

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



***September 13, 2026
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 13, 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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

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

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG –Ten Thousand Reasons**

ACS 1097

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up, it's a new day
dawning;
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies
before me,
let me be singing when the evening
comes. *Chorus*

Verse 2

You're rich in love and you're slow to
anger.
Your name is great and your heart is
kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on
singing –
ten thousand reasons for my heart to
find. *Chorus*

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is
failing,
the end draws near, and my time has
come;
still, my soul will sing your praise
unending –
ten thousand years and then
forevermore! *Chorus*

Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman

CCLI Song #6016351

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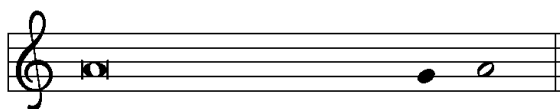
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***THE GREETING**

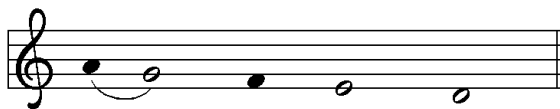
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *And also with you.*

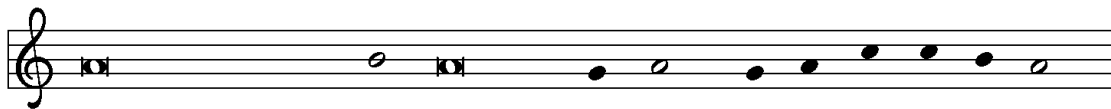




In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



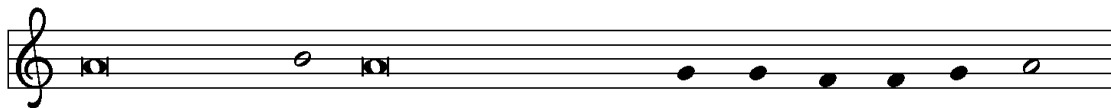
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

Lector

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

Lector

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

A reading from Romans.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

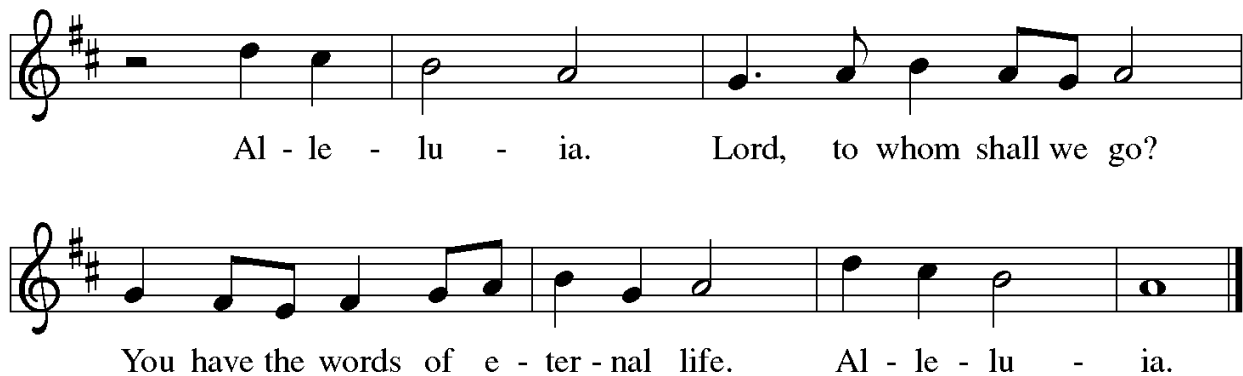
¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW p. 151



***GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience

with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

*HYMN OF THE DAY- *I Come with Joy*

ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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RITE OF AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

ELW p. 234

Presentation

ELW p. 234

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for this brother in Christ, one with us in the body of Christ, who is making public affirmation of his baptism.

A: I present Isaac Williams, who desires to make public affirmation of his baptism.

