

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
Louis Lynch
Ron Yorks
Andrea Cameron
Sandy Pines

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Cantor
Altar Guild

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 22, 2011 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Helen C., Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Arlene M., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Paul W., Bob C., Linda R., Jesse K., Audrey M., Conner L., George and Mary Lorraine H., and Laurie F.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "I Know That My Redeemer Lives!" p. 16 in bulletin

* 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

* HYMN OF PRAISE (I & II - Choir C – Congregation)

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion:

Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

II For the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (sung)

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

C Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WORD

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

The First reading is from the 7th chapter of Acts.

THE LESSON READS:

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus

standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

L – Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

²Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

ALL – Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

The Second reading is from the 2nd chapter of 1 Peter.

THE LESSON READS:

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

* THE VERSE (**Congregation**)

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

* GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said to the disciples:] Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

* THE VERSE (**Congregation**)

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, He that for three days in the grave had lain; Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

p. 16 in bulletin

* NICENE CREED (all)

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; 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

P In this season of resurrection, we lift up to God all those in need in the church and throughout the world.

A brief silence.

P O God, who calls us out of darkness, illumine your church and all who serve it. Let your light shine in its mission. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Illumine the gift of your creation. Let your light shine in its beauty and our care of it. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Illumine the nations of the world with peace and prosperity. Let your light shine in the work of our world's leaders. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Illumine the needs of the poor, the sick, the oppressed, and the dying (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, Linda Rhine, Jesse Kint, Audrey Morral, Connor Lauver, George Sr. and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family, and Laurie Funk). In your mercy,

C Your mercy is great.

P Illumine the needs of the people of this congregation. Let your light shine in our joys and heal our sorrows. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We pray for all those involved in the budget process for the state of PA, and for

all of those who are affected. In your mercy,

C Your mercy is great.

*P Illumine the lives of all the baptized (especially those who have died in faith).
Let your light shine through the promise of salvation. Hear us, O God.*

C Your mercy is great.

*P Into your care, O God, we place ourselves and all our prayers, trusting your
promise of new life in Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.*

C Amen.

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center
aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also
give us their home address. Thank you].*

ANTHEM

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

**Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er
a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of
life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer
now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast
to come.**

* OFFERING PRAYER

*P Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us
with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and
generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

C Amen

MEAL

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING **(sung responsively)**

P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so 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.

* PREFACE

*P It is indeed right and salutary ... we praise your name and join their unending
hymn:*

**C Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav-en and earth are full of
your glo-ry. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.**

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

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.

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 Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Sung) Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] **(all)**

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

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Come to the table of the risen Christ.

* LAMB OF GOD (sung)

Lamb of God, you take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a – way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

["INTINCTION" – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

* COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

* POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (sung)

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-‘ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re – joice and proud-ly bear his name. He re-calls his prom-is – es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le – lu – ia. Al-le-lu – ia.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Mighty and compassionate God, you have brought us over from death to life through your Son, our risen Savior, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through + Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)

* CLOSING HYMN

“Blessing, Honor, and Glory”

p. 17 in bulletin

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Linda Leister

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the yellow portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads, but also in the guest book provided in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshiping with us. We invite you to return. Visitors are invited to commune with us if they are baptized and, if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshiping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

JUST A THOUGHT – Stanley Milgram, Social Scientist who originated the concept of Six Degrees of Separation: "Every person on this planet is separated (through acquaintance) by no more than six other people."

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "Acts of Kindness Camp" will be held the week of June 20—24 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Messiah. More information to follow.

EARLY SUMMER SERVICES FOR 2011 will begin on **Sunday, June 19th** and end on Sunday, September 4th. Worship service will begin at 9:15 a.m. with Sunday School class time being determined by the individual classes.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly on Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18, 2011 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

THE NEXT VOTERS' ASSEMBLY will be held on June 19, 2011 following the worship service. Business will be approval of previous minutes and quarterly board reports.

CHURCH ORGANIST for weekly services, beginning immediately, at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA. Wednesday evening choir rehearsal, except during summer months. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard. Candidates should contact Bob St. Clair at stclairb@embarqmail.com or at 436-0279 between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. for information, including salary. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlcmifflintown.org.

LIGHTS ON – The office lights have been left on several Wednesday evenings recently. If you use the office area please make sure all the lights are off in the Parish House.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, May 15, 2011: \$175.00. This brings the total received to \$57,852.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

REMINDER: PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2011.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEAL will be held following the worship service on Pentecost, June 12, 2011 honoring confirmands and graduating seniors. Please mark this date on your calendar.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Ona Stoner as devotional leader and hostess. Ona's granddaughters will be our guest speakers and will be telling us about their Mission Trip to Haiti.

LOVE PROJECTS FOR FAR AND NEAR – We are asking for more donations of women's, men's, and children's **socks** for the Ronald McDonald House in Danville. We have received 22 pairs. For the Health Kits we continue to need the **sturdy, large teeth** combs and we are adding **toothbrushes** to be collected.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY needs for June: All non-perishable foods, personal care and baby care supplies, diapers (sizes 4-6), and paper products. Donations of cash and Weis or Schlegels's gift cards will also be gladly accepted. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Normally donations drop off as we get close to summer vacation, but this year donations had already slowed down by early spring. Our personal care and baby shelves have been empty for months, even though we have been asking faithfully for donations of those supplies. Our food supplies are

also dwindling. This will make heading into the summer “down” time even scarier than normal. Please prayerfully consider what it would be like to come to the Food Pantry in need and be met with empty shelves. Please prayerfully include us on your shopping list whenever you go for your own groceries. Just a couple of items each month from every churchgoer would keep us from ever having to offer empty shelves to those who come to us for help. Thank you for your godly support of your neighbors in need!

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be holding the following blood drives in the Mifflintown area:

- Monday, May 30th at Messiah Lutheran Church from 9 a.m.—1 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 31st at the Bridges at Brookline from 11 a.m.—4 p.m.

Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older, and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood. The need for blood never diminishes because it is a perishable medicine. To schedule an appointment call 1-800 Red Cross. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification to the donor site.

NURSE'S NOTES – If you are allergic to fish, avoid fish oil capsules and omega-3 fatty acid products derived from fish. There are other foods you can eat that will provide omega-3 fatty acids, although the evidence of heart-healthy benefits from eating these foods isn't as strong as it is from eating fish. These include tofu, soybean oil, and other forms of soybeans, canola oil, walnuts and walnut oil, and ground flaxseed and flaxseed oil. Some eggs also are high in omega-3 fatty acids. (*Mayo Clinic Embody Health Newsletter*, December 2010).

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Wednesday:** -6:30 p.m., 4-H Puppy Club in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Service of Healing/Jr. Church.