

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Summer Songs and Scripture | August 30, 2026

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436

www.messiahoklandnj.org | 201-337-4900

@MessiahOaklandNJ | Sunday Worship 10:00 am

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, sing and dance before the Lord!

Praise God with the sound of music and dancing!

Let every soul sing God's praises! **Let all of creation dance with joy!**

Praise the God of Glory who guides our lives.

Praise the Lord of Hosts who watches over us.

ENTRANCE HYMN

God Is Here!

ELW #526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

This liturgy was crafted by a member of Young Clergy Women International to merge the words and promises found in the Confession and Forgiveness, with the lyrics of various hymns.

Gracious God, you created all things good, yet we do not always live up to that goodness. In our time of confession, we come as we are – broken, sinful, hurtful – knowing that you will welcome us. So, we say together: **Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!** (ELW 592)

We come as we are, feeling shame and guilt over things we have done and left undone. While we may want to hide from the world or run from our problems, the only true refuge is in you, O God, so together we say: **Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee. Let the water and the blood from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure** (ELW 623)

Merciful God, we know the difference between right and wrong, yet sometimes we feel powerless in the face of temptation. Walk with us and give us strength we pray, and together we say: **I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: let it be dear Lord, let it be** (ELW 697)

Let it be, God of Love, that you would be close to us in our times of need, and come near to us now as we bring our silent confessions to you...

Silence left for reflection

Thank you for hearing our prayers, O God, and for guiding us with your light. Together we say: **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light** (ELW 793)

God's boundless love for us was made manifest in the Christ-child, Emmanuel, and in his death on the cross. Together we say: **On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain. So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown** (Celebration 327)

Siblings, you are forgiven through Jesus Christ, who is the embodiment of God's love and grace. In response, we give God all glory and honor, and with gratitude, we sing:

HYMN OF GOD'S GRACE

Blessed Assurance

ELW #638



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

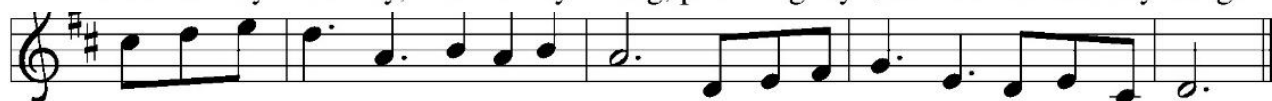


Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

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

Let us pray. Creator God, in praise and adoration our spirits dance before you today. You created this wondrous universe and all the magnificence within. You have blessed us from the beginning of time to this day of praise and thanksgiving. May our hearts sing boldly of your wondrous love. We celebrate your love and presence with us, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: JOHN 6:35-40

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

³⁷Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW #592

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry
 shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

SECOND READING: PSALM 107:1-8

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; ⁵hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; ⁷he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. ⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
 who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
 who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
 with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

THIRD READING: HEBREWS 1:1-4

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Beautiful Savior

ELW #838



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

FOURTH READING: JOHN 3: 10-15

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW #660

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words hyphenated across lines. The fourth staff includes a four-part vocal setting with numbered lines 1 through 4. The fifth staff continues the melody and includes the word 'Refrain' in italics.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

FIFTH READING: PSALM 104: 1-24

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

² wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent;

³ you set the beams of your chambers on the waters; you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind;

**⁴ you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.**

⁵ You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

**⁶ You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.**

⁷ At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

**⁸ They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys,
to the place that you appointed for them.**

**⁹ You set a boundary that they may not pass so that they
might not again cover the earth.**

**¹⁰ You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,**

- ¹¹ giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst.
¹² By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.
- ¹³ **From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.**
- ¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to
cultivate, to bring forth food from the earth
- ¹⁵ **and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face
shine and bread to strengthen the human heart.**
- ¹⁶ The trees of the field are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
- ¹⁷ **In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in
the fir trees.**
- ¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for
the coney.
- ¹⁹ **You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.**
- ²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the
forest come creeping out.
- ²¹ **The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.**
- ²² When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.
- ²³ **People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.**
- ²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made
them all; the earth is full of your creatures.



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
 morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
 rus-ling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

WE RESPOND TO GOD

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

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

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

ELW #207

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

ELW #756



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026 | 10:00am Worship Service

**AUGUST BENEVOLENCE
OF THE MONTH**
ELCA Global Mission

**SEPTEMBER BENEVOLENCE
OF THE MONTH**
Putting Prayers to Action

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
THURSDAY: 12:00 pm Bible Study
7:30 pm Band Practice
SATURDAY: Property Work Day
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

LAY LEADER: Eleanore Orman	FLOWER GUILD: Brigitte Albrecht
GUEST ORGANIST: Robin Van Dyk	VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
Lay Reader: Michele Weintraub	COUNTERS: Joan Ludke & Cesar Rios
USHER: Cesar Rios	COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Michele Weintraub
GREETER: Michele Weintraub	COFFEE HOUR:
ALTAR GUILD: Jerri Angermueller & Nancy Krause	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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
October 12th: "The Only Woman in the Room" by Marie Benedict



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 Weintraub's; Nancy, friend of Kim; Peggy & Christine, Alex's aunts; Peter, Terri's father; Thomas, Maria, Gary, & Julie 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 to our prayer list*