

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436

www.messiahoklandnj.org | 201-337-4900

@MessiahOaklandNJ

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE

WELCOME FROM THE PASTOR

CALL TO WORSHIP

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 HYMN: *King of Kings*

W&P #80

King of kings and Lord of lords: glory, hallelujah.

King of kings and Lord of lords: glory, hallelujah.

Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah.

Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah.

GREETING:

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C **Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING:

R A reading from **Acts 8:26-40**

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.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING:

R A reading from **1 John 4:7-12**

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 God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that God 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 God's love is perfected in us.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 172

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to John

C Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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."

P The Gospel of our Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

BLESSING BABY SHOWER COLLECTION

SERMON

WE RESPOND TO GOD

HYMN OF THE DAY *All the People Said Amen*

Matt Maher

- 1 You are not alone if you are lonely
When you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on but thank God it's all you need

Chorus

And all the people said amen
Whoa, And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen.

- 2 If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong we know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world He sent His Son to save us all

Chorus

Bridge

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people longing for another start
For this is the Kingdom, the Kingdom of God

Chorus 2x

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 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 THE PEOPLE

Silence will be left in the prayer petitions for you to add your prayers out loud or silently

A God, who sees and knows all things, who hears our prayers and listens to our cries, we lift these prayers to you, out loud and silently in our hearts.

God of Mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. We thank you especially:

For the sustaining goodness of your creation
For the gifts of healing and forgiveness
For the gifts of relationships with others
For the communion of faith in your church
For what else do we thank God out loud or silently..... God of Grace,

C Hear our Prayer

A God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. We pray especially:

For those who govern nations of the world
For the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare
For all who work for peace and international harmony
For all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction
For the believers of Christ in every land
For those in need of healing and comfort
For what and who else do we pray for out loud or silently..... God of Grace,

C Hear our Prayer

A God of Grace, we cry out to you and pray for all those in need, knowing that prayer changes lives. For what else do we want to pray to God..... God of Grace,

C Hear our Prayer

A God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

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 through our website.



OFFERTORY *Change My Heart, O God*

W&P pg. 28



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

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

RESPONSE Holy, Holy, Holy (spoken)

Holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 Gifts of God for the people of God.

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 *Be Known to Us* ACS pg. 40

Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

COMMUNION HYMN Be Not Afraid

ELW #388

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

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 I Will Call Upon the Lord W&P #70

I will call upon the Lord
who is worthy to be praised.
So shall I be saved from my enemies.
I will call upon the Lord.

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock,
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock,
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE

Anniversary Committee Meeting following worship today.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NEXT WEEK

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 5, 2024

10:00 am Worship Service

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MINISTERS THIS MORNING:

PASTOR: The Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bob Luderer

BAND Jerri Angermueller, Klaus Angermueller, Nick DeRoda, Chris Kania, Nancy Krause, Steve Krause

VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce

ASSISTING MINISTER/LAY READER: Eleanore Orman

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Dom and Sofia Rotella

USHER: Ron Rubner

GREETER: Marilyn Rubner

ALTAR GUILD: Brigitte Albrecht and Susanne Herbst

ALTAR FLOWERS: Joan Ludke

COFFEE HOUR: Brigitte Albrecht

COMPUTER OPERATOR/COUNTER: Alex Boyce and Ron Rubner

COORDINATING COUNCILLOR: Ron Rubner

This Week at Messiah

THURSDAY: 12:00 pm, Lunchtime Bible Study

SATURDAY: 9:00 am, Property Work Day

SUNDAY: 9:00 am, Messiah Singers practice

11:15 am Reconciling in Christ Interest Mtg.

6:00-8:00 pm Oakland Cares Dinner & Concert

April Benevolence of the Month

First Choice Pregnancy Resource Center

May Benevolence of the Month

Oakland Cares

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oakland Cares Concert: May 5th 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.

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 a 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 5th 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.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

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
Ron and June, Karen's parents
Eleanore's sister Melinda and friends Brian and Lenny
Glenda and Julie, friends of Nancy