

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*September 28, 2025
Sixteenth 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

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available upon request.

** Please stand as you are able **

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

P: The word has come for us from God:

C: who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.

P: The word has come to us from Jesus:

C: who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.

P: The word flows to us from the Spirit:

C: who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: The blessings of each day: food to eat, clothes to wear, contentment with all we have, whether rich or poor. This is life in your kingdom.

C: How difficult, Lord, to walk along this road, when the world tempts us with much that which desire, but do not need.

A brief silence for reflection.

P: Forgive our weakness,

C: and teach us again to know the contentment of having enough, and sharing not only from our riches but also from our poverty.

P: Hear the words of Christ who is merciful:

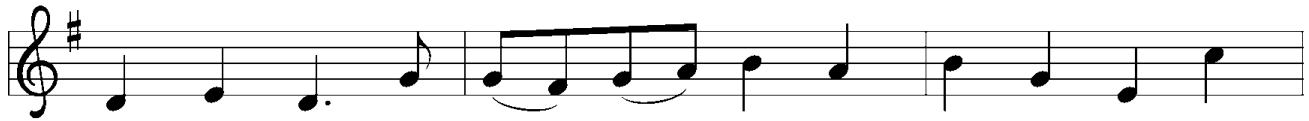
"I deliver all who cling to me, answer those who call me, stand with those in trouble. These I rescue and honor and show my power to save."

Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***GATHERING SONG – God of Grace and God of Glory**

ELW 705



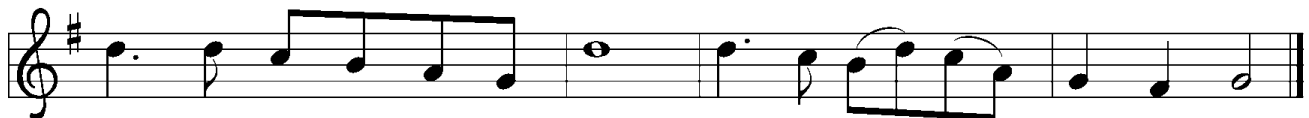
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



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,



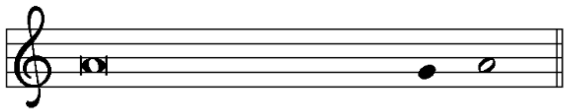
for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

***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.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



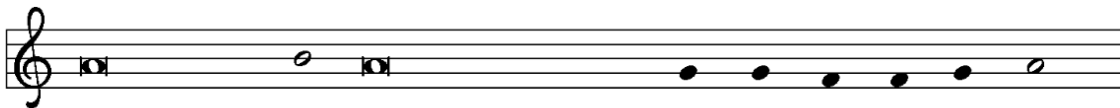
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

(ELW p.148)

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray:

C: O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Lector

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

A reading from Amos.

^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,

⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,

⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Lector

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

A reading from 1 Timothy.

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold

of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 151)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Luke 16: 19-31**

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip

of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.'
²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷ He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰ He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

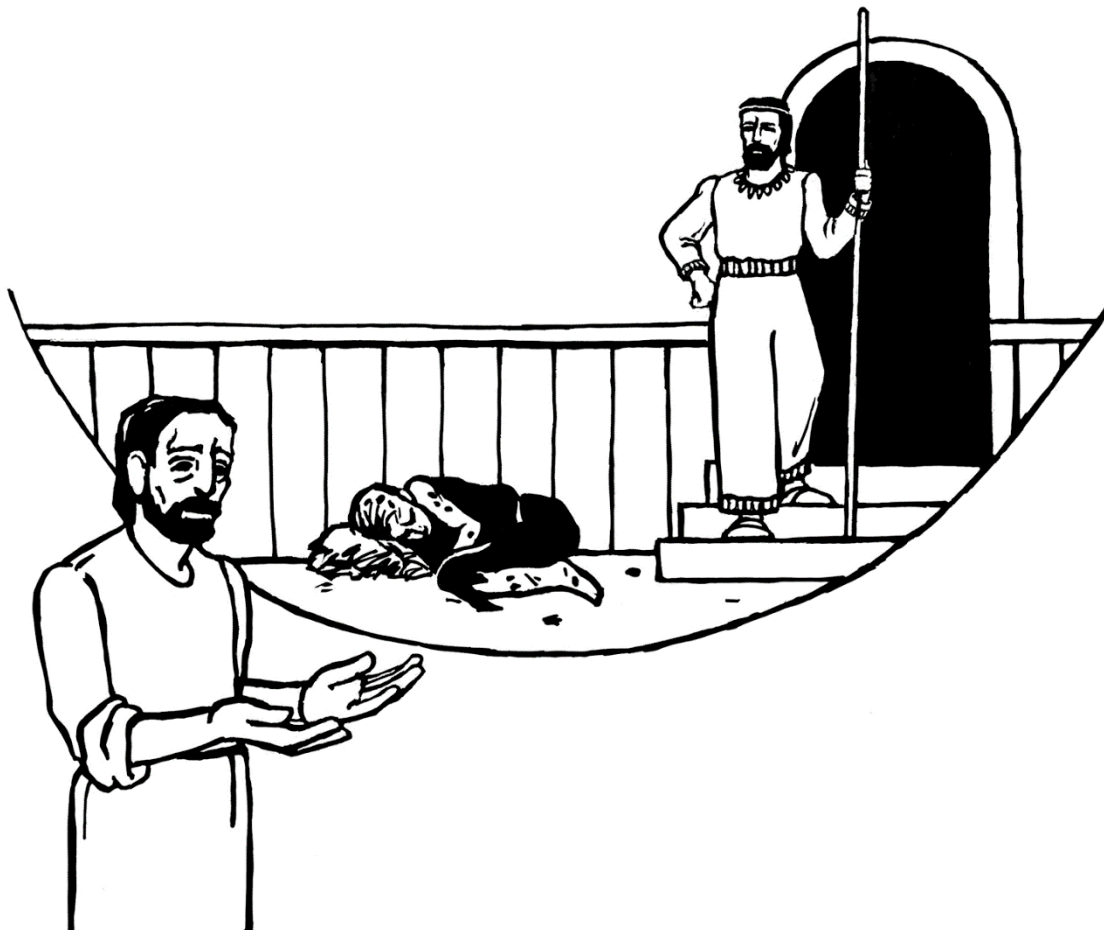
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke





1 Co - rre_el vien-to_en es - ta gran ciu - dad, mu - chos tem - bla -
 1 Wind and cold roar through the cit - y street; some folk have no
 2 Those with - in may swell with civ - ic pride; man - y wait out -
 3 Vi - o - lence and ha - tred, near and far, ter - ror, slaugh - ter,



rán: per - dón, Se - ñor. Pa - ra u - nos hoy ha - brá ca -
 heat: for - give us, Lord. Man - y have warm homes, wool clothes to
 side: for - give us, Lord. Some have man - y chanc - es to suc -
 war: for - give us, Lord. You in - sist the hun - gry shall be



lor, pa - ra o - tros, no: per - dón, Se - ñor.
 wear; this is so un - fair: for - give us, Lord.
 ceed; oth - ers live in need: for - give us, Lord.
 fed; let us give them bread: for - give us, Lord.

Refrain / Estribillo



A - yú - da - nos a en - ten - der nues - tra
 Help us grasp how this is our sin; teach us,



cul - pa, oh Se - ñor. Nues - tras a - le - grí - as son do -
 save us by your cross, for the things we crave and seek to



lor pa - ra mu - chos hoy: per - dón, Se - ñor.
 win cost our neigh - bors loss. For - give us, Lord.

2 *Esta gran ciudad progresará,
 muchos sufrirán: perdón, Señor.
 Para unos, la oportunidad,
 para otros, no: perdón, Señor.*

3 *Guerras y más guerras por la paz,
 muchos morirán: perdón, Señor.
 Muchas manos se levantarán
 reclamando pan; perdón, Señor.*

Text: Homero R. Perera, 1939–2019; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: CORRE EL VIENTO, Homero R. Perera
 Spanish text and music © 1968 Homero R. Perera
 English text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

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***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for people in any need (*especially*). Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Gracious God, you created us to live in community. Bless our families, in all their shapes and sizes. Sustain and strengthen all our communal connections. We especially pray this week for the Shea, Sondor, and Starrett families, as well as our Messiah family. Grant all help where needed, and foster love and appreciation. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***OFFERING SONG – We Are an Offering**

ELW 692

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
Lord use our voices
Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives they are Yours
We are an offering

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
We are an offering

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You

*Dwight Liles
CCLI Song #16220*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Lord God, who provides us with everything we need,

C: we come before you in prayer, ready to acknowledge you as the Creator of every single aspect of life that is good. From the spectacular to everyday necessities; from the splendor of majestic mountain ranges or balmy beaches, to the simple pleasures of life that come to us endlessly each day. We know that you seek nothing other than faithfulness and full participation in life as you intend it; but today we do bring you these gifts, and the gifts offered in other ways, as tokens of our resolve to play our part in the work of the church, and the establishment of your Kingdom. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW p. 152)

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 our 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

ELW p. 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

*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 is 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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG – *Lamb of God*

(ELW p. 154)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*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**



