

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 8:30 am & 10:00 am

Messiah Lutheran Church

MessiahFairview.org

(440) 331-2405

Welcome to worship! We are delighted you are here and have chosen to worship today. We believe the Holy Spirit of God gathers us together as one. May you be strengthened through his word and the promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The mission statement of Messiah Church is: ***Drawing in to Christ, Building up in Christ, Sending out for Christ.*** Our aim is to love each other as Christ has loved us all. We continue to encourage sensible social distancing. If you wish to wear a mask, please do so. If you are feeling ill, please take precautions and consider worshipping via the livestream ministry of Messiah. Online services can be found at ***MessiahFairview.org; click "watch services" online.***

Holy Communion is shared at every worship service. The sacrament of holy communion is central to our worship life. If you are a first-time worshipper here, know that you are invited to receive and partake in the sharing of holy communion.

Introduction to The Day

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

14th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Prelude O Word of God Incarnate Edward Broughton

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, the God of manna,
the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C Amen.

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our provider,

C help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, **+** the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW 853

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.

Canticle of Praise



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Sit.

Word

First Reading

Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” ¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed;

¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34: 15-22 *Cantor sings Refrain; Assembly repeats and sings **bold** verses.*



¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,
and God's ears are open | to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

Refrain

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be
punished.**

Refrain

Second Reading

Ephesians 6: 10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel

John 6: 56-69

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 6th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you?”

⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless.

The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.

⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit.

Sermon

Rev. Seth Bridger

Silence for Reflection; Stand.

Hymn of the Day

O Word of God Incarnate

ELW 514

Apostles Creed

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

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.

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.

Recognition of Significant Wedding Anniversaries

Prayers of the Church

After each portion of the prayers:

P In your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Greet those around you with these or similar words. You may be seated.

The Lord's Supper

Music at the Offering

Sarabande

Eric H. Thiman

Stand as the Offerings are brought forward.

Offertory

God of the Fertile Fields

ACS 1063



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.

If the Lord so moves you, you can make an offering by text to 855-913-1744 or by visiting our online giving portal at tinyurl.com/giveMLC

A Jesus, Bread of life,
 C you have set this table with your very self,
 and called us to the feast of plenty.
 Gather what has been sown among us,
 and strengthen us in this meal.
 Make us to be what we receive here,
 your body for the life of the world.
 Amen.

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.**
 P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times . . . we praise
 your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer and Healer . . . all glory and honor is
 yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both
 now and forever.
 C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sit.

Communion

Concerning the sacrament — Holy Communion is Christ's gift to his Church, his true body and blood given with bread and wine for us to eat and drink. Here Christ confirms in us the benefits of his death and resurrection. He forgives our sins, refreshes our lives, and promises our salvation.

We welcome to the Lord's table all baptized and communing Christians who share this faith. In receiving, please follow the lead of the people around you. Gluten-free hosts are available for those who need them. Quietly ask the Pastor for the Gluten-free host.

If coming forward not to commune but to receive a blessing, approach the Pastor with your arms crossed. If you are physically unable to come forward, simply let an usher or deacon know you would like to receive communion at your seat.

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution Hymn

Father, We Thank You

ELW 478

Stand after all have communed.

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

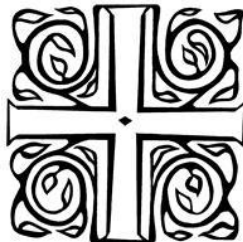
C **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world as you did with your own life.
In your name we pray.

C **Amen.**

Commissioning of School Staff



Sending

Blessing

P The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

A Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

My Story, My Song

James Mansfield

Serving Today

Preaching & Presiding Minister – Rev. Seth Bridger

Assisting Minister – Christopher Peters (8:30) Janice Snyder (10:00)

Cantor – John Hayduk

Deacon -- Terrie Leske (10:00)

Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministry – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Altar Guild – Ruth Mortensen, Diane Paton

Significant Wedding Anniversaries Celebration

Celebrating 40 Years

John & Karen Blackburn
Dave & Kathy Campogni
Mark & Mary-Ann Coreno
Russell & Cathy Kishel
Ken & Nancy Marcis
Keith & Colene Monson
Cliff & Sue Novak
Matt & Nadine Pompeani

Celebrating 45 Years

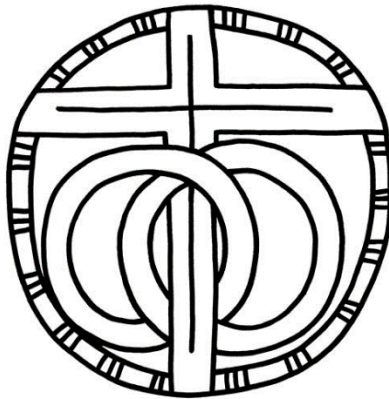
Don & Leonie Braun
Chip & Meg Difiore
Carl & Linda Herhuth
David & Donna Pedley

Celebrating 60 Years

William & Cindy McNutt

Celebrating 65 Years

Walter & Rosalia Krenz
Robert & Carol Kubovcik



In Our Prayers

- For our fellowship this weekend with the Church Picnic and our witness in the community.
- For Pastor William Weidenbach, newly called Senior Pastor of Messiah Lutheran, as he begins his pastoral ministry among the congregation. We look forward to his first weekend with us on September 1, and ask God to bless the transition process.
- For those with health concerns: Sharon Berghaus, Alta Renard, Helen Weber, Audrey Ruettger, Gloria Costo, Kristi Hathaway, Sue Nerlinger, Nina Long, Andrew Boraggina, Ray Durban, Maddie Polenz, Cliff Preuss, Rev. Gerry Miller (former Pastor with Messiah Lutheran), Michael Miller, Liz Dimmock, Evelyn and Churchill Ward, