

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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 TO WORSHIP

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 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
 hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
 ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

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

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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-ty 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 17:22-31

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20 will be read responsively

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹ **Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹² You let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water, but you brought
us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³ **I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my
VOWS—**

- ¹⁴ those that I promised with my lips and
spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- ¹⁵ **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of
rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**
- ¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God
has done for me.
- ¹⁷ **I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**
- ¹⁸ If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;
- ¹⁹ **but in truth God has heard me and
has attended to the sound of my prayer.**
- ²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: A Reading from 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord

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: The Holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON



- 1 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
- 2 Like a moth-er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
- 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
- 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close-ness I am known and held and blessed:
- 5 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
 feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
 hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
 in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
 you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

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.

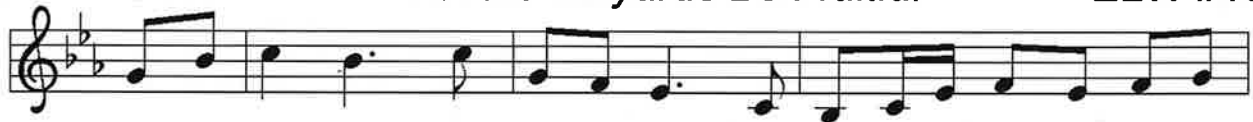
OFFERING

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.



MUSCAL OFFERING The Lord Is My Shepherd Messiah Singers

OFFERTORY *Let the Vinyards Be Fruitful* 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

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **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

COMMUNION RESPONSE

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

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

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION

We invite you to commune in whatever way is comfortable to you either from your seat using the prepackaged elements or by coming forward to the altar rail. To commune at the altar rail, please proceed down the diagonal aisles and pick up a cup from the silver plates. You will be given a wafer and then offered wine (first chalice) or grape juice (second chalice). For those communing online, please join us using whatever bread/crackers and wine/grape juice you have at home. All are welcome at God's table.

The body and blood of Christ, given for you. Amen

COMMUNION SONG**Lamb of God**

ELW pg.154



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**Children of the Heavenly Father**

EWL #781

*Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,*

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;

2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.

3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;

4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

*stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.*

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.

From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.

un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.

his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

TABLE BLESSING

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

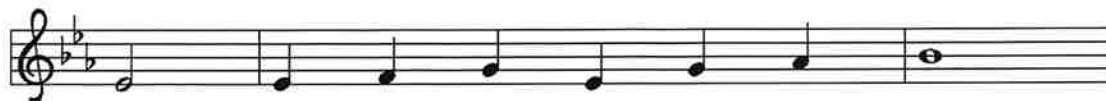
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **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 **Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds** **ELW #367**



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ascension + First Holy Communion, May 17, 2026

10:00 am Worship Service

Farewell Celebration for Pastor Courtney following worship

MAY BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

MONDAY: 7:00 pm Book Club

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting

THURSDAY: 7:30 pm Band practice

SUNDAY: 9:00 am Choir practice

10:00 am Worship

Farewell Celebration for Pastor Courtney following worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

PASTOR: Rev. Courtney Smith
Westerlund

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bob Luderer

LAY READER: Jerri Angermueller

USHER: Don Brown

GREETER: Lee Haymon

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Nancy
Krause & Jerri Angermueller

ALTAR GUILD: Nancy Krause &
Jerri Angermueller

FLOWER GUILD: Joan Ludke

FLOWERS GIVEN BY: Boyce
Family

VIDEO TECH: Nick DeRoda/ Don
Brown

COUNTERS: Linda Axtell &
Brigitte Albrecht

COORDINATING COUNCILOR:
Valerie Nicolosi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coloring and Conversation: May 14th at 12:00 pm. Join us for an opportunity to reflect together on transitions using elements of Bible Study, Art & Theology, and conversation. All are welcome. If you can't attend but want the materials, please talk to Pastor Courtney.

First Communion May 17th: Please talk to Pastor Courtney if you are interested in participating in First Holy Communion. Instruction will be given in Sunday School, and the celebration will be in worship on May 17th.

Important Dates to Note:

May 17th: Pastor Courtney's Final Worship Service

Please gather outside after worship for a farewell celebration and games!

