

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost | August 16, 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 are invited to 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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

ELW # 759



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

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

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Though the Earth Shall Change* ACS #1035



FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: 67 will be read responsively

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:]¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #175



GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 15:10-28 Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without

understanding?¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer?¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW #595

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,
 yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

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

Merciful God, **receive 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.

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.

COMMUNION RESPONSE

Holy Holy Holy

ELW pg.144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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

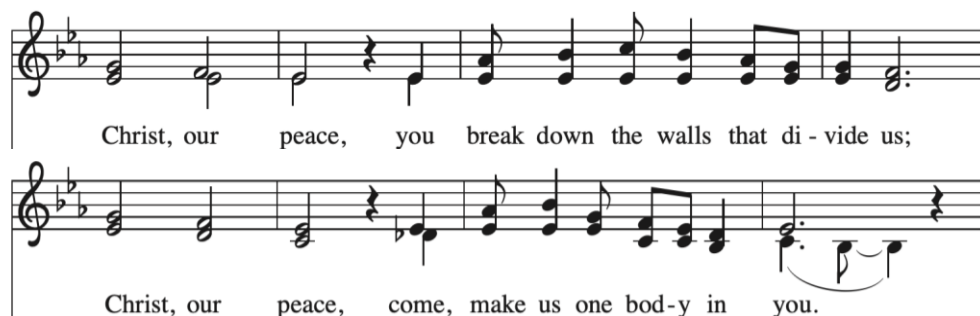
We invite you to commune in whatever way is comfortable to you, either from your seat using the prepackaged elements or by coming forward to the altar rail. To commune at the altar rail, please proceed down the diagonal aisles and pick up a cup from the silver plates. You will be given a wafer and then 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.

COMMUNION HYMN**One Bread, One Body**

ELW #496

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.
1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,
wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath-ered to one for all.

Refrain

TABLE BLESSING

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

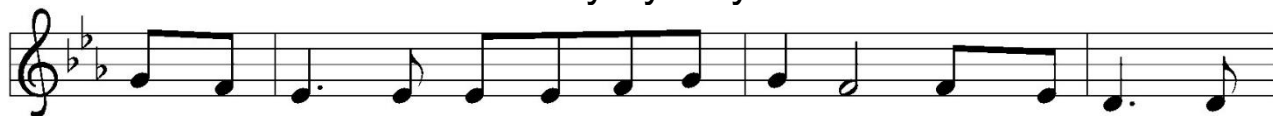
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN**Day by Day****ELW #790**

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-i-ous soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be-yond all
o'er the paths I strug-gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur-dens of my quest; Sav-ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur-ing grace. Sav-ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav-ior,



lead me to the home I trea-sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor-row till in glo - ry I be-hold your face.
with your pres-ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom-ised land.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 23, 2026
10:00am Worship

AUGUST BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

ELCA Global Mission

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
THURSDAY: 7:30 pm Band practice
SATURDAY: 6:00 pm International Night
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

GUEST PASTOR: Rev. Fred Lentz
GUEST MUSICIAN: Robin Van Dyk
LAY READER: Valerie Nicolosi
USHER: Arnold Ludke
GREETER: Lee Haymon
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Arnold Ludke & Susanne Herbst
ALTAR GUILD: Amy Ludke & Susanne Herbst
FLOWER GUILD: Joan Ludke
VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
COUNTERS: Eleanore Orman & Arnold Ludke
COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Nick DeRoda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Serving Schedule Sign Up: Please sign up in narthex for dates you can serve in September and October!

International Night: We will have an International Night on Saturday, August 22, at 6:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Bring your favorite international dish and we'll have a great potluck. Please speak with Valerie Nicolosi if you have questions or are able to help!

Book Club on Zoom at 7:00 pm:
September 14th: "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi

Rally Day Picnic: September 13th
Following worship, join us for food, games & fellowship as we kick off another year of Sunday School! Burgers and hot dogs will be provided, sign up at church to bring a side dish or dessert. Feel free to bring a friend!



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:**

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

Gayle, friend of Joan & Eleanore

Janice, food pantry volunteer

Jennifer, friend of Sue & Eleanore

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

Ron & Marilyn's friends

Kim, friend of Sue

Mark and Keith, Susanne's friends

Michele H., friend of Weintraubs

Nancy, friend of Kim

Peggy & Christine, Alex's aunts

Peter, Terri's father

Thomas, Maria, & Gary, friends of Tony & Edie

Alexa, Hank, Paula, Julie, Cynthia & Samy friends and coworkers of Nancy

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