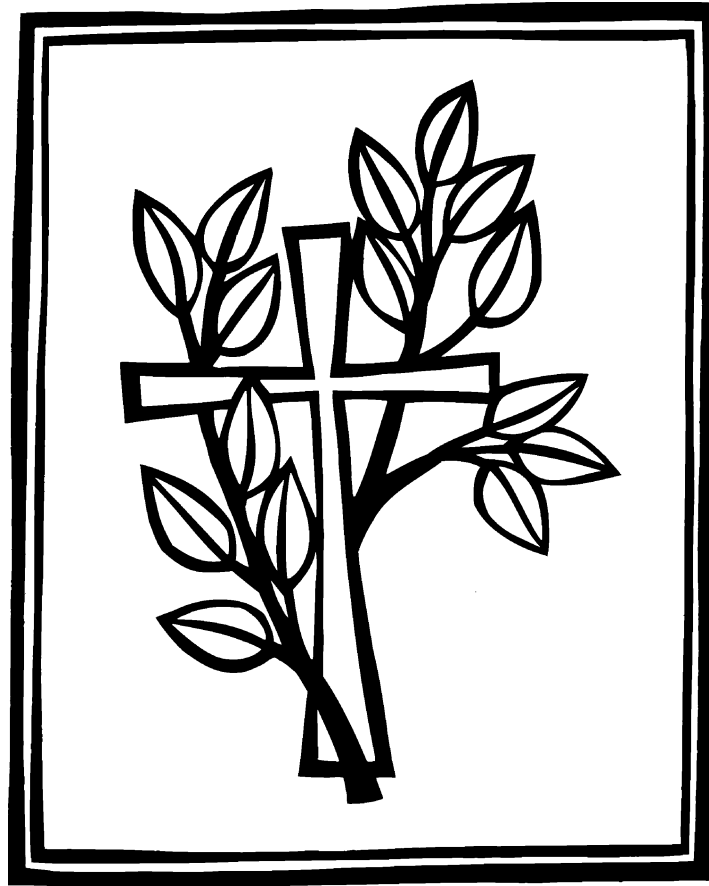


***Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia***



***August 30, 2026
Fourteenth 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

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

C: Amen.

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

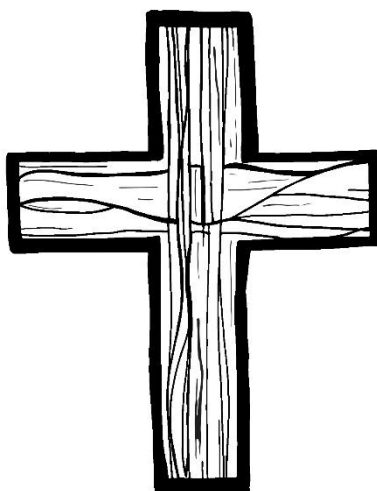
A brief silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

