

# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.*



**Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 21, 2024**

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436  
www.messiahOaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900  
@MessiahOaklandNJ  
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

## **WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

**SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE**

**WELCOME FROM THE PASTOR**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter, and our joy.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

**C** **This is the water of life! Alleluia!**

**P** At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia* ELW #369  
*See next page*



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



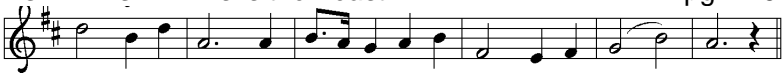
at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

**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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *This is the Feast*

ELW pg. 149-150



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### FIRST READING:

**R** A reading from **Acts 4:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,

“Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

R        The Word of the Lord.        **C        Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM: Psalm 23** shall be read responsively.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**SECOND READING:**

R        A reading from **1 John 3:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

R        The Word of the Lord.        **C        Thanks be to God.**



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



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

**THE GOSPEL**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to **John 10:11-18**

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ELW #502

*See next page*



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - er; and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

**THE 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**

**A** God of grace,  
**C** Hear our prayer.

**PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*



**OFFERING**

*Offering can be left in the plates at the back of the sanctuary or given online by scanning the QR code.*

**OFFERTORY**

ELW #184

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. Grace our ta-ble  
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Let us pray our offering prayer together.*

**C** Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

## DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

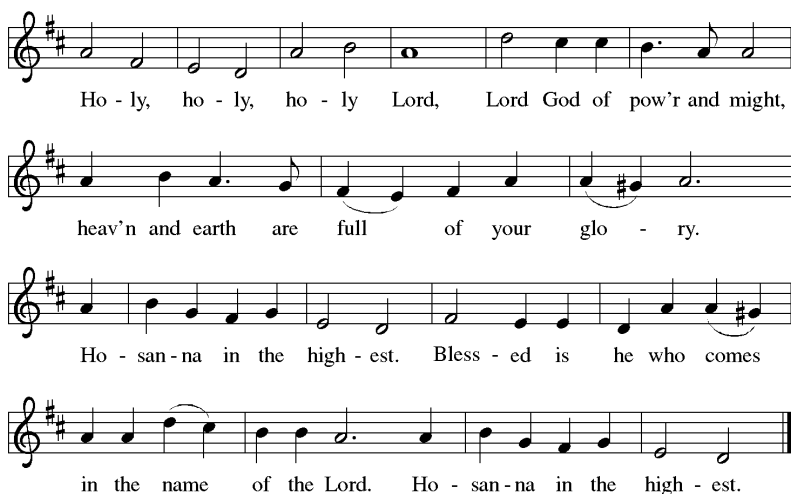
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg. 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

**C** Thanks be to God.



## COMMUNION

You can commune from your seat using the prepackaged elements of a wafer and grape juice or you can come forward to the altar to receive the elements. At the altar rail you can either receive the prepacked elements or wafer and a cup with grape juice from the pastor and communion assistants. We invite you to commune in whatever way is comfortable and meaningful to you. You may commune after the pastor says:

**P** The body and blood of Christ, given for you.

**C** Amen

## COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

ELW pg. 154

## COMMUNION HYMN *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

ELW #484

*Refrain*



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;

2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude

3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?

4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:

5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



*Refrain*

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.

that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.

Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?

whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.

to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

## TABLE BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C** Amen

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C** Amen.

## BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**


P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

C **Amen**

## SENDING HYMN *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

ELW #535

*Refrain— sung twice each time*




Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -  
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa  
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your




ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *End*  
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,  
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

*Repeat stanza, then sing refrain*



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

### **TODAY'S MINISTERS**

**PASTOR:** Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund

**GUEST PASTOR:** Rev. Tom Larkin

**ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Bob Luderer

**LAY READER:** Nancy Krause

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Nancy Krause and Brigitte Albrecht

**VIDEO TECH:** Alex Boyce/Nick DeRoda

**USHER:** Don Brown

**GREETER:** Amy Ludke

**ALTAR GUILD:** Amy Ludke and Grace Slingerland

**COFFEE HOUR:** Baby Shower

**COUNTERS:** Linda Axtell and Brigitte Albrecht

**COORDINATING COUNCILOR:** Eleanore Orman

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

**TUESDAY:** 7:30 pm AA Meeting

**THURSDAY:** 12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation

7:30 pm Band practice

**SUNDAY:** 11:15 am Confirmation Class

Anniversary Committee Meeting following worship

### **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NEXT SUNDAY**

The Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2024

10:00am Worship Service

### **APRIL BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH**

First Choice Pregnancy Resource Center

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Liturgies #SAS022700



**Please keep in prayer the following people in our Messiah family: Helen, Len, Karl and Lori and the following friends and family:**

All affected by Covid19: those recovering, healthcare workers, all essential workers and the unemployed.

Mike, recovering from a stroke  
Yoko and Bill, friends of Joan and Arnold  
Naomi, friend of Terry  
Maia, former student of Tony  
Mark and Keith, Susanne's friends  
Gayle, friend of Joan and Eleanore  
Kevin, Karen's brother  
Camille, Marilyn's friend  
Dan, Nancy's uncle  
June, Lee's mother  
Miro, Vesna's father  
Nicky, friend of Evan  
Erika, Kristen's sister  
Ken, friend of Tony and Edie  
Patty, friend of Ludkes  
Dawn, Sarah, Rafael and Massimo, Violette's mother, daughter and grandsons  
John, Joan, Herb, Mike and Andy, Ron and Marilyn's friends  
Ashton, Jacqui's grandson  
Kim, friend of Sue  
Autumn and Angelina, Lori's niece and granddaughter  
Karen, Cheryl's sister  
Greta, Tom's sister  
Marilyn and Vincent, Lisa's parents  
Gloria, Tammy, Heather, Jayme, Allison and her sister, Lou and family, Alison, Josh, Jen, Laura and Chelsea, Michele's mother-in-law and friends  
Fred and Barbara Brigitte's brother and friend  
Ron and June, Karen's parents  
Melinda, Brian and Lenny, Eleanore's sister and friends  
Glenda and Julie, friends of Nancy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baby Shower Collection: Today is the last day for donations. We will have a Baby Shower Event after worship today. Items collected will be blessed on April 28<sup>th</sup> during worship.

Anniversary Committee Meeting: April 28<sup>th</sup> following worship service.

Community Thrift Shop: Volunteers are needed to help at the Community Thrift Shop in Midland Park Tuesday, April 30 from 10:00 am -12:00 pm and 1:00 – 3:00 pm, and Thursday, May 2 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Rubner.

Tech Team is recruiting! We are looking to add 3 additional folks to our Sunday Service team. Alex is currently training newcomers for this important ministry. If you can work your phone, you can do this! This is the perfect opportunity for young adults to get involved. All high school aged and above are welcome. Please let Alex know you are interested.

Reconciling in Christ Interest Meeting: May 5<sup>th</sup> following worship. Join us for a conversation about what it means to be a welcoming congregation. All are invited to join us as we explore what it means to be more inclusive of all of God's creation.

Oakland Cares Concert: May 5<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Light supper followed by a concert. Free will donations to support Oakland Cares are requested. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend. If you have any questions, please speak to Jerri Angermueller.

