Messiah Lutheran Church

Valdosta, Georgia

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Sunday, November 15th, 2026



"We have found the Messiah" *John 1: 41b*



We are pleased to meet you and have you visit us today!
Please sign our Guest Book, located in the church entryway (Narthex), as well as the attendance sheet, which can be found in the red folder in each pew. Please let us know how we can assist you in any way.

- **RESTROOMS** *are located in the Narthex.*

- **QUIET BAGS** are available in the Narthex for older children. We also offer a children's bulletin for ages 3-6 and ages 7-12.

- **QUIET/CALMING ROOM** *and a changing table are located near the Fellowship Hall (through the accordion doors behind the choir).*

- **INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all baptized and prepared Christians who believe Christ is truly present with us in this meal. Trusting in the promises of his Word, "—given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," they intend to grow in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit working through this means of grace toward a more committed life with Jesus and His Church.*

- **RECEIVING COMMUNION** *Please extend your hand to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Communion Assistant follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup on the communion rail rack. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing "that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ."*

- **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH**

Sundays at 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study in the **Fellowship Hall**.
Sundays at 9:30 am: Sunday School: Grades 4th & 5th in the **Pine Tree House.**
Sundays at 9:15 am: Sunday School: Grades 6th – 12th in the **Pine Tree House**.
Tuesdays at 10:00 am: Tuesdays with the Pastor Bible Study in the **Fellowship Hall.**
Tuesdays 12:00 pm: Women's Potluck Bible Study in the **Pine Tree House**.
Tuesdays 6:00 pm: Pastor's Men's Potluck Bible Study in the **Pine Tree House.**

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost Sunday
Divine Service Setting Two

The Mission of Messiah Lutheran is to grow in our relationship with God through worship, education, and service, while sharing Christ's peace and fellowship with all.

AS WE GATHER

"[29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away." Matthew 25:29

God has given each of us unique skills and talents, gifts to us, His beloved children. But our talents are not meant to be hidden away or squandered; they are meant to be used! Every gift our Father has given us He has given so that we might expand His Kingdom and bring as many people as possible into His loving presence.

PRELUDE & PERSONAL DEVOTION *(Quiet Please)*

+Confession and Absolution+

Stand

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

EXHORTATION *LSB 151*

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

CONFESSION OF SINS *LSB 151*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

ABSOLUTION *LSB 151*

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SHARING PEACE:

Please extend the hand of fellowship to your neighbors with the words: "The peace of the Lord."

+Service of the Word+

ENTRANCE HYMN

804 O WORSHIP THE KING



VERSE 6

O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
While angels delight to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall sing to Thy praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.; Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727; Text and tune: Public domain