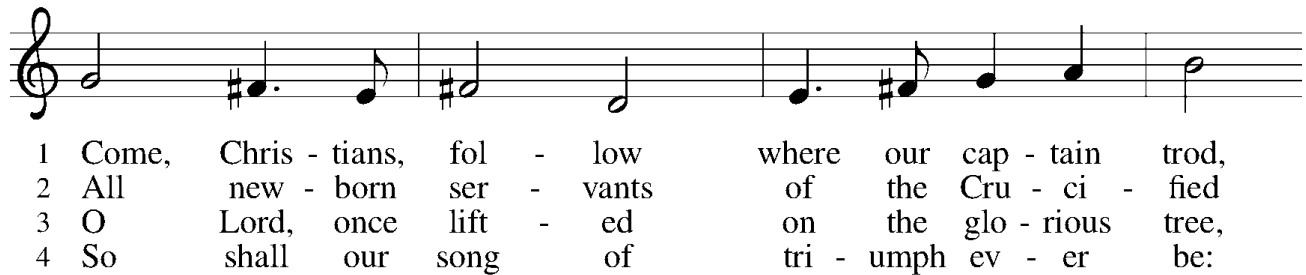
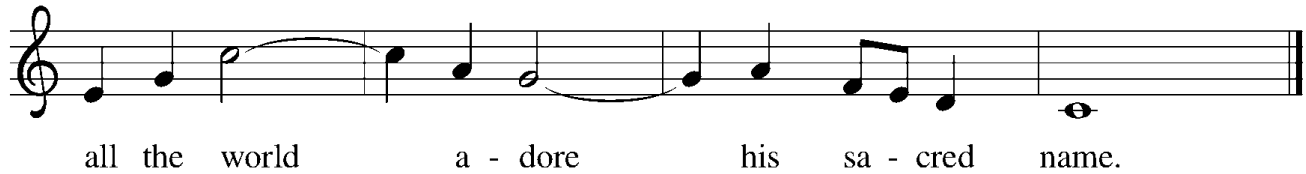
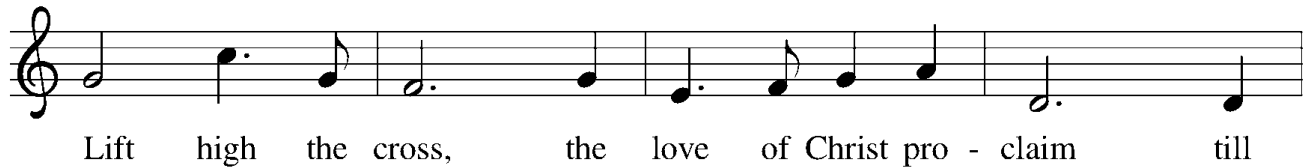
P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

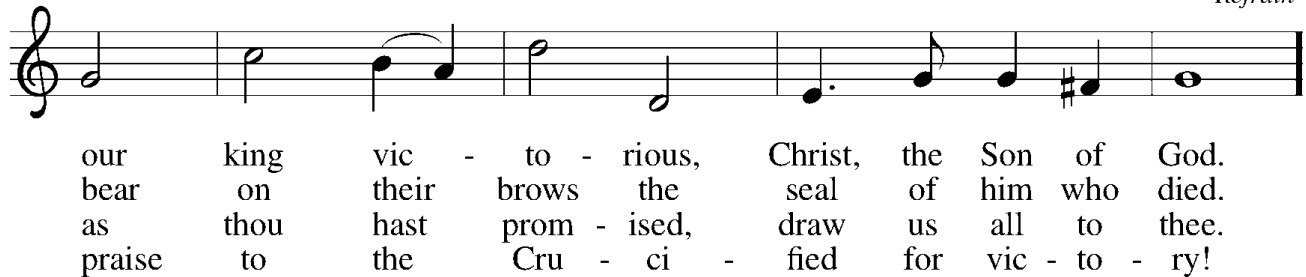


***GATHERING SONG – Lift High the Cross**

ELW 660



Refrain



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

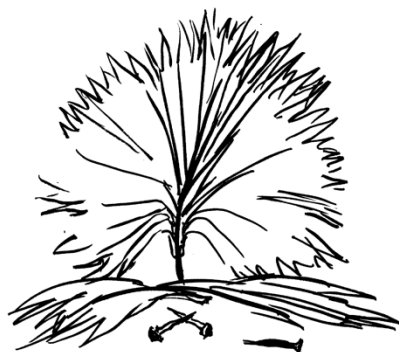
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***THE GREETING**

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.



TEXAS KYRIE

REFRAIN

L: Lord have mer-cy____ Christ have mer-cy____
C: Lord have mer-cy____ Christ have mer-cy____

L: We pray for peace from a - bove We pray for our sal va - tion.

to REFRAIN

L: We pray for peace in the__ world, We pray for well-ness in your

church, We pray for the u - ni - ty____ of all.

to REFRAIN

L: We pray for this ho - ly____ place. We pray for all who ga-ther here.

