

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436

www.messiahoklandnj.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, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN O God, Whose Word Well-Planted ACS #975



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

GREETING

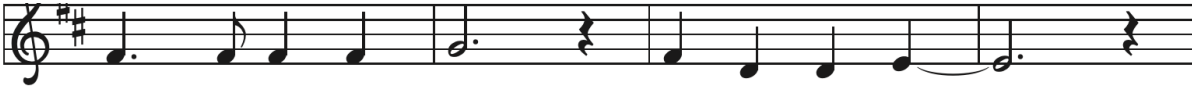
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: 65:1-13 will be read responsively

¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

² **To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

³ Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the oceans far away.

⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
You are girded about with might.**

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your
marvelous signs; you make the dawn
and the dusk to sing for joy.**

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very
plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy
rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys
cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot,⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.



**GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Glory to you, O Lord**

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!”

¹⁸ “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Word of the Lord
CHILDREN’S SERMON

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

On What Has Now Been Sown

ELW #550



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE 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, 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 *Take My Life That I May Be (vs. 2)* ELW #583

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

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

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher, your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word. All that has life and breath praises your name. For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world. He healed the sick, fed the hungry,
preached your mercy and called us to faith. For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word, that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption, and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world. For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God. **We entreat you, O God.**

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer, for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Bringing in the Sheaves

**Knowles Shaw
George A. Minor**

♩ = 103

1. Sow-ing in the morn-ing, sow-ing seeds of kind-ness, Sow - ing in the noon - tide
 2. Sow-ing in the sun - shine, sow-ing in the sha - dows, Fear - ing nei - ther clouds nor
 3. Go - ing forth with weep-ing, sow-ing for the Mas-ter, Though the loss sus - tained our

and the dew - y eve; Wait - ing for the har - vest, and the time of reap - ing,
 win - ter's chill - ing breeze; By and by the har - vest, and the la - bor end - ed,
 spir - it of - ten grieves; When our weep - ing's o - ver, He will bid us wel - come,

Refrain

We shall come re - joic - ing, bring - ing in the sheaves. Bring - ing in the sheaves,
 We shall come re - joic - ing, bring - ing in the sheaves. Bring - ing in the sheaves,
 We shall come re - joic - ing, bring - ing in the sheaves.

bring-ing in the sheaves, We shall come re-joic - ing, bring-ing in the sheaves, ing,
 bring-ing in the sheaves,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near, go share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 19, 2026
 10:00am Worship

JULY BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH
 Strengthen Our Sisters

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

MONDAY: 7:00 pm Book Club on Zoom
TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
THURSDAY: 12:00 pm Bible Study
7:30 pm Band practice
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

LAY LEADER: Valerie Nicolosi
MUSICIAN: Jerri Angermueller
LAY READER: Eleanore Orman
USHER: Don Brown
GREETER: Len Nicolosi
ALTAR GUILD: Karen Bell
FLOWER GUILD: Brigitte Albrecht
VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
COUNTERS: Eleanore Orman & Brigitte Albrecht
COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Eleanore Orman
COFFEE HOUR: Linda Axtell/ Camp Over

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ponds Food Pantry Car Wash: Today, July 12, 12:00-2:00 pm at Ponds Reformed Church! Get your car squeaky clean at the fundraiser for Ponds Food Pantry and a local Girl Scout Troop. Donations of food or toiletries are appreciated!

Book Club on Zoom, 7:00 pm: Tommorow, July 13th, "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi.

Bible Study: Next Bible Study will be this Thursday, July 16th! Topic is "J is for Joseph".

**THE
POWER
OF PRAYER**

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

And the following friends and family:

All affected by seasonal illnesses;

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 & 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

John, Joan, Todd, Peggy, Jim, Kathy, Carol, and Ellie, Ron and

Marilyn's friends

Kim, friend of Sue

Mark and Keith, Susanne's friends

Michele H., friend of Weintraubs

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