P: Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you for brother, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called him to yourself, enlightened him with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished him in the community of faith. Uphold all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: **Amen**

Profession of Faith

ELW p. 235

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God??

C: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: **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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **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.**

Reading of Faith Statement

Affirmation of Baptism

ELW p. 236

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

R: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support this brother in Christ and pray for him in his life in Christ?

C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in Isaac the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us rejoice with Isaac, our brother in Christ!

C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism! Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A: Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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 Rightnour, Schroeder, and Shaw families. Make us your people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

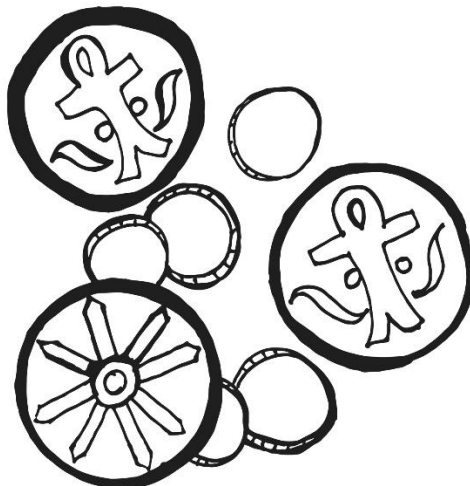
C: Amen.

***PEACE**

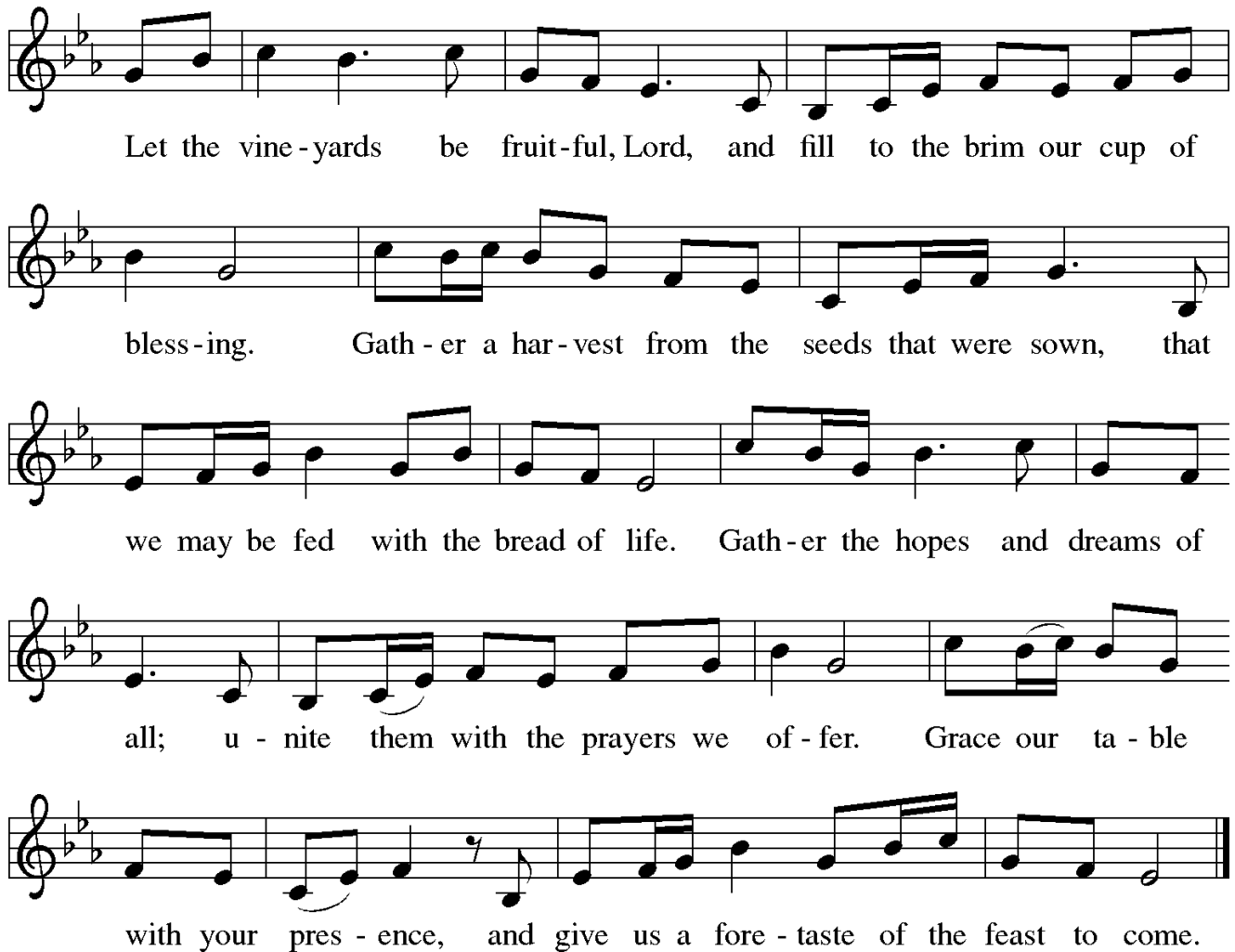
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