KYRIE

LSB 168

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

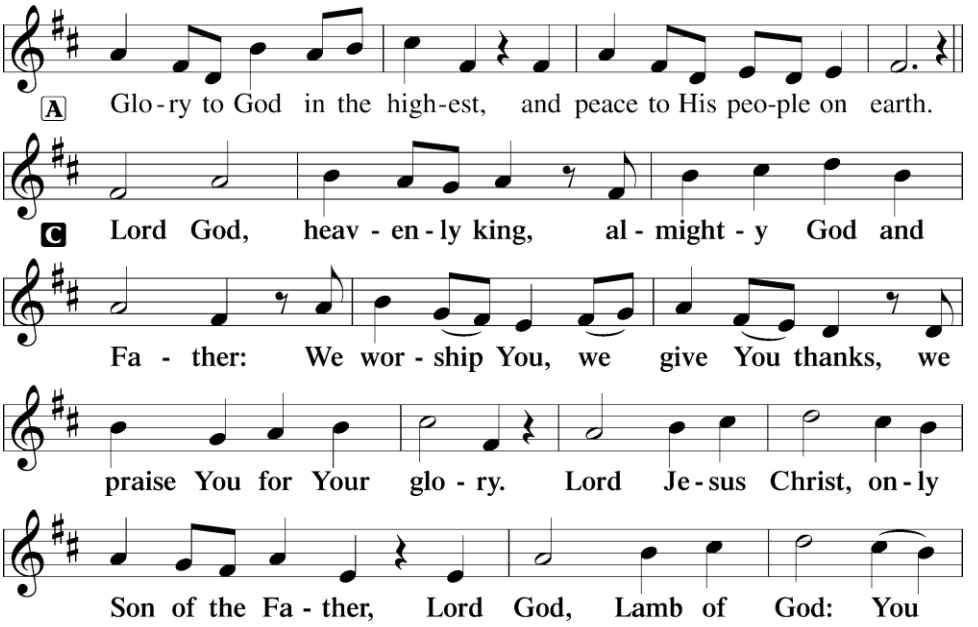
C **Lord, have mercy.**

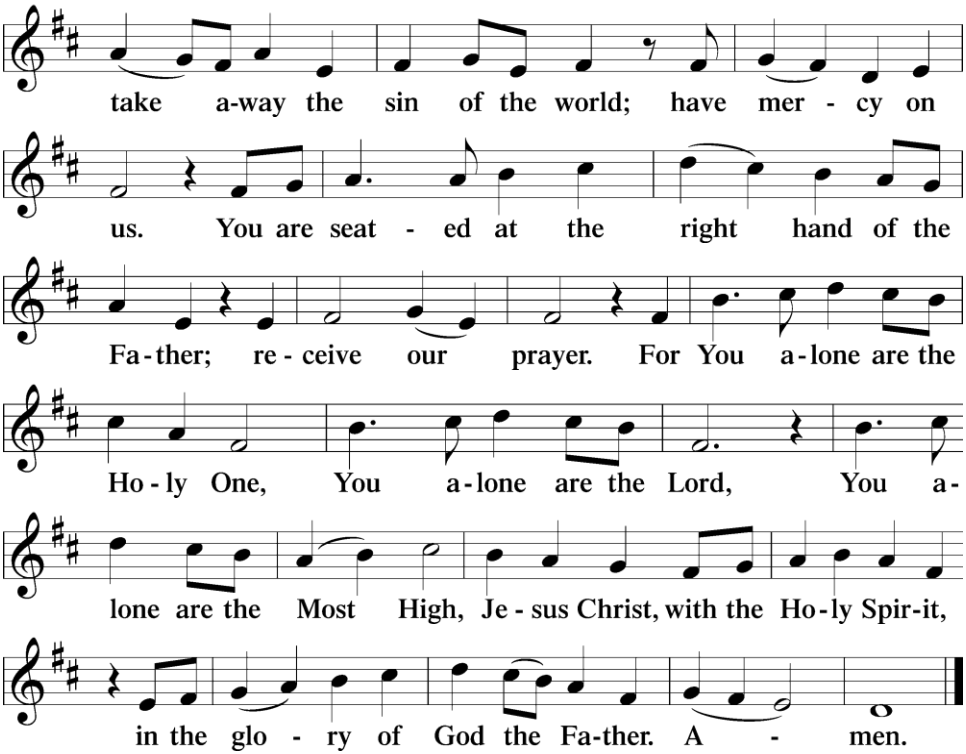
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 170





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 1:7–16

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the
LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials
and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

9 On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and
those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish
Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all
who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the
men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will
not do good, nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though
they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant
vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."
14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound
of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin
and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick
darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and
against the lofty battlements.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need
to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that
the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are
saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come
upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will
not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise
you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We
are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others
do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at
night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong
to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for
wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died

for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 173



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[14][Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15]To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17]So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18]But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20]And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' [21]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [22]And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' [23]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your

master.’ [24]He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ [26]But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

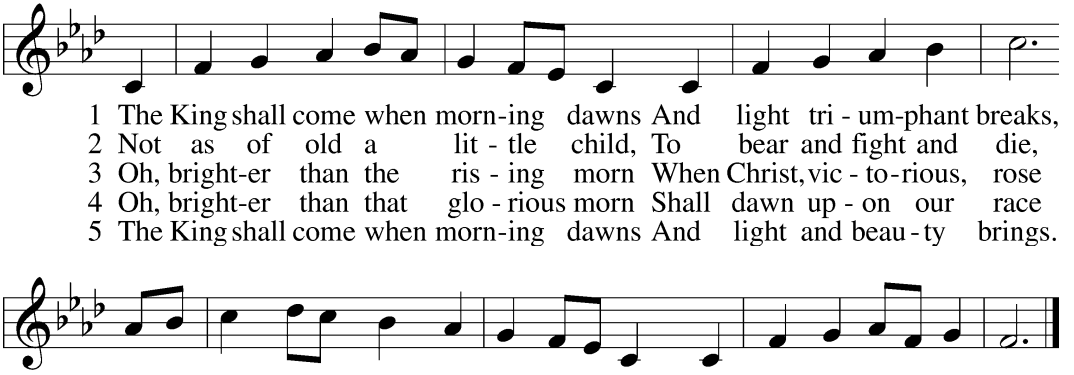
Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



