



GATHERING

NOTE: Congregational Responses in Bold Type

WELCOME TO THIS WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living Christ's presence in our midst. Christ comes to us with new life and strength for Christian living in daily life through the hearing of the Word, preaching, prayer, song, and community.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

All Who Are Thirsty

Brown & Robertson
arr Labenske

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen

By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ,
God raised us to new life
Let us confess to God our sins
And all that waits for resurrection in our lives.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of love,
**the witness of the resurrection can be hard to believe:
we resist your unfailing love for us and for others,
and we turn our backs on the gift of new life,
choosing instead the old way of sin,
the way that takes us away from you
and leads us back toward death.**
**Free us from the power of sin,
guide us by your spirit,
and help us in our weakness,**

**that we may live as your children,
restored to new and everlasting life. Amen**

By God's grace you are forgiven and born anew.
May you be strengthened daily with the power
to walk in God's light and love.

Amen

GATHERING SONG

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Follows on the next page.

Hymn 392

v. 1 & 5



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

NT 110

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.

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 22: 25-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, 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.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

SECOND READING: 1 John 4: 7-21**NT 213**

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.

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

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 15: 1-8

NT 95

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.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Rev Jason Talsness

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Hymn 403

v. 1 & 3



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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.**

**We 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.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response after each prayer: **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

Response at end: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might,

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Page 154

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table.

Eat and be filled.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

(Communion will be distributed by Pastor Talsness. For those who prefer grape juice, please indicate that to Pastor when he approaches your row.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Garden

Miles

Kathy & Jim Farish and Joy & Tom Olson

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

PASTORAL BENEEDICTION

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

Hymn 393

Follows on the next page.

v. 1 & 5



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, “Why stand and gaze up - on the
 4 “You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l’wers
 sky?” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! “This is the Sav - ior!” thus they
 sky.” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! “Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
 cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
 say, “this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty.”
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

My Faith in Thee is Sure

Bach

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ALTAR FLOWERS are given today by Carolyn & Barry Jones *dedicated to the power of prayer with gratitude for the opportunity to commune with God through prayer, especially as we approach the National Day of Prayer,* and by Cheryl & Frank Liebgott *to celebrate all May birthdays.*

THE ETERNAL CANDLE is given by Connie Squibb *to the glory of God in honor and memory of all our Mothers.*

STAFF RESIGNATION

Mary Maner tendered her resignation effective May 23 to the church council after 62 years of directing music. Her career spanned from the cornfields of Iowa to the mountains of east Tennessee and culminated in the beautiful low country of Georgia.

Mary's charge here at Messiah was to direct the chancel choir and women's choir. She also formed a men's chorus, directed the Brass Plus group and tapped many individuals to play their instruments and sing for worship.

Pastor Talsness said "We were blessed to have Mary nearly eight years and will miss her presence on the staff, not only her contagious love of music, but also her strong faith and witness to Christ Jesus".

YOU ARE INVITED

MARY STEWART'S 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

OPEN HOUSE AT THRIVE DINING AREA

5 LAKE STREET

SATURDAY, MAY 8th

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - MAY 6TH AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN

All are invited to the annual Skidaway Island National Day of Prayer service, taking place at 7 pm on May 6th at Messiah Lutheran Church. The theme is “Lord Pour Out Your Life, Love, and Liberty.” Clergy from all the island churches as well as St. James Catholic Church will participate in this prayer service for our nation. To attend in person, contact Messiah’s office to RSVP (598-1188; messiahsk@gmail.com). There is limited seating due to social distancing, and spots in the sanctuary are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The service will also be livestreamed on Messiah’s website: messiahsi.org.

MONDAY MORNING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

We meet every Monday in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am to approximately 11:15 am.

We are currently doing a ten-week study entitled *Meeting the Spirit*, which will be completed on May 24th. There will be no Bible Study on Memorial Day.