May 24th: Bob Luderer's Final Worship Service

Please join us after worship for a Farewell Coffee Hour in celebration of his 20 years serving Messiah Lutheran! Please contact Nancy Krause or Michele Weintraub with questions.

First Communion May 17th: Please talk to Pastor Courtney if you are interested in participating in First Holy Communion. Instruction will be given in Sunday School, and the celebration will be in worship on May 17th.

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center: Register for both opening day on May 16th and camp for this summer! For more information visit: <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/>

Ponds Food Pantry: Spring Stock Up! Help fill the shelves with shelf stable milk, cereal (no cheerios), spaghetti sauce, peanut butter and jelly, size 5,6,7 diapers; mayo. Ketchup, mustard, canned chicken, salmon, tuna, pancake syrup, white rice, snacks, chicken/ beef ramen, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper. Drop off at hrs: Tuesday 10-1, Thursday 3-7 and Saturday 10-1. Please see QR code on the right to see their Amazon Wish List.



Ray Cordell Concert to Benefit Ponds Food Pantry

Saturday, May 30th, 2026 from 7 to 9 pm at Ponds Reformed Church
Enjoy a magical evening of music featuring international recording artist and singer Ray Cordell, aka "Ray from the UK" performing popular jazz, light rock and rock-n-roll from the 70s to today. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased using the QR code to the right. In addition to the concert, there will be a trick tray and refreshments. Messiah Lutheran will contribute a "Coffee Hour" basket to the tricky tray. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex listing items to donate to the tricky tray and talk to Michele Weintraub with questions.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIAN AND KENIA
MARRIED MAY 9, 2026 AT MESSIAH!**



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

Please let us know if you have changes we should make to our prayer list



Thank you to all who participated in celebrating and honoring the mother, grandmother, godmother, aunt or other special woman in your life; of your loved ones, who are either a presence in your life now or someone you hold dear in your heart and memory.

Given By: Brigitte Albrecht
In Memory Of: Gisela Boldt, mother

Given By: The Boyce Family
In Memory Of: Dorothy Joan Washofer, Paula Lein
In Honor Of: Susan Boyce, Victoria Boyce, Dorothy Weaver, Angela Boyce, Kathleen Carducci, Beverly Conte

Given By: Donlad Brown
In Memory Of: Joan Brown
In Honor Of: Mildred Kubli, Tosca Brown

Given By: Susanne Herbst
In Memory Of: My mother, Charlotte Rochau
In Honor Of: My best friend Lorraine Dudek

Given By: Nancy Krause
In Memory Of: Patricia Krause
In Honor Of: Marion Howard

Given By: Amy Ludke
In Memory Of: Grammy, Oma, Aunt Debbie, Aunt Evie
In Honor Of: Joan Ludke, my mom; Meridith Ludke, sister in law; Eleanore, family friend; all women at Messiah Lutheran Church

Given By: The Ludke Family
In Memory Of: Ludmilla Ludke and Johanna Klause

Given By: Valerie Nicolosi

In Memory Of: Marjorie Brunckhorst, Frieda Brunckhorst,
Mae Hetrick Hickes, Patricia Nicolosi,
Olympia Nicolosi, Dorothy Roberts,
Dorothy Kowaleski

In Honor Of: Sheryl Leidig, Cassia Nicolosi, Kathy Brunckhorst,
Nancy DellaBella, Janice Wordelman,
Janet Ridenhour, Ellen DiStasi, Pastor Courtney

Given By: Lisa and Mike O'Neil

In Memory of: Freida Wittmann, Linda Ruthford, Karen Robertson,
Mary Grieco, Angela Camillerri, Ninette Esposito, Nancy O'
Neil, Ellan Meidl, Rose Pizza

Given By: Eleanore Orman

In Memory of: Beverly Bergeson, mother; Bernice Johnson,
grandmother; Hulga Bergeson, grandmother;
Sunday School Teachers

In Honor Of: Sunday School Teachers

Given By: Marilyn Rubner

In Memory of: Frieda Fitch, Lillian Rubner, Helen Dietrich

In Honor Of: Patty Surowiec, Debra Garde

Given By: The Weintraub Family

In Memory Of: Gloria Weintraub, Michele's mother in-law

In Honor Of: Rita Kurtz, Michele's mother; Joanne Kurtz, Michele's
sister in-law; Jen Schuster, Michele's niece;
Christa Minor, Michele's niece

