

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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 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 The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours) Matt Maher

Father, let Your Kingdom come
Father, let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven
Right here in my heart
(x2)

Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive us, forgive us
As we forgive the ones who sinned
against us, forgive them
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from the evil one
Let Your kingdom come

Father, let Your Kingdom come
Father, let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven
Right here in my heart
(x2)

Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive us, forgive us

As we forgive the ones who sinned
against us, forgive them
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from the evil one
Let Your kingdom come

It's Yours, it's Yours.
All Yours, all Yours
The kingdom, the power,
the glory are Yours
It's Yours, it's Yours.
All Yours, all Yours
Forever and ever the kingdom is
Yours (x2)

Father, let Your Kingdom come
Father, let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven
Right here in my heart
(x2)

On Earth as in Heaven
Right here in my heart

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

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug.² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.³ For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her

desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: 138 will be read responsively

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you
have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch
forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you

ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function,⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #172

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 16:13-20

Glory to you, O Lord

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand ACS #1024

Refrain

Here on Jesus Christ I will stand.
He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life.

²It is not the work of my hands
that has washed away all my sins.
I'm redeemed, and all of my days,
Jesus Christ will be my heart's
praise. *Refrain*

¹There's no other place I can hide
till the storm that rages subsides.
My voice cries to God from the
flood, and I'm saved because of
his blood. *Refrain*

³When my days on this earth are
done, and I stand at God's holy
throne, my heart will not have any
fear; in Christ's righteousness I
am here. *Refrain*

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 THE PEOPLE

God, who sees and knows all things, who hears our prayers and
listens to our cries, we lift these prayers to you, out loud and silently in
our hearts.

God of Mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the
glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. We thank you
especially:

For the sustaining goodness of your creation

For the gifts of healing and forgiveness

For the gifts of relationships with others

For the communion of faith in your church

For what else do we thank God?..... God of Grace,

Hear our Prayer

God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. We pray especially:

For our Bishops, Yehiel and Christa, our missionary, Kristin
For those who govern nations of the world
For the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare
For all who work for peace and international harmony
For all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction
For the believers of Christ in every land
For those in need of healing and comfort
For what and whom else do we pray?..... God of Grace,

Hear our Prayer

God of Grace, we cry out to you and pray for all those in need, knowing that prayer changes lives. For what else do we want to pray to God?..... God of Grace, **Hear our Prayer**

Guide all who serve on the call committee with wisdom and faithful discernment, O God. Grant them patience and unity as they seek the pastor you are preparing for this congregation. Strengthen them in their work and bless this community at Messiah with trust as we await what you will provide. God of Grace, **Hear our Prayer**

God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

Create in Me a Clean Heart

W&P #34

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away
from your presence, O Lord,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and renew a right spirit within me.

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

Down to the River to Pray

Lloyd Larson

As I went down to
the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear
the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way!

O sisters let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sisters let's go down
Down to the river to pray.

As I went down to
the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear
the robe & crown?
Good Lord show me the way.

O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O brothers, let's go down
Down to the river to pray.

As I went down to
the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear
the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way.

O fathers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O fathers let's go down
Down to the river to pray.

As I went down to
the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear
the robe and crown?
Good Lord show me the way.

O mothers let's go down
Come on down,
don't you wanna go down?
Come on mothers, let's go down
Down to the river to pray.

As I went down to
the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear
the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way.

O sinners, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sinners, let's go down
Down to the river to pray.

As I went down to
the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear
the robe and crown?
Good Lord show me the way.
Good Lord show me the way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 30, 2026
10:00am Worship

AUGUST BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

ELCA Global Mission

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
7:30 Council Meeting on Zoom
THURSDAY: 7:30 pm Band practice
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

LAY LEADER: Joan Ludke	FLOWER GUILD: Nancy Krause
BAND MEMBERS: Jerri & Klaus Angermueller, Nick DeRoda, Nancy & Steve Krause, and Jack	VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
LAY READER: Eleanore Orman	COUNTERS: Brigitte Albrecht & Nancy Krause
USHER: Don Brown	COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Tom White
GREETER: Amy Ludke	COFFEE HOUR: Nancy Krause
ALTAR GUILD: Brigitte Albrecht & Kristen Rios	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Bible Study: Join us on September 3rd for the start up to Bible Study. We will be returning to the book **A is for Alabaster**, reading chapter "J is for Joseph". If you need a copy, check the church library or let Joan or Eleanore know.

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!

Book Club on Zoom at 7:00 pm:

September 14th: "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi



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

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

Andrew & Caroline, friends of Kim & Michele

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