

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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.**

Refrain/Estrillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas *Last time*



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estrillo



pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

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

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW #167

Refrain



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



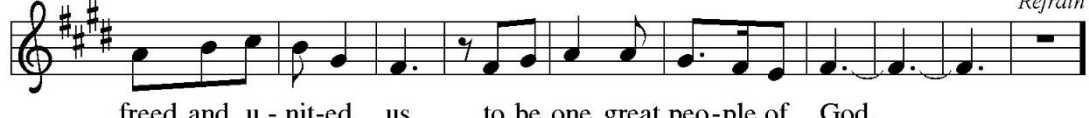
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



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



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



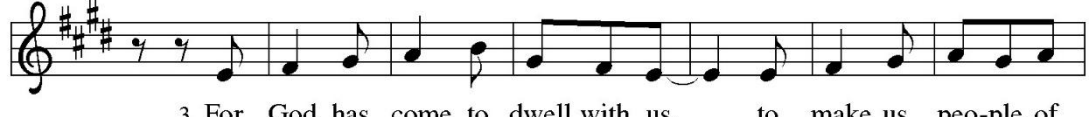
Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



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: Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry.² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.”³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush.⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.”¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.”¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8 will be read responsively

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to Luke 10: 25-37****Glory to you, O Lord**

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**CHILDREN'S SERMON****SERMON****"What Made the Good Samaritan Good?"**

HYMN OF THE DAY Lord, You Give the Great Commission ELW # 579

1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:

Refrain
 With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

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

Refrain

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

End

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

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

Refrain

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

The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece is divided into four lines of music. The first line is marked 'Refrain' and ends with a double bar line. The second line ends with a double bar line and the word 'End'. The third and fourth lines are also marked 'Refrain' and end with double bar lines. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracket in the third and fourth lines.

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, 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, come, make us one bod-y in you.

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

The image shows two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics 'Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.' are written below the first staff. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics 'Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;' are written below the second staff.

COMMUNION HYMN**For the Fruit of All Creation**

ELW #679

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

The image shows four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics are: '1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God. 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done. 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.' The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics are: 'For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God. In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.' The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics are: 'For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing, In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,' The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics are: 'fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God. in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done. most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.'

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

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW #669



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king-dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 27, 2026
10:00am Worship

SEPTEMBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

Putting Prayer to Action

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

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

TODAY'S MINISTERS

PASTOR: Rev. Wayne Plumstead
MUSICIAN: Jerri Angermueller
LAY READER: Brigitte Albrecht
USHER: Don Brown
GREETER: Marilyn Rubner
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Michele Weitraub & Susanne Herbst
ALTAR GUILD: Marilyn Rubner & Amy Ludke
FLOWER GUILD: Michele Weintraub
VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
COUNTERS: Alex Boyce & Tony or Linda
COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Nick DeRoda
COFFEE HOUR: Brigitte Albrecht

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Perzin Tithing

The Perzin Distribution Committee (Valerie Nicolosi, Eleanore Orman & Susan Boyce) met to discuss possible organizations to earmark for our tithe of \$5,400 for 2026. As you may remember, the congregation approved a tithe of \$5,400 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 for this year's recipients by today. We hope that the final listing will be approved by the council at its October meeting and the funds forwarded shortly thereafter. As always, we welcome your input on this important Messiah mission.

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 requested 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.

Book Club on Zoom at 7:00 pm:

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

Bible Study: Join us on October 1st for Bible Study at noon. 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.

Tricky Tray: Clean Water for Santa Rosa

Please join Ponds Reformed Church on Sept 27 at 3:00pm 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 1:00pm outside.

Pastor Kimberly will lead us for a special blessing of the animals! All animals, real or stuffed, or a picture are welcome to come and receive a blessing! Monetary donations are accepted, as well as dog, cat, fish, gerbil, and any other kind of animal food to be donated to the local animal shelter, R.E.W.AR.! If you have any questions, please reach out to Kim.



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, and Bobby, friend and uncle 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

Roland, son of Eleonore W.

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