HYMN OF THE DAY

348 THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS



Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.; Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth; Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON **PASTOR STEPHEN WAREHAM**

Stand

NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the

forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, grant all Your baptized people to live holy lives in this age, looking forward with eagerness to Your Son's joyous return and seeking only to be found in Him on that glorious day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, though we do not know the day or hour of Your Son's appearing, grant that we would always be prepared by sending us faithful pastors and teachers who will boldly proclaim Your Word of Law and Gospel to us, that we may be constantly encouraged and built up in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father in heaven, You have made us children of the light and of the day. Bless our homes, especially parents as they teach their children Your ways, that Your people may walk as those armored in faith, love and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P King of kings, preserve all in authority from violence and fraud, corruption and cowardice. Endow them with courage, integrity and wisdom to preserve peace and govern according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, give ear to our pleas on behalf of the afflicted. For Your name's sake, preserve their life and grant them healing according to Your will. In Your righteousness, strengthen their faith through all trials and bring their souls out of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Loving Father, until Your Son returns in glory, He gives us His body and blood to sustain us. Grant that all who receive this gift today may receive it in faith, trusting that it is given for the forgiveness of their sins and life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Source of all life, receive our praise for those who have died trusting in Christ Jesus. Give us our portion with the saints in light, and bring us all to the day of resurrection joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

If you'd like to give electronically with your offering, please see the back of the bulletin for details on donating through Zelle or Thrivent.

Stand

OFFERTORY

955 LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80; Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010; Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972

+Service of the Sacrament+

PREFACE

LSB 177

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 178



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *LSB 178*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.***

PAX DOMINI

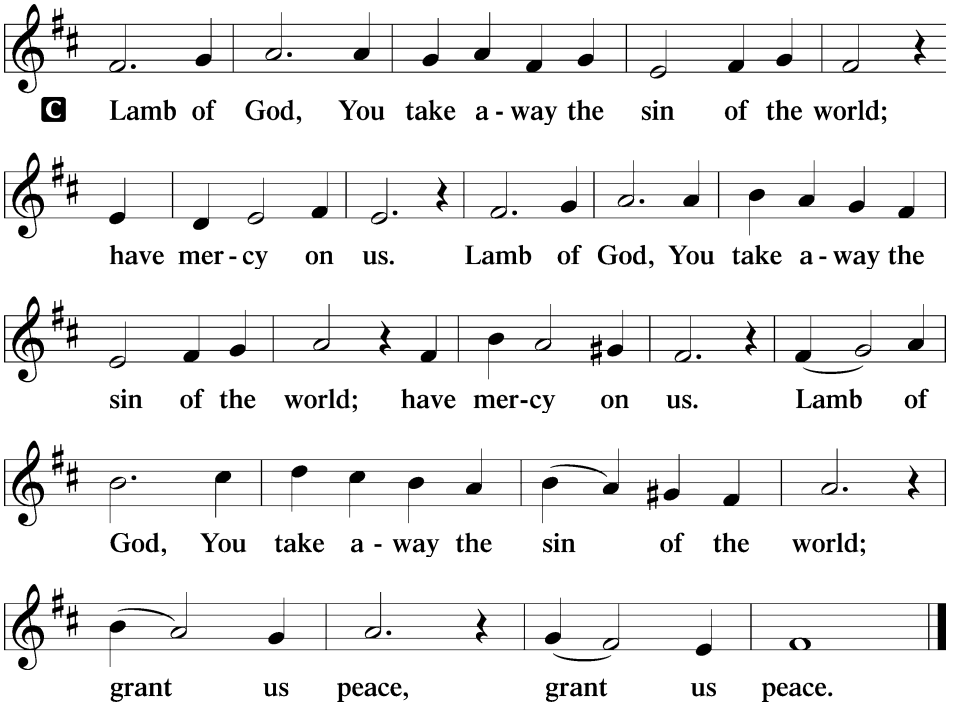
LSB 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