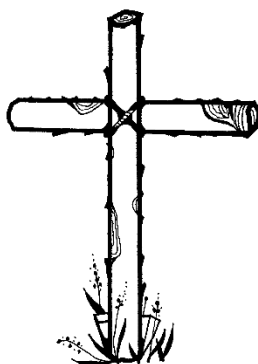
to CHORUS

L: Oh Lord__ help us, save us, Oh Lord__ com-fort and de-fend_ us.

to AMEN

AMEN

L: A - men____ A - men____
C: A - men____ A - men____



GLORY IN THE HIGHEST

[C:] Glo - ry in the high - est, Glo - ry be to God,
 Glo - ry in the high - est, And peace to all the earth.

[L:] Sha-per of the U - ni - verse thanks and praise we sing
 Je - sus Christ the Lamb of_ God you wash our sins a - way
 Ho - ly Spi-rit, source of_ life, bur-ning wild and free

[C:] Sha-per of the U - ni - verse thanks and praise we sing
 Je - sus Christ the Lamb of God you wash our sins a - way
 Ho - ly Spi rit, source of life, bur - ning wild and free

[L:] Lo - ving fa - ther, ca - ring mo - ther_
 At your ta - ble all are wel come_
 You are God the three - in - one_____

[C:] Lo - ving fa - ther, ca - ring mo - ther_
 At your ta - ble all are wel come_
 You are God the three - in - one_____

[L:] Hold us in your_ wings._____
 Hear us as we_ pray._____
 such a my - ste - ry._____

[C:] Hold us in your_ wings._____
 Hear us as we_ pray._____
 such a my - ste - ry._____

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: *O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Lector

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A reading from Romans.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

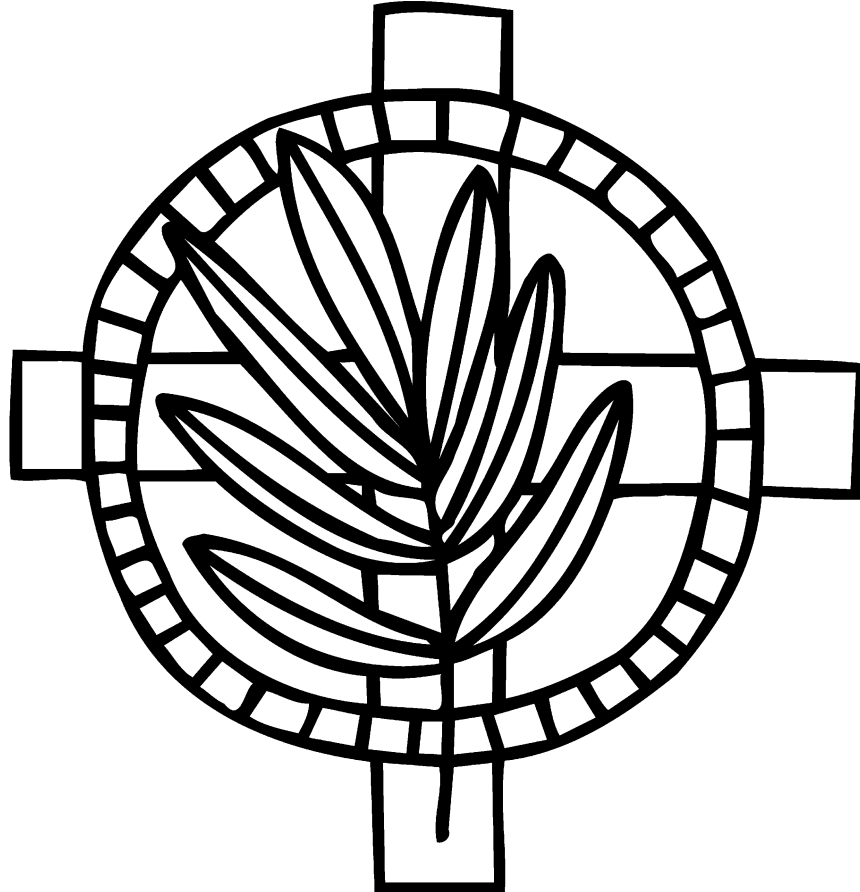
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke



Refrain



- 1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
- 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
- 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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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 OF INTERCESSION**

A: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A: For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

C: *receive our prayer.*

A: For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters (especially). Merciful God,

C: *receive our prayer.*

A: For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

C: *receive our prayer.*

A: For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (especially). Merciful God,

C: *receive our prayer.*

A: For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

C: *receive our prayer.*

A: For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of all relationships, bless this branch of the body of Christ that is Messiah Lutheran Church. Strengthen all its relationships and weave your love and grace into each family and household. We especially pray this week for the O'Brien, Philp, and Polesky families. Make us your people. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING – *You may place an “I give online” card in the plate as a physical offering*

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

ELW 692

Chorus 1

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

Bridge

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

Chorus 2

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

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

C: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

[L:] The Lord be with you Lift up your hearts
 [C:] And al - so with_ you. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give_ thanks to the Lord our_ God
 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

[C:] Ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord_____ Lord God of pow'r and might.

Hea-ven and_ earth are full_____ full of_ your glo - ry_

Ho - sa - nah in the high_ est_ Ho - sa - nah in the high - est_

Bles-sed is_ he who comes_____ in the name_____ of the Lord_

Ho - sa - nah in the high_ est_ Ho - sa - nah 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: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG – *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God you take a - way_ the sin of the world,

Have mer - cy, mer - cy on_ us Lamb of

God you take a - way_ the sin of the world,

Oh grant us peace, Lamb of_ God

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 – Praise to You, O God of Mercy**

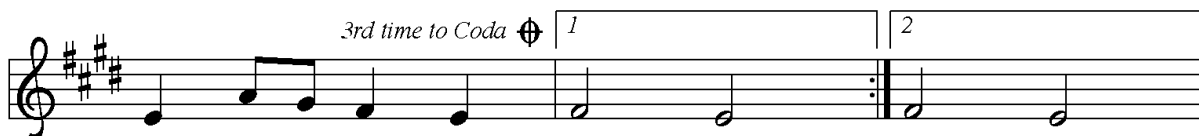
ELW 208



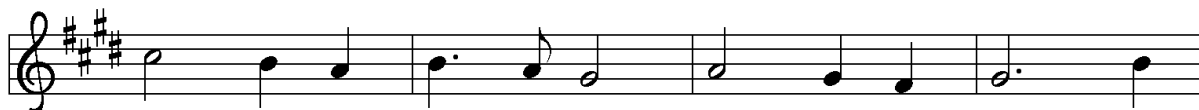
1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray:

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen

*BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: **Amen**

*SENDING SONG – *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

ELW 548

1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision
whose we are, and whose, our
praise.

Alleluia, alleluia;

God, the wonder of our days.

2 Rise, transformed, and choose to
follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are
hallowed

to release and to console.

Alleluia, alleluia;

Christ, our present, past, and goal.

3 Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
present by God's loving nurture,
Spirited then let us live.

Alleluia, alleluia;

Spirit, grace by whom we live.

4 Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Rise, O church, a living faith.