We have enjoyed learning about the Holy Spirit so much that our next session will continue studying the Holy Spirit. This ten-week session will be broken up, the first four in June and the remaining six upon our return in August.

If you would like to join us, please let Randi VenHuizen know (402-216-3067 or randiv1026@gmail.com) so she can be sure to have enough study materials.

MESSIAH READS BOOK GROUP-2nd TUESDAY

Our next book selection is *Daughters of the Night Sky* by Aimee K. Runyon. Historical fiction set in Russia during World War II, the book is about a woman’s sacrifice, courage, and love in a time of war.

The date: May 11 at 6:30 pm. Jane Holst is hosting. Please contact her if you would like to attend.

THE ARTS AT MESSIAH

The Arts at Messiah is delighted to present its Spring-Summer Concerts once again!

Safety protocols such as mask-wearing and socially distanced seating will be followed. The number of concert attendees is limited to 50. Advance reservations are required for all concerts to keep to the limit of 50 persons. Up to four people in a party may sit in a pew. An usher will direct attendees to their assigned pew.

Reservation deadline: 10:00 the morning of the concert. To make a reservation, call or e-mail Sandy Cooper, Church Administrator (912-598-1188; messiahsk@gmail.com), Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to noon. If you have any questions about your reservation or do not receive a confirmation via e-mail, please contact Ms. Cooper.

Friday, May 21, 2021 • 7:00 pm

The Aletheia Piano Trio ~ This evening will feature some of the best chamber works ever written, performed by the internationally acclaimed pianist Fei-Fei, celebrated violinist Francesca de Pascuale, and impressive French cellist Juliette Herlin.

MAY IS MOTHER'S DAY - AN OUTREACH PROJECT

WHAT:

We will honor our Mothers

FOR:

Magdalene House, a domestic violence shelter

WHEN:

April 25 - May 10

WHERE:

Messiah Narthex

PRODUCTS:

Any kitchen or bathroom products that remind you of your mother or your grandmother. Examples: pans, towels, forks, knives, spoons, baking dishes.



MESSIAH “SONSHINE” COMMITTEE

Would you like to help our fellow members with driving to a doctor’s appointment or providing meals to those temporarily in need of help due to health issues? Please let me know if I can add your name to the list.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Milda Blaney (912-247-6898; email: Mildablaney@gmail.com)

SECOND HARVEST



May’s food is BOXED RICE.



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ministers | The People of Messiah |
| Pastor | Jason Talsness |
| Pastor Emeritus | James Peper |
| Presiding Bishop ELCA | Elizabeth A. Eaton |
| Bishop, SE Synod ELCA | Kevin Strickland |
| Organist | Diane Boyd |
| Choral Director | Mary Maner |
| Altar Guild | Janet Reardon |
| Reader | Lana Gilster |

MILESTONES THIS WEEK:

Birthdays: Gerry Quirk 05/05, Cheryl Liebgott 05/07, Mary Stewart 05/08

Anniversaries: Erin & Phil Haug 05/05, Tammy & Gerry Quirk 05/07

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

REMINDERS FOR THIS TIME OF COVID-19

If you are ill, have a fever, or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 in the past two weeks, please stay home. If you cannot follow these requirements, enjoy the taped worship service at home.

- Please always wear a mask.
- Hand sanitizer will be available outside, in the Narthex and in the pews.
- Keep your physical distance:
 - Follow the markers outside.
 - Greet people outside. No handshakes or hugs.
 - No socializing inside.
- Place your offering in the offering plates on stands as you enter the Sanctuary.
- Sit in your reserved seat. An usher will accompany to your seat, and your bulletin will be in your seat.
- Pew materials have been removed.
- Although there will be music, please do not sing.
- Speak the responses softly.
- If Holy Communion is served, there will be a special process for distribution.
- We will not pass the peace.
- Pastor Jason will coordinate dismissal by rows beginning at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- You are welcome to bring a water bottle.
- There is no coffee social, and all meeting rooms are closed.
- Restrooms are open, but please use them one person or family at a time.