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



***OFFERING SONG – Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**



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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***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

C: *Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*



THE 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.

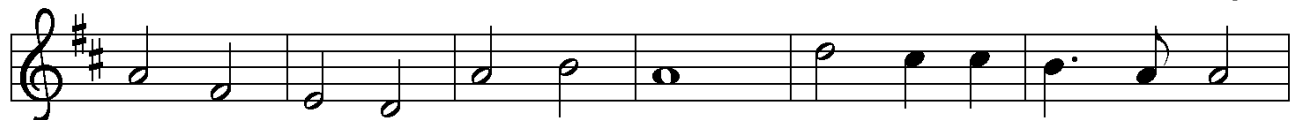
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*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, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.
You formed the earth from chaos;
you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light;
you nourish the lands with water.
You molded us in your image,
and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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 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.

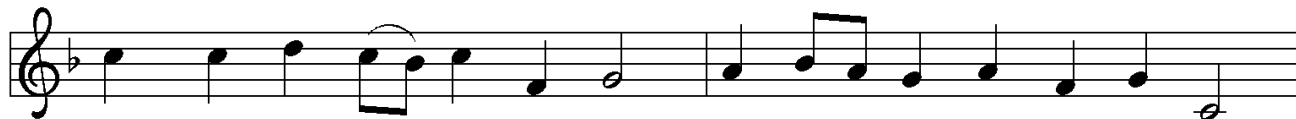
POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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 - joice 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
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*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray:

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: **Amen**

QUILT BLESSING

*BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

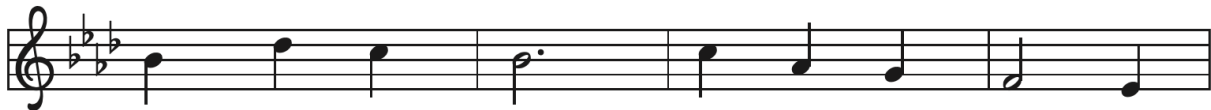
C: **Amen**



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – September 13, 2026

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder (2nd Lay Asst.) Diana Sondor
Lector: Donna Combs
Acolyte: Abby Schroeder
Greeter: Anita Philp
Ushers: Chris Sondor & Roger Schroeder
Altar Guild: Gladys Hubert & Andrea Alness-Tolbert
Counters: Donna Combs & Erna Jung
Live Streamer: Teresa Gigante

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

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 Service	10:45 AM
September 27	Worship Team Meeting	12:30 PM
September 28-30	Gathering of the Ministerium	All Day
September 29	AA	5:30 PM
October 1	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM

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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 Wednesday and Thursday. 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 be closed on Wednesday, September 16.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total giving received last week was \$4,780.00. 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!