***SONG AFTER COMMUNION – Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise**

ELW 204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

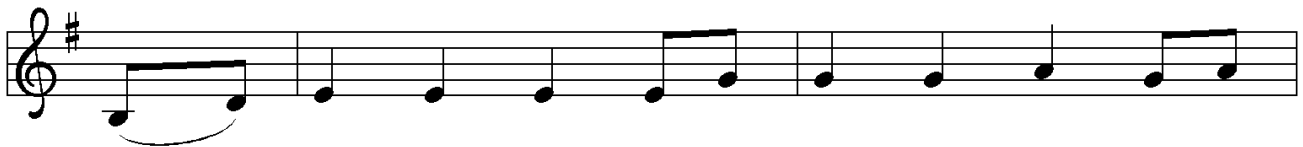
C: Amen

***BLESSING**

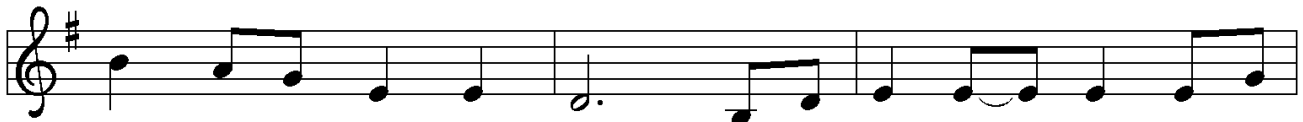
P: Go now and take hold of the life that really is life.
Shun the eagerness for money but be rich in good works.
Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

And may God be your refuge and fortress;
May Christ Jesus + free you from all that ensnares you;
And may the Holy Spirit provide you with everything for godliness and contentment.

C: Amen.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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***DISMISSAL**

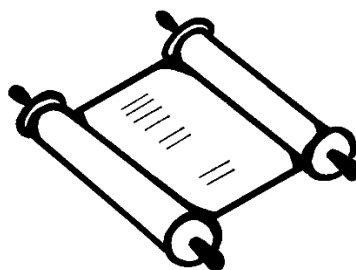
A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Call to Worship: written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies.
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/2010/09/25th-sunday-in-ordinary-timeproper-20-c.html>
Confession & Forgiveness: written by John Birch, and posted on his Faith and Worship website,
<http://www.faithandworship.com/>; and Copyright © 2001 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net
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SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – September 28, 2025

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Glady Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Ella Anderson
- Lector: Teresa Gigante
- Acolyte: Dean Anderson
- Greeter: Nancy Berg
- Ushers: Daren Williams & Max Williams
- Altar Guild: Glady Hubert & Andrea Alness
- Counters: Glady Hubert & Donna Combs
- Live Streamer: James Anderson



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

September 28	Christian Formation (w/ Confirmation class)	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Youth Lunch & Bowling	12:30 PM
October 1	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
October 2	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
October 5	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	First Sunday Fellowship	
	Congregational Meeting	12:15 PM
October 7	Banner Team	1:00 PM
October 8	Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM
October 9	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
October 12	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
October 15	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
October 16	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
October 19	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
October 21	Banner Team	1:00 PM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
October 22	Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM
October 23	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM

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Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be attending the annual Gathering of the Ministerium event for leaders in the Virginia Synod this week, but aims to be in on Friday after he gets back. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Numbers For the 37th Sunday of 2025:

- Average Contributions to current were \$3526.71
- Contributions for current Sept 21st were \$1,328.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$130,488.28
- For comparison, current YTD 2024 was \$138,897.87
- Designated Giving for the 37th Sunday was \$0.00

MORE THAN DECOR: FAMOUS PROPHETIC VERSES IN CONTEXT

Maybe you've seen - or maybe you even have - some beautiful wall art with a Bible verse in a nice font, maybe with a nature scene or something like that in the background. What a nice way to display important Scripture! But sometimes we see some verses so much in neat and tidy frames that we can forget the messy contexts into which they were originally spoke, and the power they can, and should, have on our lives.

This fall we'll look at some well-known and often art-ified verses from Micah, Amos, Jeremiah, and more. We'll dig into their original contexts and prayerfully discuss what claims these verses make on our lives today.

BUDGETS AND NOMINATIONS

It's that time of year again - it's time for all teams and ministries to consider what their budget requests will be for 2026. Church Council will be working on creating the new year's budget over the next month or two, and your input is essential! Also, we will have at least two positions coming open on Church Council as some members terms come to their limit. We give thanks for their dedication and service, and we ask for you all to prayerfully consider taking up their roles. Please send all nominations and budgets to the church office.

