

# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 6, 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**

*The congregation is invited to worship in a way that is comfortable and meaningful by standing, sitting, kneeling, coloring, etc. You may join in worship by reciting the responses in bold type face.*

### **SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME FROM THE PASTOR**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

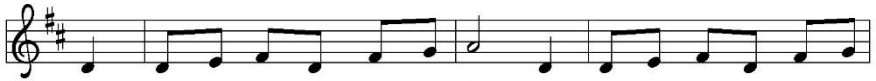
**have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**    *All Creatures Worship God Most High*    ELW #835



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
waiting to hush our final breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
fair is the night that leads us home.  
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
Alleluia.

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### FIRST READING: A reading from **Job 12: 7-10**

<sup>7</sup>"But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; <sup>8</sup>ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. <sup>9</sup>Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? <sup>10</sup>In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.  
The Word of the Lord.           **Thanks be to God.**

### THE PSALM: Psalm 104: 24-31

<sup>24</sup>O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**<sup>25</sup>Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup>There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

**<sup>27</sup>These all look to you to give them their food in due season;**

<sup>28</sup>when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**<sup>29</sup>When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup>When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

**<sup>31</sup>May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works —**

### SECOND READING:

A reading from **Isaiah 11:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #175

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew 6:25-30**

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>25</sup>"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith?

Glory to you, O Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

# WE RESPOND TO GOD

HYMN OF THE DAY *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace*

W&P #95

1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.  
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.  
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.

Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;  
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;  
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,  
*Last time to coda* ⊕

where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;  
where there is dark - ness, . . . . . on - ly light;  
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -

and where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.

3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so  
much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be  
un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be  
*D.C. (stanza 4) al coda*

loved as to love with all my soul.

⊕ *Coda*  
ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of grace,  
hear our prayer.

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**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** *As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW #465

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## PREFACE

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW #191



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

**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:

The body and blood of Christ, given for you.

**Amen**

## COMMUNION SONG

*Christ Our Peace*

ACS #1037



Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;



Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod - y in you.

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Come to the Table*

ELW #481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

**Amen**

## SENDING HYMN *Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom* ACS #1064



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,  
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.  
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.  
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.  
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice  
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake  
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.  
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.  
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

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**Join us at 1:00pm for the Blessings of the Animals**

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### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

MONDAY: 6:00 pm Community Table  
TUESDAY: 7:30 pm Outreach Meeting on Zoom  
7:30 pm AA Meeting  
WEDNESDAY: 1:00 pm Oakland Mayor's Wellness Campaign Blood Drive  
THURSDAY: 10:30 am Executive Committee Meeting  
7:30 pm Band practice  
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

### **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NEXT SUNDAY**

Twenty first Sunday after Pentecost, October 13, 2024  
10:00am Worship Service

### **OCTOBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH**

Robert E. Williams Animal Rescue, Inc. (REWAR)

### **TODAY'S MINISTERS**

**PASTOR:** Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund  
**ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Bob Luderer  
**ASSISTING MINISTER/LAY READER:** Joan Ludke  
**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Arnold Ludke and Valerie Nicolosi  
**VIDEO TECH:** Alex Boyce/Nick DeRoda  
**USHER:** Cesar Rios  
**GREETER:** Linda Axtell  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Nancy Krause & Susanne Herbst  
**FLOWER GUILD:** Nancy Krause  
**LAWN CUTTING:** Steve Krause  
**COUNTERS:** Cesar Rios & Brigitte Albrecht  
**COORDINATING COUNCILOR:** Linda Axtell

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Outreach Meeting: October 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm on Zoom

Oktoberfest: Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Bratwurst and hot dogs provided. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex, and bring a dish, drink or donation to share.

Food Pantry Collection: Thrivent has challenged us to collect 500 items for the Ponds Food Pantry. Please bring in donations of Soup, Cereal, Canned meat/tuna, and paper goods. Non perishable items only.

Devotionals: For October, November and December are available in the narthex.



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

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

Yoko and Bill, friends of Joan and Arnold

Mark and Keith, Susanne's friends

Gayle, friend of Joan and Eleanore

Camille, Marilyn's friend

June, Lee's mother

Miro, Vesna's father

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

Karen, Cheryl's sister

Greta, Tom's sister

Ethel and Mickey, Brigitte's sister-in-law and friend

Kim, friend of Sue

Autumn and Angelina, Lori's niece and granddaughter

Marilyn and Vincent, Lisa's parents

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

Ron and June, Karen's parents

Melinda and Paul, Eleanore's sister and nephew

Julie, friend of Nancy