

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



August 14, 2022

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 14, 2022

**Congregation please stand if able*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today.
You are invited to make Messiah your church home.*

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen

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

P: Merciful God,

C: *we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.*

P: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

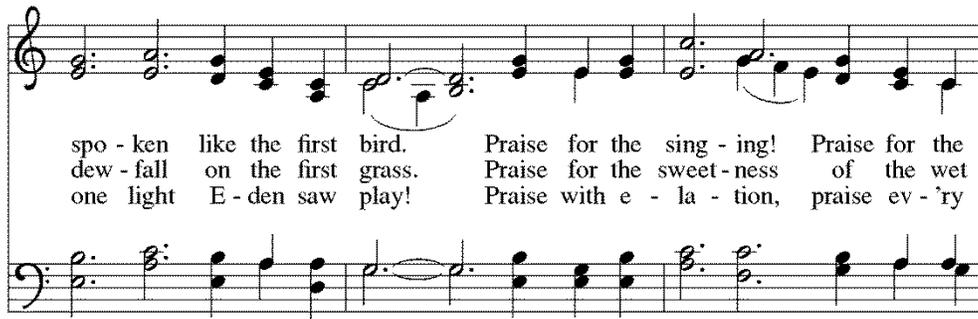
C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Morning Has Broken* (ELW 556)

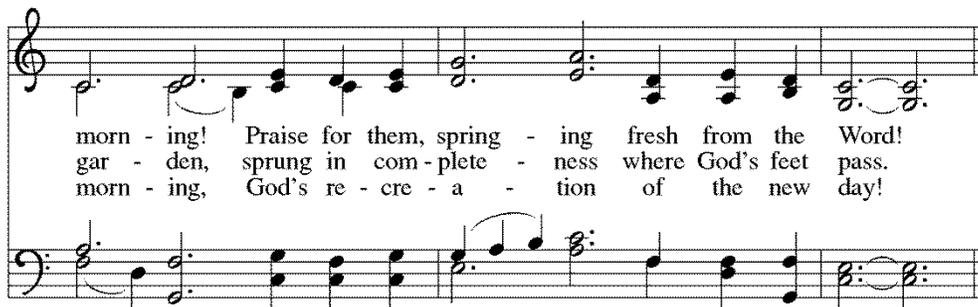
Morning Has Broken



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *And also with you.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Lector

A reading from Jeremiah.

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 11:29--12:2

Lector

A reading from Hebrews.

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the

mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

HYMN OF THE DAY *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord (ELW 580)*

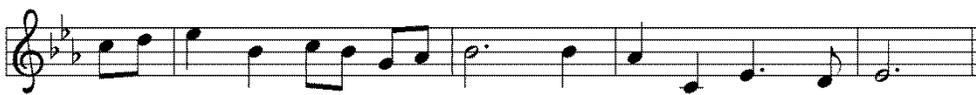
How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
 if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
 whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
 and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
 the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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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

A: Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer. *[Brief silence]*

A: Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters. Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by racist discrimination, ableist discrimination, gender discrimination, and discrimination based on sexual orientation – especially when any of these forms of discrimination lead to violence. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep (*concerns may be named*). In our joy and in our tears, be near us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, You have generously blessed us with families. Thank you for your guidance and protection. As you love and care for us, may we also always love and care for our families and keep them in our prayers. We pray this week for the Porter, Radtke, Ravizza families as well as our Messiah family. May You keep us all from danger and sickness and guard our hearts so that we are reminded of Your Grace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

C: Amen.

PEACE-IN-PLACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***Please share signs of peace with those in your immediate vicinity only. If any are not comfortable making physical contact during the peace, please share peace in other ways.*

THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: *Christ has died.*

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: *Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: *Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.*

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: *Amen*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: Amen

SENDING SONG

Lead On, O King Eternal!

(ELW 805)

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, August 14, 2022

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst) Diana Sondor (2nd Lay Asst.) Marilyn Gunn
- Lectors: Marilyn Gunn
- Acolyte: Michael Sondor
- Greeters: Sally Bennett
- Ushers: Chris Sondor & Bill Weaver
- Altar Guild: Donna Combs and Marilyn Gunn
- Counters: Sharon & Jake Addair
- Live Streamer: Heather Williams

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

| | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Aug 14 | Worship Service (Messiah Lutheran) | 10:45 AM |
| Aug 17 | PAL Group | 9 AM – 12 PM |
| Aug 17 | MLC Council Meeting | 6:15 PM |
| Aug 21 | Worship Service (Messiah Lutheran) | 10:45 AM |
| Aug 28 | Worship Service (Messiah Lutheran) | 10:45 AM |

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week. To set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Here is this week's information based on our 2022 budget.