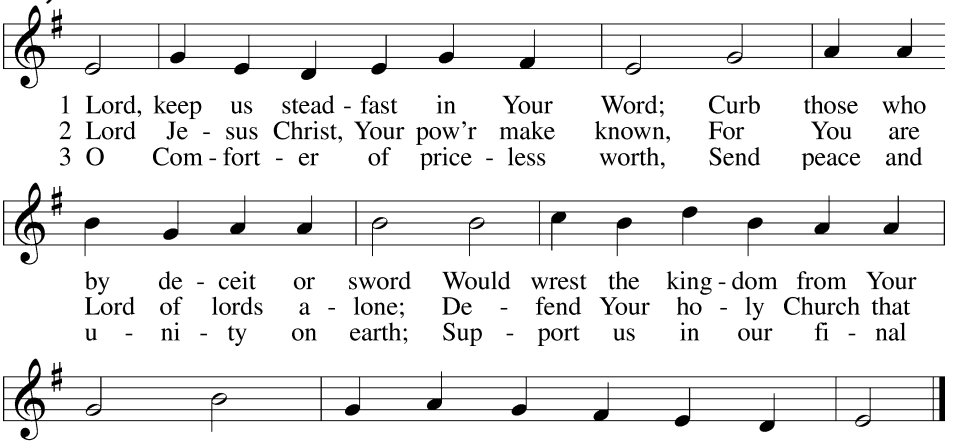
LSB 180



Sit

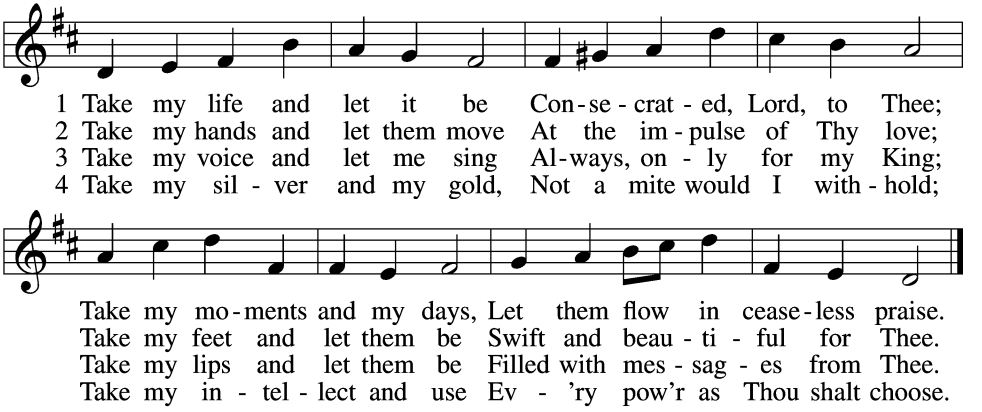


DISTRIBUTION
655 LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug; Text and tune: Public domain

783 TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE



VERSE 5

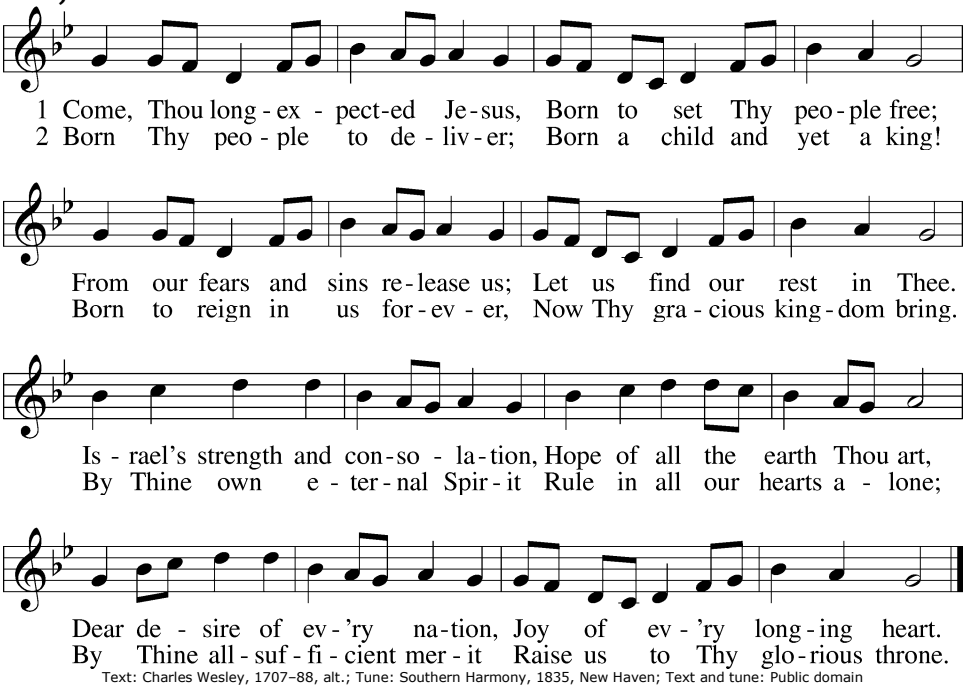
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

