



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Member of the WELS

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Messiah's Communion Practice

Scripture teaches that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another. Communing also declares publicly that we are united in all our beliefs about Christ. Therefore, Messiah practices membership communion. We ask that only members of Messiah or another WELS or ELS church come forward to receive the Sacrament and publicly declare their agreement with our statement of faith.

Our Order of Worship

Page 26 in *Christian Worship*

Hymns: 227 - 458 - 419 - 727

Psalm: 116, page 107

Today's message: based on James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18

"HOW ARE WE TREATING OTHERS?"

- I. By showing favoritism, or
- II. By showing our faith in love?

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-10

⁴The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. ⁵The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. ⁶I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! ⁹It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up. ¹⁰Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Second Lesson: James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. ²Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. ³If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as

lawbreakers. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:27-35

²⁷Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

²⁸They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

³⁰Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³²He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

³⁴Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER:

Eternal, almighty God, heavenly Father, how good it is to sing Your praises. **You revive our hopes and lift our hearts.** We cling to Your promises, knowing that You will always fulfill them. **For forgiveness and the grace of Your presence, we praise You.**

Dear Savior, open our eyes to Your goodness and to the needs of others. **Open our ears to hear Your voice over the noise and confusion of our times.** Come close to us in Your Word and strengthen our faith so that we can serve You. **May we use Your gifts to show our faith to others.**

O Holy Spirit, guide us in the way of life that pleases You. **Give us the vision to see the spiritual and physical needs of others.** Give us the strength to actively live our faith by showing them our faith in our actions. **Bless us with joy as we live for You.**

As we come to the Lord's table today, **wash us clean of sin, strengthen our faith and restore to us the joy of Your salvation.** May we find great joy in being united with our fellow believers as we receive Your body and blood along with the bread and wine. **May we remember Your sacrifice for us.**

Trusting Your wisdom, we offer our personal prayers.
(Silent prayer)

Rejoicing in the faith that You gave us, we join in the prayer You taught us - **"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not**

into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen."
ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS Today's flowers are given with thanks by Avery & Katie Christensen to celebrate their 3rd wedding anniversary. May God bless you with many more!

THANK YOU! To all who helped with our booyah lunch last week. Your efforts are deeply appreciated!

FACEMASKS? If you are more comfortable wearing a face mask in worship, please do so! We're happy you are here and want to worship with us.

BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH On October 4th from 1-6pm our local Red Cross will run a blood drive in our activity hall. If you would like to be one of Messiah's ambassadors (welcoming visitors, answering any questions about our church, just being a friendly host) for a few hours, please contact Pastor Sauer. You can do it alone, or with a friend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Sunday School has split up several positions and is looking for help with crafts, group leader or teacher. Consider shadowing or simply observing before you commit to once or twice a month, or as you are able. Interested? Contact Pastor Schultz.

MEMORY WORK PARTNERS We are looking for adults of any age to listen memory work on Wednesday nights at 6:50 pm. This program encourages different generations of the congregation to get to know each other when adults listen to youth memory work. If interested, please contact Pastor Schultz.

Our Response to God's Gifts:

Thursday - 35

Sun. early - 86

Sun. late - 125

Total: 246

Offerings: \$17,069.74 (+\$3,155.83 online last week)

Technology upgrade budget: \$37,880

Given to date: \$18,421

Amount still needed: \$19,459

Activities next week:

Tuesday 3:30 Ladies craft group

Wednesday 5:30 Catechism class

Thursday 6:30pm Worship service

Sunday 7:45 am Worship service

9:00 Sunday School

9:15 Adult Bible classes

10:15 Worship service

Serving today in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #3 Tait Waege's team

9:30: Team #6 Greg Dessart's team

Cleaning: Iverson, Holder, Hurlbert, Burhop

Serving next week in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #5 Pete Jindra's team

9:30: Team #8 Steve Popke's team

Cleaning: S. Sauer, F. Sauer, J. Schroeder, Stanzel, B. Steffel