

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Messiah Lutheran Church
September 13, 2020

(440) 331-2405
MessiahChurchFairview.org

To our Guests: Welcome!

Worship Patterns in Pandemic Days

God be praised for every person here this morning and for all who are with us in spirit as they watch and pray at home. God strengthen us all through his word and promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The continued threat of coronavirus infection requires us to change our habits during the time we spend together. Please follow these rules to keep each other safe:

On entering—

- Masks are required. Please be sure to wear one.
- Sit only in pews marked with a bow.
- Keep the spacing rod between you and your family and the person or family at the other end.
- Greet each from a distance.

During the service—

- Refrain from singing. Instead, listen to the singers in the balcony and follow the words in the bulletin.
- When we share the Peace, do not hug or shake hands except with members of your own family. Wave or bow to the people around you.
- Offering plates will not be passed. If you missed the basket on your way in, place it there when you leave.

During communion—

- Keep a safe distance from the person in front of you as you approach.
- Hold out your cupped hands for the host. The pastor will not place this in your mouth or extended fingers.
- For the wine, take a cup from the basket, remove it from its bag, and hold it steady as the pastor fills it. Deposit the cup and bag in the receptacle as you return to your place.

As you leave—

- Unless you need the elevator, exit through front doors only.
- Feel free to gather on the front lawn for conversation, keeping safe distances.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 8:30 & 10 am

*The congregation is invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type*

Prelude

“In Thee Is Gladness,” J. S. Bach

Confession and Forgiveness

Remain seated

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Hear the testimony of John, our Lord’s apostle: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

A Let us pray. Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

P Is this also your prayer? If so, say “Amen.”

C Amen.

P Then, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand as you are able

Gloria

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



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

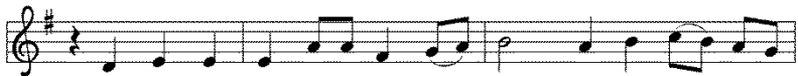


you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Refrain



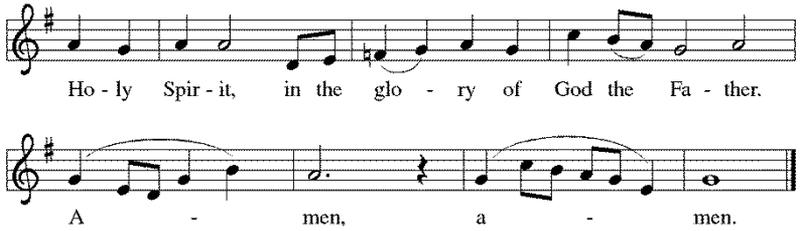
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Greeting

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

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. 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.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Word of God

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

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, ¹⁷Say 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.

The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

“Bless His Holy Name,” Mark Shepperd (8:30)

Presented by the Singers

Praise the Lord, O My Soul; bless His holy name.

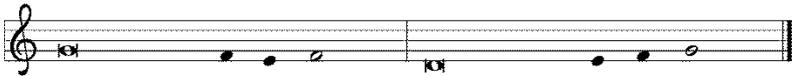
Praise the Lord, O My Soul; bless His holy name.

*Forget him not whose meekness still bears with all your sin,
Who heals your every weakness, renews your life within. Refrain*

*He offers all his treasure of truth and righteousness,
His love beyond our measure, He pities our distress. Refrain*

Psalm 103:8-13 (10)

Presented by the Singers



⁸**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**

⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

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 servants 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 in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in

honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

#169

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse. *Repeat alleluia*

We have | an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous;
your sins are forgiven on account | of his name.

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

At the announcement of the Gospel:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus 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. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be

made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

Pastor Bridger

Stand as you are able

Song of the Day

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive,” #605



1 For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say;
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers’ debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Confession of Faith

P With the Church of every time and every place, we confess our faith.