VERSE 6

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79; Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870; Text and tune: Public domain

338 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

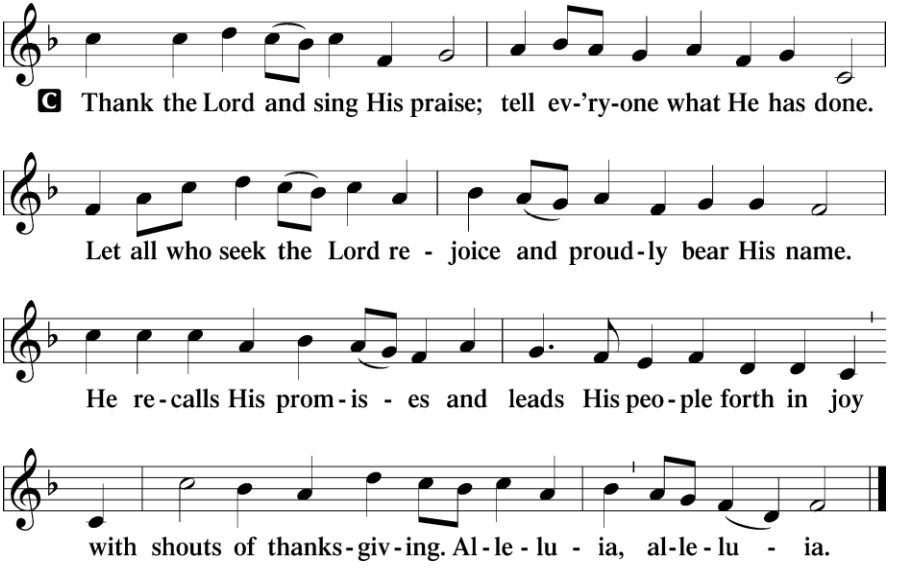


Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven; Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE
THANK THE LORD

