

# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



**Ascension Sunday**

**May 12, 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

*A Hymn of Glory, Let us Sing!*

ELW #393

*See next page*



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!

**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  
 See next page



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-cr. 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 Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### FIRST READING:

R A reading from **Acts 1:1-11**

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

**THE PSALM: Psalm 47** shall be read responsively.

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**<sup>2</sup>For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

**<sup>4</sup>He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

**Selah**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

**<sup>8</sup>God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.**

<sup>9</sup>The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

**SECOND READING:**

**R** A reading from **Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW pg. 151



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 **Luke 24:44-53**

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

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them

and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### SERMON

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Holy Spirit Descend*

ACS #980

\*Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, de - scend on us, de -

scend on us. We gath - er here in Je - sus'

name. (hm)

*\*Additional verses ad lib:*

- Come, Breath of heaven, . . .
- Come, Word of mercy, . . .
- Come, Fire of judgment, . . .
- Come, great Creator, . . .
- Come to unite us, . . .
- Come to disturb us, . . .
- Come to inspire us, . . .

## **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 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.*

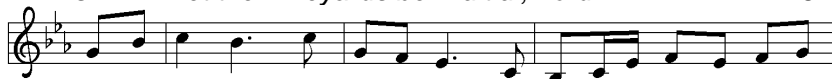
## **OFFERING**

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



**OFFERTORY** *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord*

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**

**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  
See next page



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



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

*Woman Weeping in the Garden*

ACS #935



1 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, who has  
 2 Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den, af - ter  
 3 Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den, Je - sus  
 4 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, weep for  
 5 Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den, find the



pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en Je - sus'  
 men have come and gone, af - ter an - gels give their  
 takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - d'ner calls you,  
 joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes - si - ah,  
 oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en as he



bod - y, Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied?  
 wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.  
 "Mar - y!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.  
 ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.  
 prom-ised; tell the world he knew your name!

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** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

ELW #855  
*See next page*



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

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

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

### POSTLUDE

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 Liturgies #SAS022700

## TODAY'S MINISTERS

**PASTOR:** Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund

**ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Bob Luderer

**LAY READER:** Brigitte Albrecht

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Susanne Herbst and Valerie Nicolosi

**VIDEO TECH:** Nick DeRoda

**USHER:** Don Brown

**GREETER:** Brigitte Albrecht

**ALTAR GUILD:** Brigitte Albrecht and Jerri Angermueller

**FLOWER GUILD:** Michele Weintraub

**LAWN CUTTING:** Don Brown (5/11)

**COUNTERS:** Eleanore Orman and Ron Rubner

**COORDINATING COUNCILOR:** Nick DeRoda

## THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TUESDAY: 10:15 am Personnel Meeting

7:30 pm AA Meeting

7:30 pm Church Council Meeting on Zoom

WEDNESDAY: 7:30 pm Outreach Meeting on Zoom

THURSDAY: 12:00 pm Lunchtime Bible Study

7:30 pm Band practice

SUNDAY: 9:00 am Messiah Singers practice

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NEXT SUNDAY

Day of Pentecost, May 19, 2024

10:00am Worship Service

**Wear Red!**

## MAY BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

Oakland Cares

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Summer Hymn Lotto: Please submit your favorite hymns for Summer Hymn Lotto. Each week we will randomly pick a song from those submitted to be sung the following week. Hymn Lotto begins June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Oakland Pride Festival: June 23, 1-5 pm at Oakland Elks Lodge, 33 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, NJ.

## Upcoming Meetings

Outreach Meeting: 7:30 pm May 15<sup>th</sup> on Zoom. Join us to plan our summer of service.

Anniversary Meeting: May 26 following worship.



**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, Brian and Geraldine, Jacqui's grandson and friends

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, Bob, Tammy, Heather, Jayme, Allison and her sister, Lou and family, Alison, Josh, Jen, Laura and Chelsea, Michele's mother-in-law, father-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