FOR THE LOVE OF CREATION: CARE OF CREATION TAPESTRY THREAD EVENT

Join with the Virginia Synod Tapestry Team as we celebrate the Season of Creation with via Zoom meetings on Tuesdays October 7 and 14. Co-Thread Leaders Dr. Bill Franz and Sister Phyllis Cox will lead the two discussions. The first is on how self-care is creation care. The second is on creation, climate, and us. Visit <https://vasynod.org/event/for-the-love-of-creation/> for more information and to register.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OCTOBER 5TH

There will be a Congregational Meeting following our worship service on Sunday, October 5th. At a recent Church Council meeting, a member asked if we could send a letter to our Representatives and Senators regarding federal programs that serve the poor, needy, and vulnerable. The Church Council discussed this proposal, including both the merits and potential challenges of sending such a letter. In the end, a draft letter has been created and reviewed by the Church Council, and we are now sharing the draft with the congregation and holding a Congregational Meeting to discuss whether and how to send it. We are hopeful that this is an opportunity to discuss together, in Christian love, how to love and serve our neighbors; a chance to find common ground in a divided society, centered on loving and serving our neighbors; and a time to learn together.

While we are already meeting, the Church Council would also like to have a prayerful time of brainstorming about outreach and ministry opportunities in our communities, and how the members of Messiah Lutheran can match our shared passions and values with the needs of our neighbors.

We look forward to considering these things together, and for First Sunday fellowship, too!

Y.O.U.T.H. IN ACTION (YOUTHFUL OUTREACH TO UPLIFT AND THRIVE IN HOLINESS)

MLC Youth Bowlers: We will be meeting at MOD Pizza for lunch before going to Bowlero! Plan to head over to 7001 Mechanicsville Tpke following church. See you there!

LOST & FOUND REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Lost and Found, the annual faith-sharing retreat for 7th and 8th graders and their adult advisors, will take place Friday, November 21st through Sunday, November 23rd at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg. Visit <https://vasynod.org/event/lost-and-found/> for more information, and talk to Pastor Ryan if you have any questions.

EPIC IS BACK!

If you weren't able to attend EPIC - Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations - this past spring, you have another chance on November 8th at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg. EPIC is a one-day leadership development conference that is designed to strengthen congregational members and rostered leaders for their ministries in the congregation and in the world. Visit <https://vasynod.org/event/epic-in-harrisonburg/> for more information or talk to Pastor Ryan.

BANNER TEAM

The Banner Team will meet on the first and second Tuesday of each month. This month we will meet on October 7th and 21st in the church fellowship hall. We need to make some progress in order to get the banners we are working on finished to share with the congregation. Anyone who wants to help work on the banners is welcome to join us – just bring your own pair of scissors please.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study Group has started a new study book, *A Lineage of Grace - Five Stories of Unlikely Women Who Changed Eternity* by Francine Rivers. We are currently finding out about Tamar who was forced to marry Er, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob. We are learning about the way They lived at that time and what Tamar had to go through to survive long enough to bring forth the next child in the Family Tree of Jesus. Please feel free to join us to find out more. The groups meet at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. This month we will be meeting on Wednesday, October 8th and 22nd. If you have questions talk to Nancy Berg, Marilyn Gunn, or Donna Combs.

MCEF NEWS

August finished the summer with 171 visits to the OSS (One Stop Shop food pantry). 236 well filled bags of groceries were received by the clients and 126 individuals were assisted with clothing and linens (sheets and towels). Seniors Rides provided 161 rides for seniors to doctor appointments, etc. The Annual 911 Concert featuring the Hanover String Orchestra was a great success.

It is time to think about Thanksgiving bags for the clients. The needed items include corn, collard/mixed greens, carrots, boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and brownie mix. Distribution will begin October 27, so early donations are appreciated as are ALL donations. This will be in addition to the normal offerings of food.

Current pantry needs include pancake mix and syrup, toothpaste and shampoo. Winter clothing that is clean and in good repair is being accepted. Men's jeans would also be appreciated.

Many thanks for all you do. See the website for more information, 4mcef.com.

PRESIDING BISHOP INSTALLATION

The presiding bishop installation will take place Saturday, Oct. 4, at 2 p.m. Central time at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn. The service is open to the public and will also be livestreamed. Presiding Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry will be installed, and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preside over the service. A public reception to greet the new presiding bishop will be held at Central Lutheran Church following the installation. A recording of the installation will be available for those unable to attend.



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The Rev. Ryan Radtke, Pastor

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Rosalee Duke
Vice President	Sharon Addair
Secretary	Cory Gooch
Treasurer	Emily Reagan
Financial Secretary	Dona Polesky
Parish Nurse	Sue Gilnett, RN

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES/TEAM LEADERS

MINISTRY	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES	TEAM LEADER
Christian Formation	Heather Williams	
Evangelism	Cory Gooch	
Fellowship	Teresa Gigante	
Finance	Rosalee Duke	
Property	John Shea	
Social Ministry	Sharon Addair	
Stewardship	Daren Williams	
Worship	Cheryl Griffis	

