

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436

www.messiahoaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900

@MessiahOaklandNJ

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

The congregation is invited to worship in any way that is comfortable and meaningful such as standing, sitting, kneeling, coloring, etc. You may join in worship by speaking the responses in bold type.

SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE

WELCOME

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 looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Have mercy, O God, against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for us. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for us. As far as east is from west, so far God removes our sin from us, renewing our life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

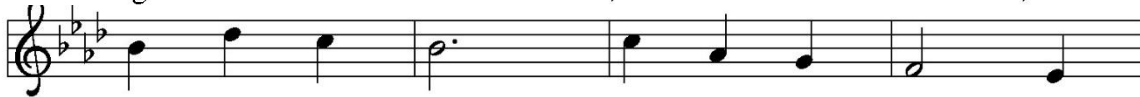
Blessed be God forever.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Refrain
Assisting minister



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

All



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.

Refrain



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.

Final refrain



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.

FIRST READING: A Reading from Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 will be read responsively

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

¹² How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God’s people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God’s people,

⁹ **in the courts of the LORD’s house, in the midst of you,
O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: A Reading from John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg.151



THE GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying,

“The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

MISSION MESSAGE

Joe Careri
His Helping Hands

HYMN OF THE DAY Touch that Soothes and Heals ACS #939



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth’s
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good

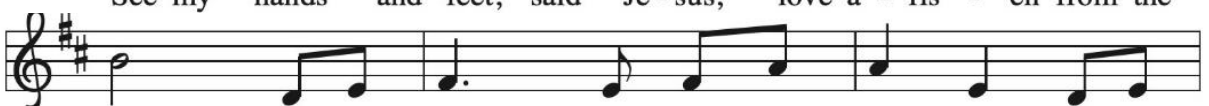


wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain



“See my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. “Be my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, “live as



ones I died to save.”

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

God, in your grace, **Tend to our prayers.**

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, such as a handshake, hug, or peace sign and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

OFFERING

Offering can be left in the plates at the back of the sanctuary, sent to the church office, or given online by using the QR code to the right.



OFFERTORY Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise ELW #207

Thank-ful hearts and voice-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer you the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can experience your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life:
creating a wondrous universe, *Ps. 92:5*
proclaiming freedom from captivity, *Exod. 5:1*
becoming the song of your people. *Ps. 118:4*

We praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your Word is made flesh among us:
with Mary in the garden, you call us by name. *John 20:16*
With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe. *John 20:17*
With sheep of others folds, we are gathered by your voice. *John 10:16*
Your Word names our death and our life: *John 5:24*
a seed that falls into the earth and dies, *John 12:24*
rain and snow that come down from heaven to water the earth, *Isa. 55:10*
a vine in which we abide. *John 15:5*
Through your Word, you appoint us to bear fruit, fruit that will last. *John 15:16*

We bless you, O God, for your Word.

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things. *Luke 24:48*
Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. *John 20:22*
Open our minds to understand the scriptures. *Luke 24:45*
Give us wisdom to declare what we have heard, what we have seen
with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands
concerning the word of life. *1 John 1:1*
Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone, but in truth
and action. *1 John 3:18*

With every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and
in the sea, and all that is in them, *Rev. 5:13*
we join in the hymn of all creation, as

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word. Amen.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the
firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless
you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN**Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing**

ELW #389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**POSTLUDE****UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2026

10:00am Worship Service

APRIL BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

His Helping Hands

TODAY'S MINISTERS

PASTOR: Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bob Luderer
LAY LEADER: Michele Weintraub
LAY READER: Allie
USHER: Tony Baglieri
GREETER: Brigitte Albrecht
COFFEE HOUR: Weintraub
ALTAR GUILD: Amy Ludke & Karen Bell
VIDEO TECH: Nick DeRoda & Don Brown
COUNTERS: Eleanore Orman & Tony Baglieri
COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Michele Weintraub

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Council Meeting on Zoom
THURSDAY: 7:30 pm Band practice
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship |
11:15 am His Helping Hands Bag Assembly

ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Helping Hands: Join us April 26th to assemble the hygiene kits after worship! See QR code for a list of what is needed.



Community Thrift Shop of Midland Park: A sign up sheet is in the narthex for volunteering at the Community Thrift Shop of Midland Park. Shifts are on April 28th and April 30th. Reach out to Marilyn for more information!

Special Program for Mother's Day: To honor a special woman in your life, we will have a special bulletin insert on Mother's Day with a list of your loved ones. If you would like, you may donate \$1.00 per name (or whatever amount you wish) which will go to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Please mark your check or envelope with notation of "Mother's Day" to assist our counters. Forms to fill out will be in bulletins and are due back by May 3rd.



**Please keep in prayer the following people in our
Messiah family:** Bob, Helen, Jonny & Natalie, Kim, Len,
Mike, Sue and Alex.

And the following friends and family:

All affected by seasonal illnesses

All those in the armed forces, especially those

connected to our congregation including Evan and Joseph

Erika, Kristen's sister

June, Lee's mother

Keith, Karen & Clyde, Valerie's brother and friends

Marilyn & Vincent, Lisa's parents

Melinda & Paul, Eleanore's sister & nephew

Miro, Vesna's father

Ron & June, Karen's parents

Alexa and Hank friends of Nancy

Gayle, friend of Joan & Eleanore

Janice, food pantry volunteer

Jennifer, friend of Sue & Eleanore

Joan, friend of Ron and Marilyn

John, Joan, Herb, Todd, Gus, Peggy, Jim, Kathy, and Carol, Ron and

Marilyn's friends

Karol & Barbara, Eleanore's friends

Kim, friend of Sue

Mark and Keith, Susanne's friends

Michele H., friend of Weintraub's

Nancy, friend of Kim

Paula, friend of Nancy

Peggy & Christine, Alex's aunts

Peter, Terri's father; Julie, family friend of Nancy

Thomas, friend of Tony & Edie



WE ARE HIRING Music Director

We are seeking a quarter-time Music Director to provide music, leadership, and oversight for worship and the music ministries of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Requirements

- Proficiency in organ and/or piano accompaniment, other musical instruments including vocals is welcome.
- Familiarity with, or willingness to learn, Christian liturgy, hymnody, and the church year.
- Strong work ethic, love of music, and joyful spirit
- Music degree or equivalent training experience preferred.

Send your Resume and Cover letter to:
Pastor Courtney Smith Westerlund at
info@messiahoaklandnj.org



Meal Train

My fellow congregants:

We are starting a Meal Train for the Boyce family. As many of you may know, Alex recently had surgery and his expected recovery time is approximately 6-8 weeks. I've been in contact with Sue and she is aware that we are doing this for their family. We would like to provide two (2) family meals per week to feed roughly six (6) people. Alex has no dietary restrictions but please no fish!

If you are willing to cook and/or deliver meals to the Boyce family, please respond to me (hockymom57@aol.com or 201-321-9069) and Ashley via email or church office phone to sign up for a date and what meal you may bring. If you would like, gift cards or monetary donations for gift cards to local restaurants and/or grocery stores would also be helpful. They can be dropped off at the church office and we will assure the family receives them.

Here's the tentative list of dates, to be confirmed this week.

- Monday, April 20th
- Thursday, April 23rd
- Monday, April 27th
- Thursday, April 30th
- Monday, May 4th
- Thursday, May 7th
- Monday, May 11th
- Thursday, May 14th
- Monday, May 18th
- Thursday, May 21st
- Monday, May 25th
- Thursday, May 28th
- Monday, June 1st
- Thursday, June 4th

Thank you, Valerie Nicolosi