TODAY 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. The interactive experience from before worship is still out: come and see who you connect to in the Bible!

During worship we will celebrate an Affirmation of Baptism for Isaac Williams...a First Communion for Wesley Williams...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.

MCEF

Next Sunday is Manna Sunday for MCEF. Suggested donations include packaged rice (1# bags), crackers (soda, Ritz or graham), canned vegetables (any kind) and canned tuna fish.

The fund raiser to celebrate the 50 years of MCEF is in full swing. Donations of any size may be made to 4mcef.com with 50 for 50 in the comment section, mail to MCEF, Box 604, Mechanicsville, VA 23111 or in your church envelope with MCEF 50 for 50 in the note section. Thank you for your continued support of your neighbors in need.

ONE MORE VOLUNTEER NEEDED
ROOTED IN SAFETY: A COMMUNITY WELLNESS GATHERING AT PUFFERBELLY PARK
RESCHEDULED

The event is organized by Hanover Safe Place at Pufferbelly Park in Ashland (500 Myrtle St, Ashland, VA 23005), and runs from 11am - 2pm on Saturday, September 26th. Our table will have 3 activities and some giveaways.

Volunteer schedule:

Team one: pick up stuff from church, set-up, 10:30-11:30

Team two: 11:30 - 1:00

Team three: 1:00 - 2:00, take down, take back to church

At this time we have 5 volunteers and one more will even out the schedule with each time slot having 2 volunteers.



THANK YOU, MESSIAH!

What an incredible response to our School Bus to Success school supply drive!

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to completely fill the school supply lists for all 13 foster children we were supporting through enCircle. When the Social Ministry Committee gathered to sort and inventory everything, we were amazed by how much had been donated. Only a few items were missing, and those were purchased so that every child received everything on his or her list.

The supplies were packed into backpacks or totes, delivered to enCircle, and have now been distributed to the children as they begin their new school year.

And your generosity went even further! We had a significant amount of supplies left after filling all 13 lists. Those supplies are being donated to Mechanicsville Elementary School for children in need. Any supplies they cannot use will be shared with other schools throughout the district.



And a Special Thank You to Our Youth!

We also want to give a big thank you to Messiah's youth for their hard work during their scavenger hunt benefiting Moments of Hope. The food and snack items they collected, sorted and packaged were delivered to Moments of Hope, where they were very much appreciated.

From helping foster children start school prepared, to helping provide food for neighbors experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, your generosity is making a difference right here in our community.

Thank you, Messiah! Small Church. Big Heart.



WORSHIP TEAM MEETING AND IDEA BOX

Following worship on Sunday, September 27th, everyone is invited to attend a worship team meeting. Messiah's worship team meetings are open to everyone who participates in worship, and we'd like to hear from all of you. We'll be having a conversation about our current worship practices and how we can grow. If you can't make it to the meeting (or if you just don't like talking in large group settings), and you have some input you'd like to share, please grab an "idea paper" and write down your question or idea. Put your paper in the box, and we'll include it at the meeting. Thanks in advance, and glory to God!





Messiah Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Ryan Radtke, Pastor

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Cheryl Griffis
Vice President	Cathryn O'Brien
Secretary	Cory Gooch
Treasurer	Emily Reagan
Financial Secretary	Dona Polesky
Parish Nurse	Sue Gilnett, RN

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES/TEAM LEADERS

MINISTRY	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES	TEAM LEADER
Christian Formation	Anita Philp	Anita Philp
Evangelism	Cheryl Griffis	Cheryl Griffis
Fellowship	Cathryn O'Brien	Becky Collie
Property	Daren Williams	
Social Ministry	Rosalee Duke	Stephanie Shea
Stewardship	John Shea	
Worship	James Anderson	Debbie Walker
Youth	Cory Gooch	