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

C **Amen.**

A I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

C **Amen.**

A 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.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord in your mercy. . . . **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Greet those around you with these or similar words, after which you may be seated in prayerful silence as the altar is prepared. Stand again as you are able at the pastor's invitation

Presentation of the Offering

“When Morning Gilds the Skies,”

Arr. by Larry Sue (ASCAP) (8:30)

“O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth,” Sandra Eithun

A Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, you adorn our lives with neighbors to love, bread to share, and good news to tell. Help us embrace our work with joy, and use what we have gathered to glorify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

C **Amen.**

The Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

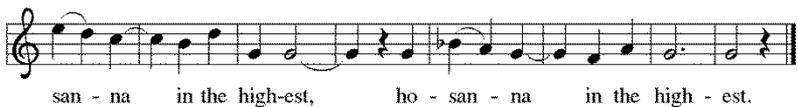
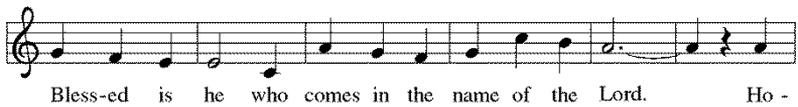
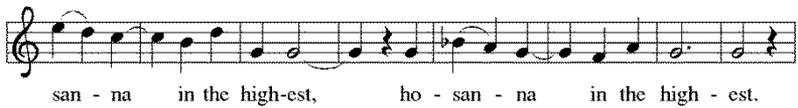
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

By the singers—



P It is certainly right to thank and praise you ... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P Gracious Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit . . . now and forever.

C **Amen.**

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

You may be seated

Communion

By the singers—

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.

When all have communed, stand as you are able

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

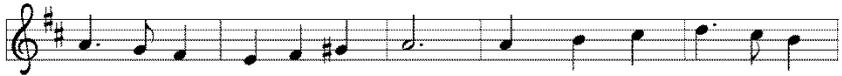
C Amen.

Sending Song

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” #733 stanzas 1, 3



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

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Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Pastor Bridger

Presiding Minister – Pastor Burce

Assisting Minister/Lector – Carl & Linda Herhuth (8:30); Mike Allan (10)

Acolytes – Noah Bridger

Joy Ringers (8:30) – Directed by Ruth King

Singers – Darla Neumann, Dale Mortensen (8:30);
Anthony Reed (10)

Organist – Connie Triplett

Deacons – Trish Kvasnicka (8:30); Pam Sugrue (10)

Welcoming Team – Debbie & Steve Schneider

Sound Technician – Jared Waugaman

Altar Guild – Tiffany Advani, Laura Gaydos

In Our Prayers

- For the ministries of this congregation which continue seeking to be beacons of Christ's light in the world
- For all local law enforcement, especially the families of Cleveland Police Detective James Skernivitz and the family of Officer Nick Sabo
- For the Northeastern Ohio Synod, and her church congregations which have gathered virtually this weekend in Assembly. We pray for the health, vision, and leadership of our Synod's new Bishop
- Those with health concerns or recovering from surgeries: Carla Barrett, Paul Griffith, Eleanor Huetter Rev. Dan Rossbach, Tom and Rita-Ann Shaffer
- For the Norris family at the death of Jodi Norris this past week. We pray for Greg, Jodi's husband, and their daughter Kaylie at this time of loss
- For newlyweds, including Tim Coulter and Taran Beasley who exchanged wedding vows this weekend

Altar Flowers Are Given

In Memory of Mickie McDonald Mackeigan by the McDonald Family

This Week's Commemorations

Sept. 13—JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, d. 407, the ancient Greek church's most famous preacher.

Sept. 16—CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE, d. 258, a bishop and martyr renowned for his care of the church under persecution.

Sept. 18—DAG HAMMARSKJOLD, d. 1961, a Swedish diplomat and U.N. General Secretary, renowned for the way his faith in Christ shaped and informed his public life.

God's Word for Next Week

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16
We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.

Messiah Lutheran Church

21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH 44126
(440) 331-2405
E-mail – church@messiahfp.org

Messiah Lutheran School

4401 W. 215th St., Fairview Park, OH 44126
(440) 331-6553
Email – school@messiahfp.org

www.messiahfairview.org



Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Senior Pastor – Jerome Burce

Associate Pastor – Seth Bridger

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Pastoral Assistant – Ruth Mortensen

Music Director – Connie Triplett

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorff Memorial Fund Director – Darlene Waugh



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Drawing in to Christ. Building up in Christ. Sending out for Christ.

To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.