

# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



## Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436

[www.messiahoaklandnj.org](http://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.**

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be

Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to  
 fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so  
 one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as

live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God,  
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more,  
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love,

*Refrain*  
 We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to  
 love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -  
 oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

**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**

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Refrain*



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



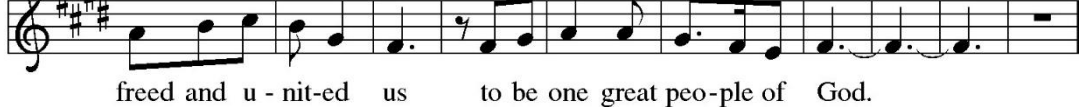
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



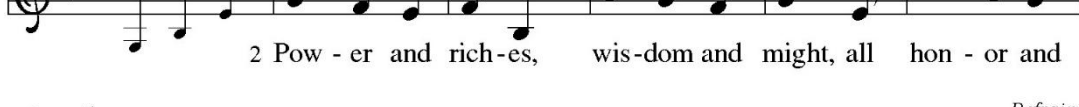
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



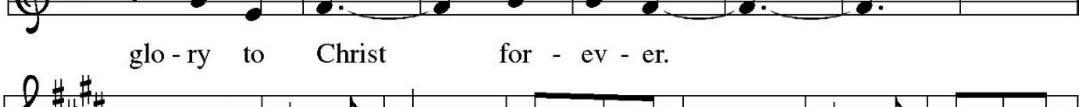
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



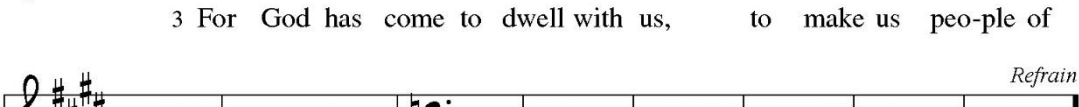
*Refrain*  
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



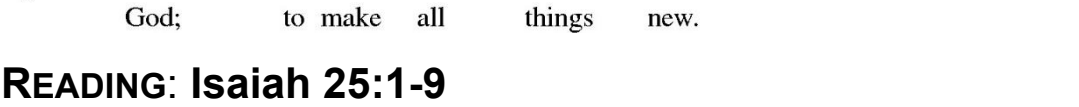
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



*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: Isaiah 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. <sup>2</sup> For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. <sup>4</sup> For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

<sup>5</sup> the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. <sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations;<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM: 23** will be read responsively

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.<sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.<sup>7</sup> And the

peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.<sup>9</sup> As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW #175



### **GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 22:1-14**

#### **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the

attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

Now We Join in Celebration

ELW #462



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,  
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!  
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;  
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing  
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,  
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,  
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.  
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.  
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

#### 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.*



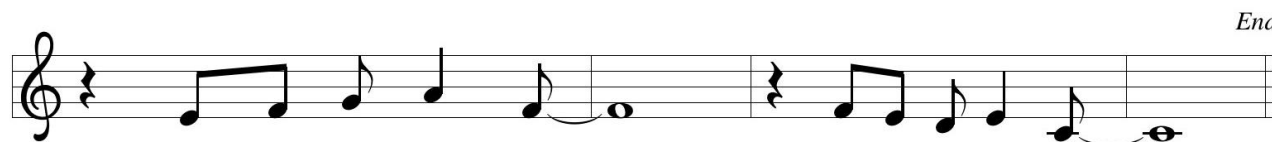
## OFFERTORY

### 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 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**

## ACS #1037

ELW #491

9

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

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW #547

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con-fess-ing,  
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing to God ev-er-liv-ing,  
the peo-ple of our God from this dwell-ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face—  
The sup-per is end-ed. Oh, now be ex-tend-ed  
our faith ev-er shar-ing, in love ev-er car-ing,  
the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.  
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race.  
The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now  
reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.  
Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us  
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing  
to give work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.  
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, October 18, 2026  
10:00am Worship Service

### **OCTOBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH**

R.E.W.A.R.

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

MONDAY: Office Closed: Indigenous Peoples Day/ Columbus Day  
7:00 pm Book Club  
TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting  
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 pm Band Practice  
THURSDAY: 12:00 pm Bible Study  
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

### **TODAY'S MINISTERS**

|                                                                  |                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>GUEST PASTOR:</b> Rev. Keith Ross                             | <b>FLOWER GUILD:</b> Joan Ludke               |
| <b>MUSICIAN:</b> Steven Malski                                   | <b>VIDEO TECH:</b> Alex Boyce                 |
| <b>LAY READER:</b> Jerri Angermueller                            | <b>COUNTERS:</b> Joan Ludke &<br>Linda Axtell |
| <b>USHER:</b> Don Brown                                          | <b>COORDINATING COUNCILOR:</b><br>Alex Boyce  |
| <b>GREETER:</b> Len Nicolosi                                     | <b>COFFEE HOUR:</b> Linda Axtell              |
| <b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:</b> Michele<br>Weintraub & Arnold Ludke |                                               |
| <b>ALTAR GUILD:</b> Brigitte Albrecht &<br>Susanne Herbst        |                                               |

**ABOUT THE PASTOR:** Pastor Keith Ross is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America and currently serves a hospice chaplain at Holy Name Hospice. Pastor Keith has a deep compassion for caring for others in hospice, both through his healthcare work and his ministry wherever that may be. He values building authentic relationships and helping people experience God's presence in times of grief, loss, and death.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Happy Birthday Mario!!: Today after worship service!

Video game fan or not, join us after church for a special coffee hour to celebrate Mario's birthday and Mario Kart racing on the large screen.

Book Club on Zoom at 7:00 pm:

October 12<sup>th</sup>: "The Only Woman in the Room" by Marie Benedict

November 9<sup>th</sup>: "The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife" by Anna Johnston

Bible Study: Join us on October 15<sup>th</sup> at noon for Bible Study. We are using to the book **A is for Alabaster**. If you need a copy, check the church library or let Joan or Eleanore know.

Oktoberfest: Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:00pm

Please RSVP by October 16<sup>th</sup>! Hosted this year by Nancy Krause, we will have sausages, frankfurters and other German foods. There is a sign-up sheet for attendance and other items/dishes needed. Please be sure to speak with Nancy if you can help...more hands always welcome!!

THE  
**POWER**  
OF PRAYER

**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:**

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, Eleanore's  
sister  
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, and Marianne &  
family, 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  
Maria, Gary, & Julie, friends of  
Tony & Edie  
Alexa, Hank, Paula, Julie,  
Cynthia & Samy, friends and  
coworkers of Nancy  
Andrew & Caroline, friends of  
Kim & Michele  
Roland, son of Eleonore

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

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