MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN — King of Kings — W&P #80

King of Kings and lord of lords: glory, hallelujah
King of Kings and lord of lords: glory, hallelujah
Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah
Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah

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 God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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: **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**
11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will
sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are
among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them
from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of
clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and
gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I
will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in
all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture,
and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they
shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture
on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,
and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost,
and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will
strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed
them with justice. 20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I
myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because
you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals
with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my
flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between
sheep and sheep.23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant
David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their
shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David
shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.
The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: 95:1-7a will be read responsively

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy
to the rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
3 For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**
5 The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
7a For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #172

Halle, halle, hallelujah. (x3)
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to **Matthew 25: 31-46**
Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his
glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his
glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will
separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep
from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the
goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry
and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to
drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you
gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison
and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord,
when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and
gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a
stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And
when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And
the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of
the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'
41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his
angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and
you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not
welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in
prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord,
when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked
or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will
answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the
least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into
eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY Days of Elijah Robin Mark

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the word of the Lord:
And these are the days of Your servant Moses,
righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
'Prepare ye the way of the Lord!'

Chorus*:* Behold God comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun,
at the trumpet call! Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!

[2]These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of Your servant David,
rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in Your world!
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the word of the Lord! Chorus

Bridge x4: There is no God like Jehovah.
There is no God like Jehovah!

Chorus (x2)

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 INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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 Blessed Be God, Who Forgives ELW #221

Blessed be God, who forgives all our sins,
who heals all our ills, who crowns us with mercy and love.

COMMUNION HYMN Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

Refrain: Here on Jesus Christ I will stand.
He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life.

[1]There's no other place I can hide
till the storm that rages subsides.
My voice cries to God from the flood,
and I'm saved because of his blood. *Refrain*

[2]It is not the work of my hands
that has washed away all my sins.
I'm redeemed, and all of my days,
Jesus Christ will be my heart's praise. *Refrain*

[3]When my days on this earth are done,
and I stand at God's holy throne,
my heart will not have any fear;
in Christ's righteousness I am here. *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
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING
The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *How Great Is Our God* Chris Tomlin

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty
Let all the Earth rejoice, all the Earth rejoice

He wraps himself in light and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands and time is in His hands
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son, the Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb
How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Name above all names, worthy of our praise
My heart will sing, how great is our God
You're the name above all names, you are worthy of our praise
And my heart will sing how great is our God

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God (3x)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2026
10:00am Worship Service

NOVEMBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH
Covenant House

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH
TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 pm Band Practice
THURSDAY-FRIDAY: Happy Thanksgiving | Office Closed
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

GUEST PASTOR: Rev. Keith Ross
BAND MEMBERS: Nick DeRoda, Jerri & Klaus Angermueller, Nancy & Steve Krause, Steve Malski, and Jack
ASSISTING MINISTER: Michele Weintraub
LAY READER: Brigitte Albrecht
USHER: Cesar Rios
GREETER: Megan Rotella
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Michele Weintraub & Arnold Ludke
ALTAR GUILD: Jerri Angermueller & Nancy Krause
FLOWER GUILD: Brigitte Albrecht
VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
COUNTERS: Nancy Krause & Cesar Rios
COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Tom White
COFFEE HOUR: Nancy Krause

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Daily Bread | Blessing of the Pledges:
Today we bless our stewardship pledges and give thanks for all the ways God provides for us. Your generosity helps Messiah share God's love through worship, care for one another, and service to our neighbors. **If you haven't yet turned in your pledge card, you are welcome to place it in the offering plate today or on any Sunday in the coming weeks.** Thank you for supporting the ministry we share.

Book Club on Zoom at 7:00 pm:
December 14: "Time is A River" by Mary Alice Monroe

Angel Tree: We will be purchasing for children who are guests of Ponds Food Pantry. Take a name from the tree, and don't forget to sign up on the list! Spend about $30 to ensure comparable gifts and please return gift by December 13th. Any questions, please contact Michele Weintraub, Kim Niland or Sue Boyce.

Cookie Baking and Tree Decorating: Join us on December 6th, after church, as the youth bake cookies for our coffee hours throughout December and to share with the community. Have a special cookie you want? Bring the dough and we'll bake it! Have a family favorite, share the recipe! Have a special request, but don't bake, speak to Linda Axtell!

Hey Parents!: We are looking to have our youth/Sunday school prepare a special song for Christmas or Advent using the instruments we purchased last spring. I will be in Sunday school one upcoming Sunday to find a song that the kids are familiar with and enjoy. I will also check with Steve to find a Sunday or two when the kids can practice. Regards, Sue

Bible Study: Join us on December 3rd 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.

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; 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; Michele H. & Dee, friends of Weintraub's; Brandon, Nancy & Bobby, son, friend & uncle of Kim; Peggy, Christine, Margie & Kathleen Alex's aunts & sister; 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; The family of Jason Gelman; The family of Janie Arcudi; The family of Rich Chimento

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

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