

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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.**

GATHERING 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!

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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, 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



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

Refrain



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



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain



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



God; to make all things new.

Refrain

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the

doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: 96:1-13 will be read responsively

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who
made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea
thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your
coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and
the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #175



GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to **Matthew 22:15-22**

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me

the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius.²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?”²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW #841

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,
 ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
 Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,
 let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;
 sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;
 fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,
 let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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

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.

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.

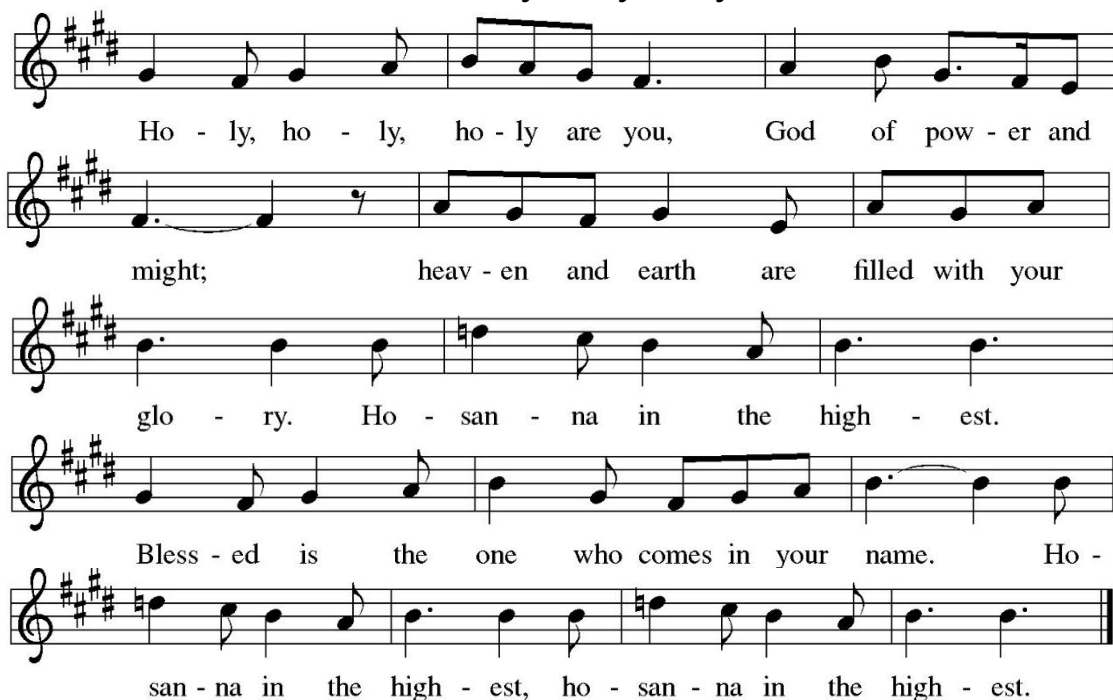
We lift them to the Lord.