LSB 164



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

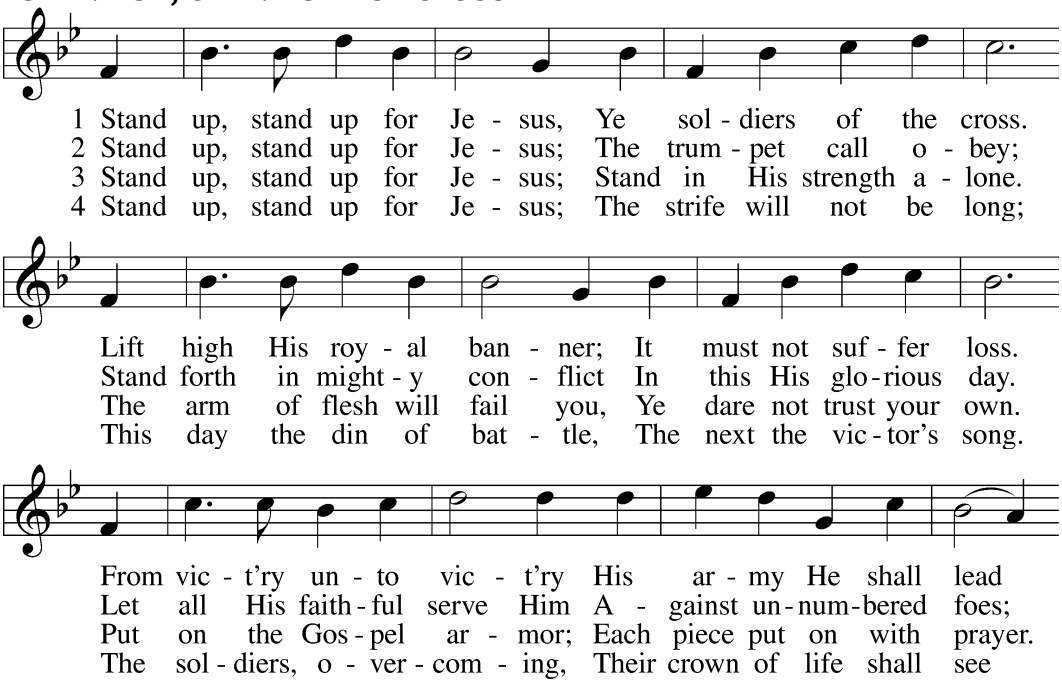
BENEDICTION

LSB 183

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN
660 STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS





Till ev - 'ry foe is van-quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818–88, alt.; Tune: George J. Webb, 1803–87; Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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SAINT DAYS, FEAST DAYS, & COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Thursday, November 19th: Elizabeth of Hungary – Philanthropist

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: The Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11 – 16 & 20 – 24; 1 Corinthians 15:20 – 28; Matthew 25:31 – 46

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." ***Hebrews 12:1***

† THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN †

TUES	**10:00**	**'Tuesdays with the Pastor' Bible Study**
	11:45	**Joyful Noise Luncheon – Red Lobster (1179 St. Augustine)**
	12:00	**Ladies Potluck Bible Study**
	6:00	**Mens Potluck Bible Study**
THURS	**9 – 12**	**Quilter's Group with Devotional**
	6:00	**Messiah Singers Practice**

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness." ***Matthew 25:30***

Why did the worthless servant act the way he did? Because of what he believed about the Master. He didn't trust or love the Master; so, his actions did not demonstrate love and trust, but rather hate and mistrust. It's the same with us, but in reverse: since we know our

Lord God to be faithful and kind, we desire to serve Him and render faithful service with what He has given us.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! THRIVENT GIVING DAY – DECEMBER 1st



Tuesday, December 1st is Thrivent Giving Day, and your generosity could go even further in supporting Messiah Lutheran Church!

Thrivent will provide up to $3 million in matching funds for eligible online donations made through its giving platform that day. Eligible gifts may receive a match of up to $1 for every $1 donated.

To qualify, donations must be made through Thrivent's giving platform on December 1st. Get ready to make your generosity go further!

Thank you for supporting Messiah and the work we do together!

A simple scan is all we need,
To plant the love, to sow the seed.
With every gift, we rise above,
Spreading peace and endless love.

Donate to Messiah with Thrivent!

Zelle
MessiahVLDtreasurer@gmail.com

WANT TO HELP BEHIND THE SCENES? CHURCH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

You don't need to know everything. You just need to care about our church and be willing to serve. **WHERE COULD YOU SERVE?**

Terms are ending on December 31st, and elections will be held in mid-December.

VICE PRESIDENT
Assist the President and keep Council records and minutes organized.

STEWARDSHIP
Help encourage faithful use of the time, talents, and resources God has given us.

TREASURER
Help oversee the church's finances and financial reporting.

WORSHIP
Help coordinate and support the many details that make worship run smoothly.

Current vacant positions are:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Help support Sunday School, Bible studies, and opportunities to learn and grow.

EVANGELISM
Help us welcome others and share the love of Christ with our community.



THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.
Your time. Your talents. Your willingness.
Together, we can serve Messiah and our community.
Ask Pastor Wareham or Connie DiMarco how you can get involved!

WE NEED YOU! HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help make worship happen! You don't have to know it all!

Training and instructions are provided for every position.

LECTOR
Read the Scripture lessons during worship.

COMMUNION ASSISTANT
Help serve Holy Communion alongside the pastor.

ALTAR CARE
Help prepare the altar and Communion before worship.

ACOLYTE
Assist with simple worship tasks such as lighting candles.

GREETER
Welcome people as they arrive and hand out bulletins.

USHERS Welcome worshipers, assist with offering, Communion flow, and other simple worship needs.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALL.

Find one place where you can help! Your time. Your talents. Your willingness.

Together, we can serve Messiah and our community. Interested?
Ask Pastor Wareham or Connie DiMarco how you can get involved!

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.