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,258.49 (up from \$3,092.67 through August 7, 2022).
- We are \$26,032.22 behind the year-to-date budget needs. (decreasing from \$30,359.22)
- Weekly budget need is \$4,072.

CAN YOU HELP?

MCEF will again have "Back to School" shopping for the children of our clients. We will be helping families with school supplies as well as clothing needs. You can help by donating school supplies of any kind. See the bulletin board if you need suggestions. We will have a box in the narthex or you can place them in the MCEF basket. Any extra items will be donated to "Tools for Teachers". THANK YOU!

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

Please stay tuned to your emails, or keep a tab open for Messiah's website or Facebook page, to check in for weekly midweek messages from Pastor Ryan for the rest of the summer. He will be sharing some reflections from the book *Betrayal: German Churches and the Holocaust* as a framework to discuss a recent upswing of conversation in the public square around the idea of "Christian Nationalism."

BIBLE STUDY: WOMEN IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Join Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick on Zoom for a Bible study, for five Tuesdays: September 6-October 4, 7:00-8:15 pm. The Gospel of John is filled with stories of Jesus' encounters with women – Mary, the Mother of Jesus; Martha of Bethany; the Samaritan woman at the well; Mary Magdalene; and many others. From these experiences, we learn much about Jesus (Martha tells us he is "the Messiah, the Son of God"!) and much about how Jesus calls us all to follow, to witness, and to lead (Mary Magdalene is the first to proclaim: "I have seen the Lord!"). Expanded from Pastor Kelly's Power in the Spirit Workshop, this study invites participants to dig deeper.

Participants are welcome to attend just one session or all five. Go to vasynod.org and look for "Upcoming Events" to register.

KINDRED HOSPICE

Beth Clifton, the volunteer coordinator from Kindred Hospice, will be speaking briefly about volunteering opportunities with Kindred Hospice. She will also be available after service to answer any questions.

A SIMPLE WAY TO EVANGELIZE

LIKE, LOVE, SHARE Messiah's Facebook or Instagram posts! It's that simple. Every day there are posts made to our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>, that include a post on that day's liturgical reading along with a Christian inspiration post that is also posted to our Instagram Page, <https://www.instagram.com/messiahmech/>. LIKE, LOVE, SHARE. Evangelism can be that simple.

NEXT PAL MEETING (August 17, 2022)

Messiah's quilting group will continue to meet during the summer. If you are unable to attend contact either Gladys (814) 449-1392 or Cheryl (804) 366-0074. Decision to cancel will be made if there are only a couple attending for any of the summer dates. We will continue to put together quilt squares for tops and assemble quilts.

MCEF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MCEF needs Volunteers to help seniors in Mechanicsville: MCEF needs volunteer ride coordinators and drivers for seniors and disabled persons who can no longer drive themselves. MCEF's Senior Rides program helps our seniors and disabled stay in their homes by giving rides to medical appointments, to the grocery store or to do personal business. Ride coordinators schedule the rides and inform the drivers of the needed rides. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and choose the rides to fit their schedule. Drivers are reimbursed \$.50 per mile to offset the cost of gas. If you can share a few hours each month and have a desire to help our seniors please contact MCEF Senior Rides at (804) 357-9360, or by email at: <<mailto:Office@4mcef.com>> Office@4mcef.com.

COVID PROTOCOLS UPDATE FROM COUNCIL

The newest community levels posted by the CDC have Hanover County still in the "high" category for COVID cases. According to the protocols the Church Council set if numbers were to reach this level again, we will be requiring masks for all activities in the building. Once we drop down to and stay in "Medium" for two weeks, we'll go back to masks encouraged; two weeks in the low range and we'll lift restrictions and recommendations. We will continue to monitor the reports and keep you all posted. Please continue to pray for those who are sick and their families, for our community, and for this latest wave to be the last.