

# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

July 5, 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, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

**Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

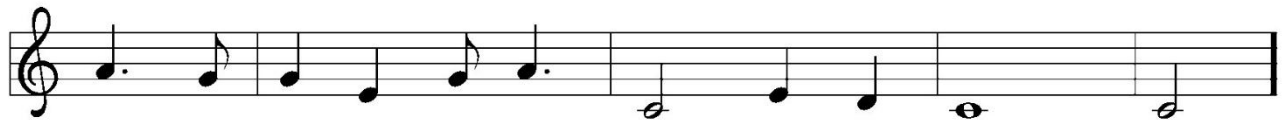
God of all mercy,

**we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of + Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good. **Amen.**



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,  
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,  
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,  
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,  
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
 dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.  
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.  
 oh, . . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
 and . . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

**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**

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, 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: A Reading from Romans 13: 1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval, <sup>4</sup> for it is God's agent for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the agent of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's agents, busy with this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is due them: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM: 145:8-14** will be read responsively

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> **Lord, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup> **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup> that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion  
endures throughout all ages. You, Lord, are faithful in all  
your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all those who fall and  
lifts up those who are bowed down.

**SECOND READING: A Reading from Revelation 13: 1-9**

<sup>1</sup> And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names. <sup>2</sup> And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup> One of its heads seemed to have received a death blow, but its fatal wound had been healed. In amazement the whole earth followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> They worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" <sup>5</sup> The beast was given a mouth speaking arrogant and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> It opened its mouth to speak blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> Also, it was allowed to wage war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slaughtered. <sup>9</sup> Let anyone who has an ear listen.

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



**GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30  
Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup> “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ <sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

"Being American and Christian Too"



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,  
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.  
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;  
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,  
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.  
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing  
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

**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.**

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

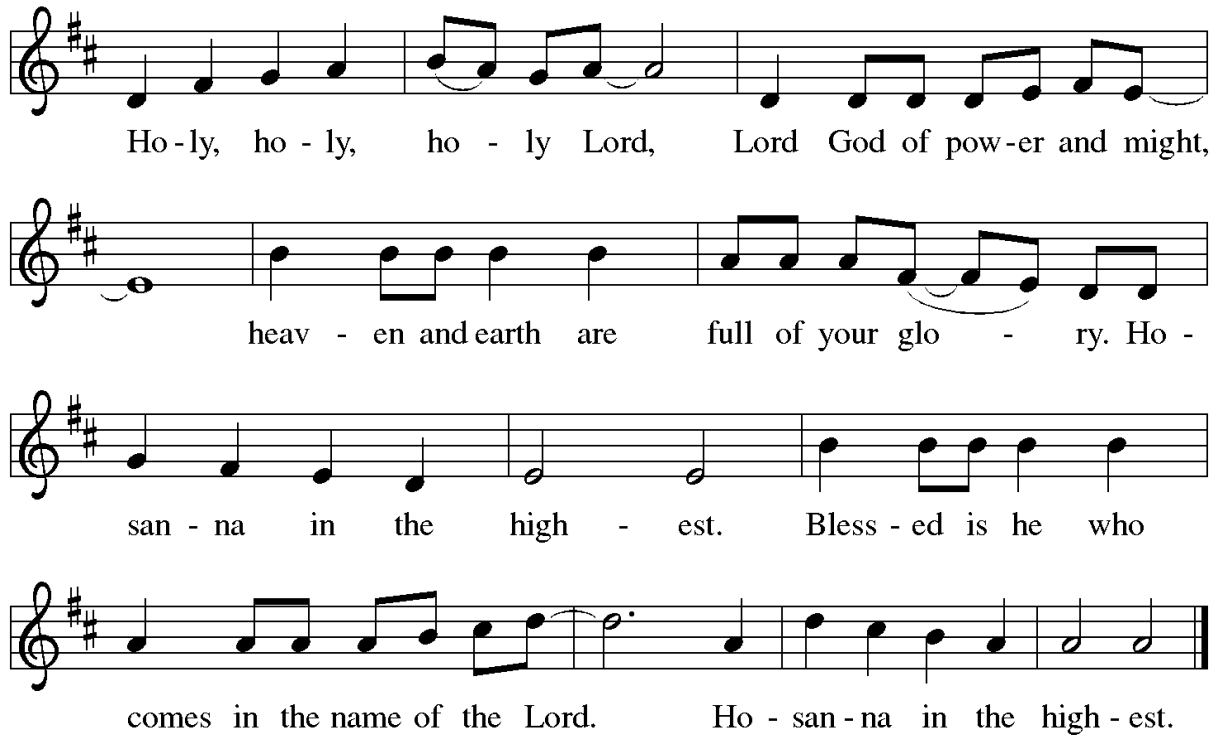
**And also with you.  
We lift them to the Lord.**

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

## COMMUNION RESPONSE

## Holy Holy Holy

ELW pg.173



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en 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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

### 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 and shed 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.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines.

**COMMUNION HYMN****Just a Closer Walk with Thee**

ELW #697

*Refrain*

Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;

dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;  
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal-ter, Lord, who cares?  
 3 When my fee-ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

*Refrain*

I'll be sat - is-fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
 Who with me my bur-den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
 guide me gent-ly, safe-ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

The musical score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system contains three numbered verses. The fourth system is also labeled 'Refrain' and covers the final three lines of lyrics.

**TABLE BLESSING**

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN CIVIC LIFE**

People of God, you are chosen and named as God's beloved. You have received the gift of Christian vocation, a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest. Daily and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. I ask you, therefore: Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your servants courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, + one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW #841

Favorite of Len Nicolosi & Eleanore Orman



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,  
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 12, 2026 | 10:00am Worship

**JULY BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH: Strengthen Our Sisters**

## THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

MONDAY: Office Closed/Ashley off for 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
6:00 pm Community Table Dinner at Ponds Reformed Church  
TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting  
THURSDAY: 7:30 pm Band practice  
SATURDAY: Church Camp Over  
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship  
7:00 pm Church Council Meeting on Zoom

## TODAY'S MINISTERS

<b>GUEST PASTOR:</b> Rev. Wayne Plumstead	<b>ALTAR GUILD:</b> Jerri Angermueller & Nancy Krause
<b>MUSICIAN:</b> Jerri Angermueller	<b>FLOWER GUILD:</b> Brigitte Albrecht
<b>LAY READER:</b> Joan Ludke	<b>VIDEO TECH:</b> Alex Boyce
<b>USHER:</b> Cesar Rios	<b>COUNTERS:</b> Cesar Rios & Joan Ludke
<b>GREETER:</b> Valerie Nicolosi	<b>COORDINATING COUNCILOR:</b> Michele Weintraub
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:</b> Arnold & Joan Ludke	<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b> Joan Ludke

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Camp-Over: For Kids of All Ages! Sat. July 11<sup>th</sup>, the fun starts at 3pm, but feel free to drop in whenever, no camping required. Dinner is bring-your-own, and a side to share. We'll have the grill and campfire ready, plus dessert. The brave souls who choose to camp overnight, a reward will be fresh-baked cinnamon rolls for breakfast. Come for a little or stay the night, we'd love to see you! Contact Linda with any questions!

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

Bible Study: Next Bible Study will be July 16th!



**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; 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 & 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 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 to our prayer list\*