

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.

¹The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing Your song again,
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes. *Chorus*

²You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger,
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Chorus*

³And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come.
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years and then forevermore. *Chorus x2*

I'll worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

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.**

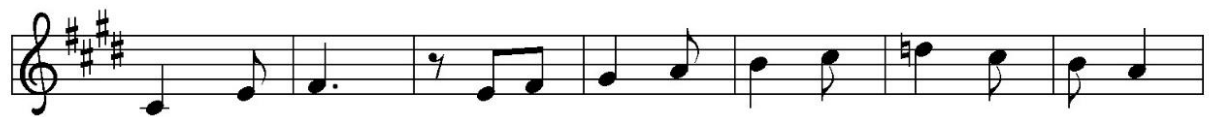
PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain

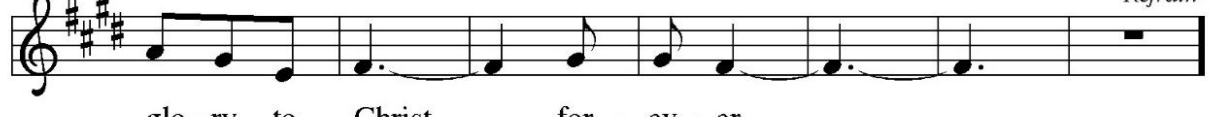


freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain



God; to make all things new.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants

of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him.
¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13 will be read responsively

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless God’s holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God’s benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #175



GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 18:21-35
Glory to you, O Lord

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

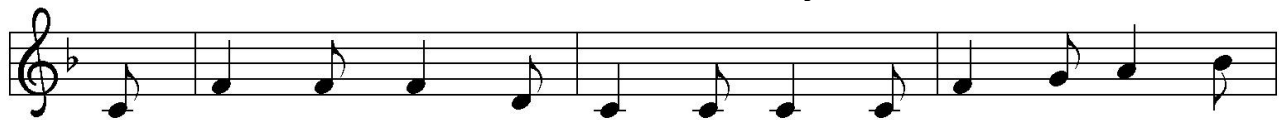
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON AND INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

**BLESSING OF BACKPACKS, OTHER CARRYING CASES,
AND CROSSING GUARD STOP SIGN**

SERMON



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

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

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.



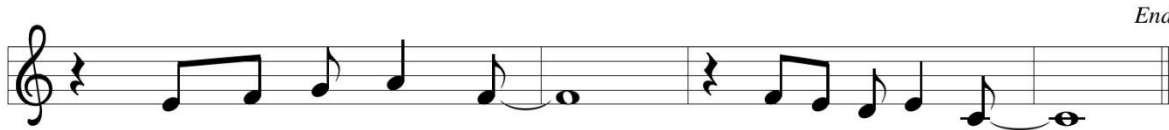
OFFERTORY

Change My Heart, O God

W&P #28



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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

ELW #191



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, 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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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 notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics are written below the staff. The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody continues on a single line. The lyrics are written below the staff.

COMMUNION HYMN**As the Grains of Wheat**

ELW #465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

The musical notation is in G major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics are written below the staff. The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody continues on a single line. The lyrics are written below the staff. The third staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody continues on a single line. The lyrics are written below the staff. The fourth staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody continues on a single line. The lyrics are written below the staff. The fifth staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody continues on a single line. The lyrics are written below the staff.

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

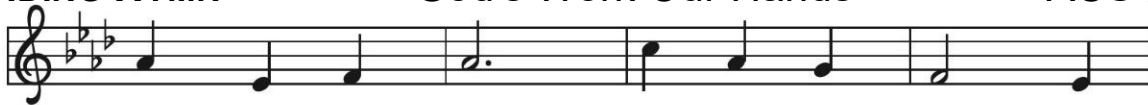
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

God's Work Our Hands

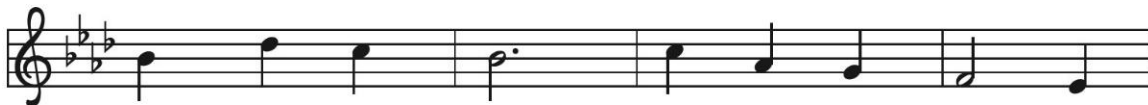
ACS #1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PLEASE JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP FOR OUR RALLY DAY PICNIC AS WE KICK
OFF ANOTHER YEAR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL!

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20, 2026
10:00am Worship Service

SEPTEMBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

Putting Prayers to Action

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

MONDAY: 7:00 pm Book Club
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

PASTOR: Rev. Priscilla Paris-Austin

MUSICIAN: Steven Malski

LAY READER: Eleanore Orman

USHER: Tony Baglieri

GREETER: Megan Rotella

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Jerri Angermueller & Nancy Krause

ALTAR GUILD: Marilyn Rubner & Susanne Herbst

FLOWER GUILD: Joan Ludke

VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce

COUNTERS: Tony Baglieri & Cesar Rios

COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Michele Weintraub

COFFEE HOUR: Rally Day Picnic

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rally Day Picnic: Today, September 13th

Following worship, join us for food, games & fellowship as we kick off another year of Sunday School!

Community Table: September 14 at Ponds Reformed Church at 6:00pm

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

Bible Study: Join us on September 17th for Bible Study. We are returning to the book **A is for Alabaster**. If you need a copy, check the church library or let Joan or Eleanore know.

Putting Prayers to Action: For many years, members of Messiah have knit or crocheted mitten, hat, and scarf sets which are sent to the organization in Kentucky. We will be sending the items later in September and request that the donated hats and scarves be brought to church by Sunday, September 20th. On September 27th we will bless the sets made this year. If you have any questions, please contact Bea Albrecht.

Tricky Tray: Clean Water for Santa Rosa

Please join Ponds Reformed Church on Sept 27 at 3pm in Ponds Fellowship Hall for a Tricky Tray to raise money for a village in Guatemala where one of their members lives. This village needs pipes & faucets to access clean water. Donations of baked goods or prizes would be greatly appreciated. Cost is \$5 to attend. Bring a friend! Please call or text Jen Crovatto for more details at 973-699-0568.

Blessing of The Animals: October 4th at 1:00 pm outside. Bring your pet or a picture of your pet. Pastor Kimberly will lead us for a special blessing of the animals. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kim.

Perzin Tithing

The Perzin Distribution Committee (Valerie Nicolosi, Eleanore Orman & Susan Boyce) met recently to discuss possible organizations to earmark for our Perzin Tithe of \$5,400 for 2026. As you may remember the congregation approved a tithe of 5,400.00 a year for ten (10) years upon the sale of the Perzin house. Please speak to any one of these individuals with any suggestions you might have by September 20, 2026. It is hoped that the final listing will be approved by the council at its October meeting and the funds forward shortly thereafter. As always, we welcome your input on this important Messiah mission.



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

The family of Charles Oremland

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