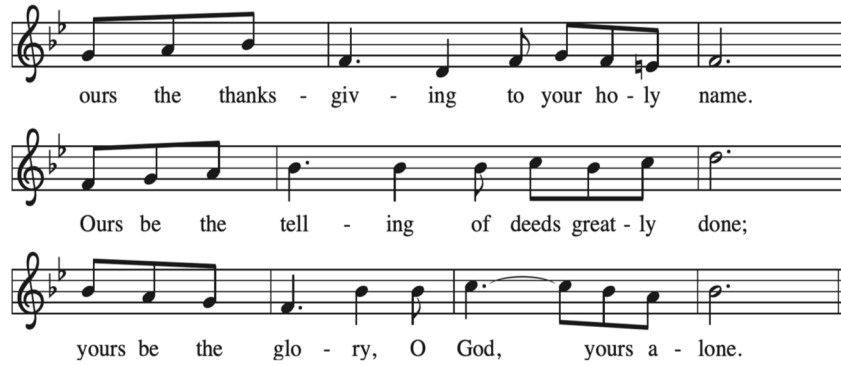
ACS p. 31

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

ACS p. 31 *vs. 2 only*

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
 Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all things new, you promise healing, hope, and a world remade. Anchor our hearts in your vision of peace, and make us people of the promise— trusting, planting, singing, until your reign comes in fullness, through Christ who makes all things new. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 126

Please
be seat-
ed.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

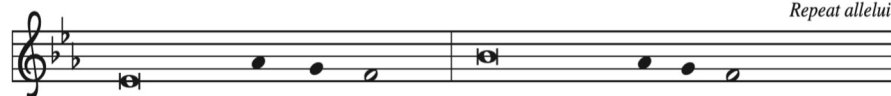
Please
stand as
you are
comfort-
able in
body or
spirit.

ACCLAMATION

ACS p. 33



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Repeat alleluia

Our hearts burn with - in us as you open to us the scriptures.

PRIMARY READING

Revelation 21:1–6; 22:1–5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please
be seat-
ed.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

#423 "Shall We Gather at the River"



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Please
stand as
you are
comfort-
able in
body or
spirit.

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

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence, especially.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit

of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

"Sov'reign Lord, Creator, Righteous One"

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of every beginning and every end, you are the source of all that is, and still you trust us with your vision. Receive these gifts— signs of our hope, seeds of your justice, acts of resistance against despair. Use them—and use us— to proclaim your love, to sing your song, and to make visible the world you are bringing to birth. In the name of the Lamb who reigns in mercy, we pray. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

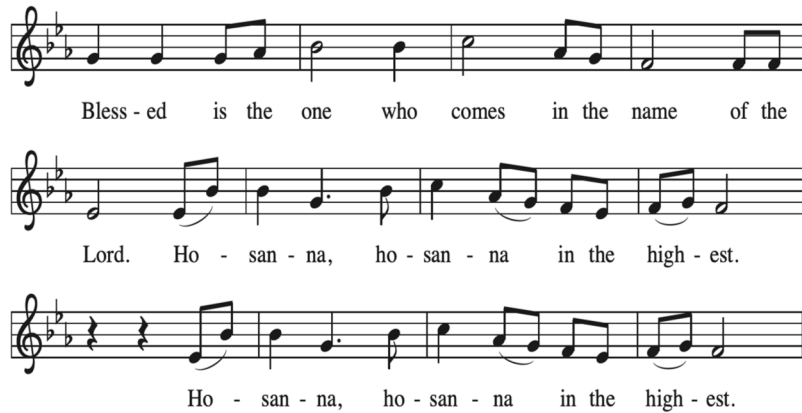
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



...

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

... **Amen.**

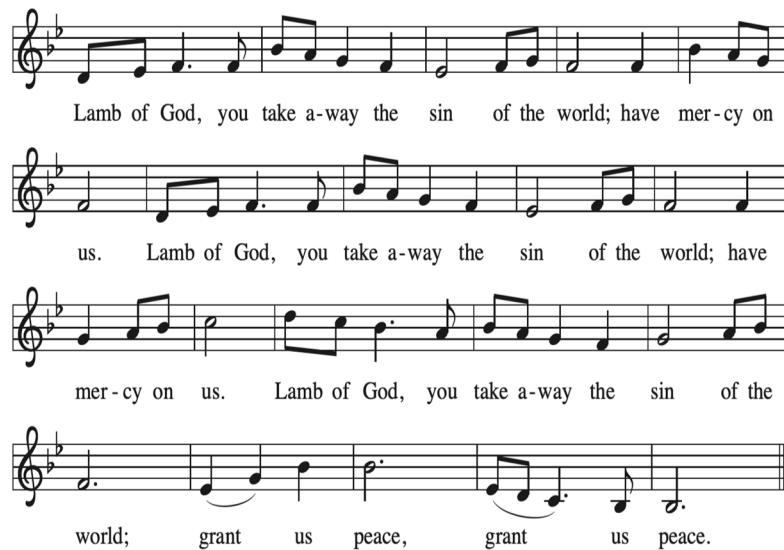
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God” ACS p. 40

Please be
seated.



#436 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

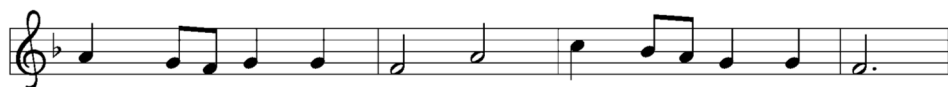
#441 "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
 2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -
 3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and
 4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n-ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
 self as Lord, and thou-sands meet in their new homewhich
 love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
 made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
 Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
 bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
 glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Please
stand as
you are
comforta-
ble in
body or
spirit.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

#438 "My Lord, What a Morning"

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

SENDING

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

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 906.225.1119 — www.messiahlutheranmqt.org

Preacher:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Liturgist	Pr. Molly Hunter
Assisting Minister:	Grant Soltwisch
Reader:	Brenda Blett
Ushers:	Anne Rydholm, Cathy Seblonka
Communion Assistants:	Kathy Maynard, Larry Pagel, Marina Shinkarenko
Greeters:	Marina Shinkarenko
Organist:	Kathy Strazzinski
Senior Choir Director:	Sara Parks
Audio Technician:	Traci Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Nursery:	Mylee Muscoe
Flower Delivery:	Kathy Godec
Refreshments:	Penny Streeter

Acknowledgements:

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 entirety of our ministry.

Thank you for your generosity!

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