

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 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.**

¹A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

²No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.

You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

³Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us.

Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

⁴God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.

The kingdom's ours forever!

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 God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them

by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: 46 will be read responsively

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks
the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among
the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of

Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed;²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg.172

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to JOHN 8:31-36

Glory to you, O Lord

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Chorus: Build Up, Prepare the way.

Remove the obstructions from my people's way.

Build Up, Prepare the way. God is near, God is here today.

¹Break the chains of injustice. Let the oppressed go free.
Share our homes with the homeless and our bread with the hungry.
(Chorus)

² God sees all our destruction; how we get in love's way.
Still God comes and meets us with a steady healing embrace.
(Chorus)

Bridge: Then your light will break forth, like the dawn,
and your healing, will break into song. (Chorus)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, who sees and knows all things, who hears our prayers and listens to our cries, we lift these prayers to you, out loud and silently in our hearts. God of Mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. We thank you especially:

For the sustaining goodness of your creation
For the gifts of healing and forgiveness
For the gifts of relationships with others
For the communion of faith in your church
For what and whom else do we thank God out loud or silently?...God of Grace, **Hear our Prayer**

God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. We pray especially:

For our Bishops, Yehiel and Christa, and our missionary, Kristin
For those who govern nations of the world
For the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare
For all who work for peace and international harmony
For all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction
For the believers of Christ in every land
For those in need of healing and comfort
For what and whom else do we pray for out loud or silently?.....
God of Grace, **Hear our Prayer**

God of Grace, we cry out to you and pray for all those in need, knowing that prayer changes lives. For what else do we want to pray to God?..... God of Grace,

Hear our Prayer

Guide all who serve on the call committee with wisdom and faithful discernment, O God. Grant them patience and unity as they seek the pastor you are preparing for this congregation. Strengthen them in their work and bless this community at Messiah with trust as we await what you will provide. God of Grace, **Hear our Prayer**

God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

Name above All Names

ELW #583

Jesus, Jesus, name above all names,
the only name by which we must be saved.

Jesus, Jesus, name above all names,
the only name by which we must be saved;
the only name by which we must be saved.

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.

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 God Welcomes All ACS #978
God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

COMMUNION HYMN One Bread, One Body ELW #496
Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

¹Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. *Refrain*

²Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

³Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

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

Amazing Grace

Chris Tomlin

¹Amazing grace,
how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

²'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace
appear the hour I first believed

Chorus:

My chains are gone,
I've been set free
My God, my Savior
has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

³The Lord has promised
good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Chorusx2

⁴The earth shall soon
dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

23rd Sunday after Pentecost, November 1, 2026 | 10:00am Worship

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

TODAY'S MINISTERS

GUEST PASTOR: Rev. Keith Ross

& Susanne Herbst

BAND MEMBERS: Nick DeRoda,
Jerri & Klaus Angermueller,
Nancy & Steve Krause, and Jack

ALTAR GUILD: Nancy Krause &
Jerri Angermueller

LAY READER: Sabrina &
Megan Rotella

FLOWER GUILD: Brigitte Albrecht

USHER: Arnold Ludke

VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce

GREETER: Lee Haymon

COUNTERS: Nancy Krause &
Brigitte Albrecht

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

COORDINATING COUNCILOR:

Brigitte Albrecht

Nancy Krause

COFFEE HOUR:

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 pm Band practice
FRIDAY: Office Closed
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 returning to the book **A is for Alabaster**. If you need a copy, check the church library or let Joan or Eleanore know.

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



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 & 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, 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; 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

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