

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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**Messiah Office:** will be open Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – noon.  
Note the use of hand sanitizer is required when entering the building.

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### Worship for Sunday, August 1, 2021 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Year B

**Sunday Worship Service**, in person and live broadcast on-line, begins at 10:30am. The lifting of Covid restrictions means attendance is not limited and the wearing of masks is not mandatory. Hand sanitizing is encouraged, and offering will still be collected as you enter the Sanctuary. Giving thanks to God, plans are to begin to resume pre-Covid practices by the beginning of September.

The service is taped for later viewing on the Messiah Facebook page and website.

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#### Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns:

We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.



## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN: ELW#656 “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

### 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: ELW, p. 184**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW, p. 185**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, **O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15**

*A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.*

*A reading from Exodus.*

<sup>2</sup>The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

<sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not." <sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" <sup>10</sup>And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses and said, <sup>12</sup>"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" <sup>13</sup>In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup>When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 78:23-29**

<sup>23</sup>So God commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven,

<sup>24</sup>**raining down manna upon them to eat and giving them grain from heaven.**

<sup>25</sup>So mortals ate the bread of angels; God provided for them food enough.

<sup>26</sup>**The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens and powerfully led out the south wind,**

<sup>27</sup>raining down flesh upon them like dust and flying birds like the sand of the seas,

<sup>28</sup>**letting them fall in the midst of the camp and round about the dwellings.**

<sup>29</sup>So the people ate and were well filled, for God gave them what they craved.

### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-16**

*Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.*

*A reading from Ephesians.*

<sup>1</sup>I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." <sup>9</sup>(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW, p. 188 "Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?"**

**GOSPEL: John 6:24-35**

The Holy Gospel according to John in the sixth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.*

<sup>24</sup>When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. <sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" <sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' <sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God

is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”<sup>34</sup> They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: HIGHWAY SIGNS**

**SERMON: LOOKING FOR SIGNS**

*Silence for Reflection*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#485 “I am the Bread of Life”**

**APOSTLE’S 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.**

**PRAYER**

*God blesses us through prayer.*

**OFFERING HYMN: ELW#686 “We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray, **blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation, praying hear us, O God, and responding, **Your mercy is great.**

...

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray...

**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.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**BLESSING**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen, Amen, Amen**

**SENDING SONG: ELW#774 "What a Fellowship"****DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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