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

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW #471

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

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.**

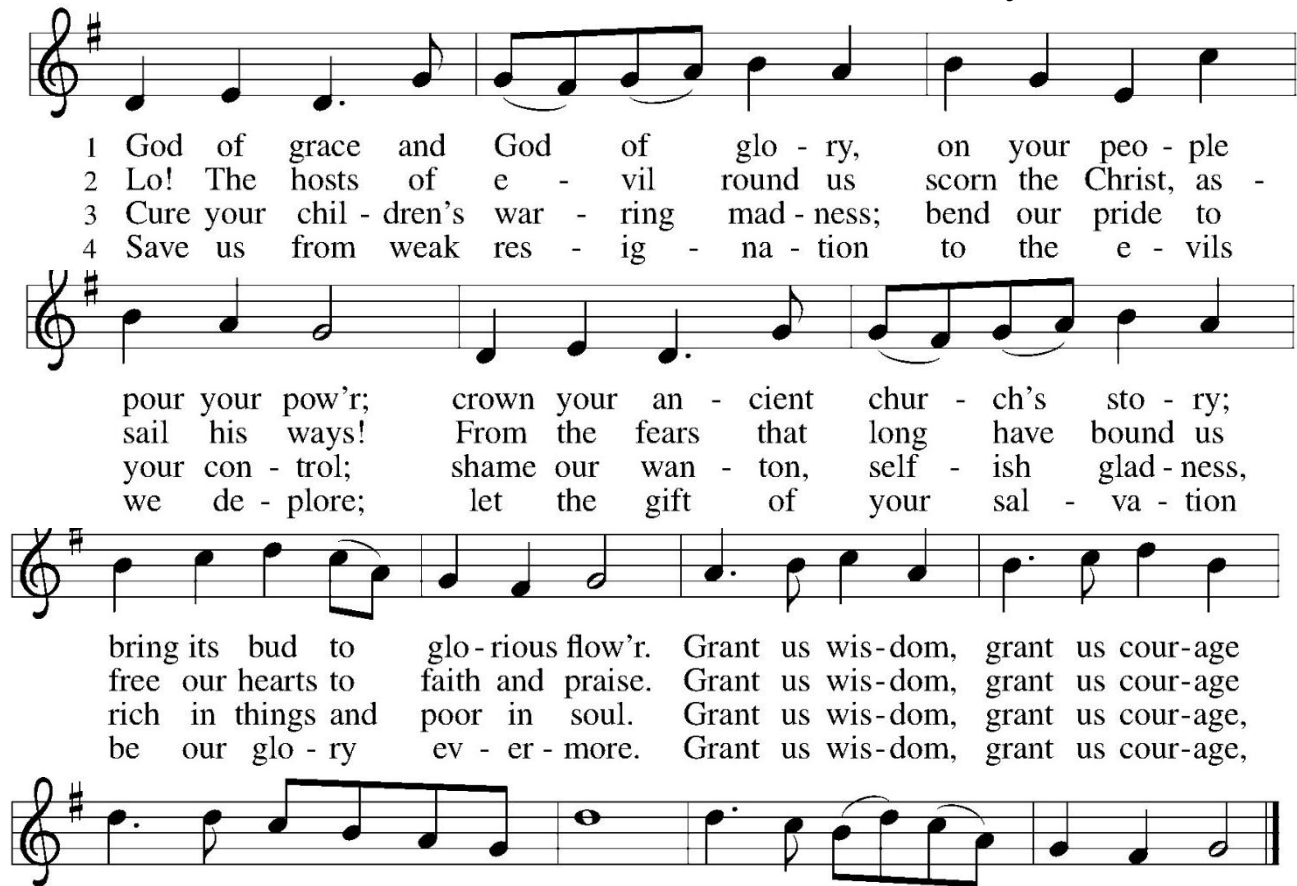
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

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

SENDING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW #705



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, October 25, 2026
10:00am Worship Service

OCTOBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH: R.E.W.A.R.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
7:30 Council Meeting on Zoom
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 pm Band Practice
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

GUEST PASTOR: Rev. Keith Ross	ALTAR GUILD: Amy Ludke & Brigitte Albrecht
MUSICIAN: Steve Malski	FLOWER GUILD: Joan Ludke
LAY READER: Brigitte Albrecht	VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
USHER: Tony Baglieri	COUNTERS: Tony Baglieri & Alex Boyce
GREETER: Valerie Nicolosi	COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Tom White
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Nancy Krause & Jerri Angermueller	

ABOUT THE PASTOR: Pastor Keith Ross is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America and currently serves as 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

Special Congregational Meeting: October 20th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
There will be a special congregational meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday October 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is called for the sole purpose of approving expenses connected with parking lot paving and striping on the church property. After extensive research over a number of years, the members of the council desire to proceed with total parking lot expenditures not to exceed \$70,500.00 The payment will be made using the Perzin funds.

Oktoberfest: Saturday, October 24th from 6-8:00 pm
Hosted this year by Nancy Krause, we will have sausages, frankfurters and other German foods. Please be sure to speak with Nancy if you can help...more hands always welcome!!

Book Club on Zoom at 7:00 pm:

November 9th: “The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife” by Anna Johnston

Bible Study: Join us on November 5th at noon for Bible Study. We are using the book **A is for Alabaster**. If you need a copy, check the church library or let Joan or Eleanore know.



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

Helen, Keith, Karen, Clyde & Lauren, Valerie's cousin, 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. & Dee, friends of Weintraub's

Brandon, Nancy, & Bobby, son, friend & 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

Roland, son of Eleonore

Family of Jason Gelman

Family of Janie Arcudi

The family of Rich Chimento

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