

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Mechanicsville, VA 23111
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Website: MessiahMech.com

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

ALL SOULS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9077 Atlee Road,
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116
(804) 559-9302

Website: www.allsoulsva.org

Vicar: The Rev. Katherine Dougherty

Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart
as we worship today.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available upon request.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GATHERING SONG – *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

ELW 579



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap -
3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they
5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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OPENING ACCLAMATION

P: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

LEVAS 63

GLORIA – *Glorious is the Name of Jesus*

Glo - rious is the Name of Je - sus, Prais - es to His
Name. Oh, glo - rious and right - eous and
Ho - ly is His Name. Oh, glo - ri - ous is His
Name. I feel His pres - ence
in this place, His Spir - it has con - trol, Can't you
feel His warm em - brace and all the joy with-in your
soul, Oh, glo - ri - ous is His
Name, Oh, glo - ri - ous is His Name.

Text: Robert J. Fryson, 19441994 Tune: Robert J. Fryson, 19441994 © 1982, Bob Jay Music Co.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together:

C: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Reader

A Reading from 1 Kings:

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



We will read responsively by whole verse. The Reader will read the odd verses this week and the People will read the even verses.

- ¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore obey them with all my heart.
- ¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**
- ¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
- ¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
- ¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- ¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
- ¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

Reader

A Reading from Romans:

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ELW 751

***SEQUENCE HYMN – Oh Lord, Hear My Prayer (Verse 1)**

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Text: Psalm 102:1–2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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***THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

***SEQUENCE HYMN – Oh Lord, Hear My Prayer (Verse 2)**

ELW 751

After hearing the Gospel, we will sing one verse from the Sequence Hymn

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
 2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
 3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
 4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er

Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
 fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
 test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
 truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock - ing,

strong our weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
 truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
 shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
 ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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THE 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**

R: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

R: God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

R: God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

R: God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

R: God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

R: God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

R: God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

R: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C: *Amen.*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: *you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.*

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: *Amen.*

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT LITURGY OF COMMUNION



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come."

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW p. 206)

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

San-to, san - to, san - to Dios de glo - ria y po - der,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might,

cie - los y tie - rra pro - cla - man tu glo - ria.
heav - en and earth . . . are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ben - di - to a - quel que vie - ne en el nom - bre de Dios.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en los cie - los.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

P: 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.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

P: Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

(ELW p. 208)

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: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG 1 – 'Tis the Gift to Be Simple, 'Tis the Gift to Be Free

SING TWICE



The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Tis the gift to be sim - ple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find our - selves in the place just right, 'twill be in the val - ley of love and de - light. When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed, to turn, turn, will be our de-light till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, #554 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Shaker song, 18th cent. Music: *Simple Gifts*, Joseph Brackett (1797-1822); acc. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922).

COMMUNION SONG 2 – *Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW 471



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



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



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



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

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

***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**

R: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table, and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen**

***BLESSING**

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fills your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

C: **Amen**

SENDING SONG *Go, My Children

ELW 543



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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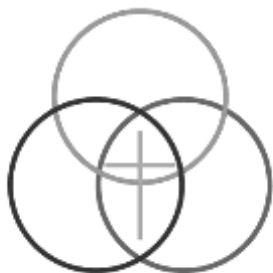
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***DISMISSAL**

R: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

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All Souls Episcopal Church



Messiah Lutheran Church

We give thanks for our worship as one body – as one community.

We are now sent forth to share God's love and light with the world. Our prayer is that today's worship has encouraged you in love, strengthened you for service, and filled you with grace.



For Pledges and Donations: During this month of our shared worship, an Offering Plate for each congregation is located in the back of the church. Your contributions to the life and ministry of our churches are greatly appreciated.



Each Church's Prayer List can be found by the Offering Plate at the back of the church. Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another. Praying for one another is one way to do as Jesus taught.



The flowers on the altar today are given by John & Stephanie Shea



Our Worship Assistants Today – July 26, 2026

Lay Assistants:	Will Radtke & Becky Collie
Readers:	Dorothy DeJong & Will Radtke
Acolyte(Crucifer):	Anna Radtke
Greeter/Ushers:	Gordon Gunn & Tom Bailes
Altar Guild:	Lois Schroeder & Lorrie Albertson
Live Streamers:	Heather Williams
Messiah Counters:	Donna Combs & Erna Jung
All Souls Counters:	Greg Haynes & Tom Bailes
Pianist:	Anita Tarbox

.....



Space for Infinite Possibilities...

*Come Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful and
kindle in us the fire of your love.*