*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – August 30, 2026

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Teresa Gigante (2nd Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder
Lector: Ella Anderson
Acolyte: Dean Anderson
Greeter: Nancy Berg
Ushers: James & Allen Anderson
Altar Guild: Donna Combs & Marilyn Gunn
Counters: Donna Combs & Erna Jung
Live Streamer: Heather Williams



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

August 30	Worship Service	10:45 AM
August 31	Old Ivy Garden Club	10:00 AM
September 1	AA	5:30 PM
September 2	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
September 3	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 5	Sharon Addair Memorial Service	11:00 AM
September 6	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	First Sunday Fellowship	
September 8	AA	5:30 PM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
September 9	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 10	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 11	MCEF Patriotic Concert at Walnut Grove Baptist	7:00 PM
September 13	Rally Day All-Ages Kickoff Event	9:30 AM
	Worship Service with:	10:45 AM
	First Communion	
	Affirmation of Baptism	
	Quilt Blessing	
	First Sunday Potluck , Sunday School, Youth Group	12:30 PM
September 15	AA	5:30 PM
	AA Business Meeting	7:00 PM
September 16	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
September 17	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 20	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
September 22	Old Ivy Garden Club	9:15 AM
	AA	5:30 PM
September 23	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 24	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 26	Hanover Safe Place Rooted in Safety	11:00 AM
September 27	Worship Team Meeting	12:30 PM

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week, but especially aims to be in on Friday. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will change to Fall time on Tuesday, September 8. Office hours will be Tuesday/Thursday, noon-5:00 PM and Wednesday/Friday, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total giving received last week was \$2,191.00. This number includes giving to current (budgeted items), designated giving, electronic giving, and other miscellaneous gifts and income. To see a more detailed accounting of our income and expenses, please refer to the monthly Financial Secretary and Treasurer reports that are sent out with the Church Council minutes.

RALLY DAY KICKOFF!

September 13th is Rally Day! Our program year will be up and running once more. Everyone is invited to the Sunday school hour for a kickoff event. You are invited to an interactive experience before worship to see who you relate to in the Bible. Come and immerse!

During worship we will celebrate an Affirmation of Baptism...a First Communion...and a quilt blessing!

Then, after worship, you are invited to bring a dish to pass for a First Sunday *Potluck*. And we will be debuting our new Sunday school approach: we'll have an elementary class, a youth class/youth group, and a parenting-in-faith get-together for any parents or other guardians who are raising kids or teens. We'll use this after-worship schedule every first Sunday for the rest of the school year.

We're so excited to celebrate all these different aspects of our life together as Messiah Lutheran Church!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response is providing relief following earthquakes and flooding in a multitude of places around the country and world, as well as the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. Lutheran Disaster Response is already responding, with the help of established partners, to give aid and assistance. Visit the LDR website for ways to give, support, and participate, or talk to Pastor Ryan with any questions.

SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS AND TALENTS

Are you a singer? Maybe you play an instrument? We'd love to hear you! Messiah's Worship Team would like to invite folks with musical gifts to share them in worship. You could sing a solo or duet...you could play during the prelude or postlude...you could join in on a hymn...or whatever else might work! Don't have time in your schedule to be a regular choir member? Consider joining choir for a special festival anthem for Reformation Day or Thanksgiving or another special occasion. Music is truly a gift! If you have questions or curiosities or ideas about what might work for you, please talk to Debbie!

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMING UP...

Starting Sunday, September 20th, our adult Sunday school class will go back to basics using the book *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions*. Each week we'll explore some very good questions about our Holy Scriptures. We love questions! And then, stay tuned for more information about a new Zoom-based book study starting a little later this fall.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL QUILT PROJECT

Hello, Messiah seniors! It's that time of year. Are you a high school senior? We need your email address. Do you know a Messiah senior? We need their email address.

For the last two years, a group of quilters made - you guessed it! - quilts for Messiah's high school graduates. We'd like to do that again to celebrate your achievements. We will email you a short questionnaire...please fill it out and submit by December 1, 2026.

Have a Blessed Senior Year!

QUILTERS NEEDED

Do you like to quilt? Would you like to learn to quilt?

Would you like to join the quilters of the Messiah Lutheran Church High School Quilt Project? We would love to have you join us to make quilts for our Messiah high school graduates. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Cheryl Griffis at candlgriffis@gmail.com or call at 804-366-0074.

