

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436

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@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.

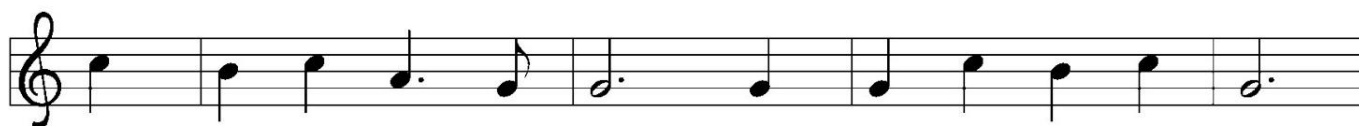
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN**When Morning Gilds the Skies**

ELW #853



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

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, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE**Bind Us Together**

WOV #748

Refrain: Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together Lord, Bind us together in love.

¹There is only one God. There is only one King.
There is only one Body; that is why we can sing. *Refrain*

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: 119:33-40 will be read responsively

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the

moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

WOV #613



GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to **Matthew 18:15-20**

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

peace and glad-ness; Spir-it of all com-fort, fill our hearts.
 still un-fold-ing, give us all your vi-sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth-er; Spir-it of all kind-ness, be our guide.
 way of heal-ing; Spir-it of com-pas-sion, fill each heart.

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.**

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 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**Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee****ELW #836**

- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

ANNOUNCEMENTS**DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE**UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

16th Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2026

10:00am Worship

SEPTEMBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

Putting Prayers to Action

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

MONDAY: Labor Day/ Office Closed
TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
THURSDAY: 7:30 pm Band practice
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship, Rally Day Worship,
Sunday School Teacher Installation,
& Blessing of the Backpack
11:15 am Rally Day Picnic

TODAY'S MINISTERS

LAY LEADER: Valerie Nicolosi
MUSICIAN: Jerri Angermueller
LAY READER: Joan Ludke
USHER: Don Brown
GREETER: Brigitte Albrecht
ALTAR GUILD: Amy Ludke &
Karen Bell

FLOWER GUILD: Nancy Krause
VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
COUNTERS: Eleanore Orman &
Linda Axtell
COORDINATING COUNCILOR:
Eleanore Orman
COFFEE HOUR: Amy & Joan Ludke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

Community Table: September 14th 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 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.

Blessing of The Animals: October 4th at 1:00pm 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.



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, & 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 + coworkers of Nancy

Andrew & Caroline, friends of Kim & Michele

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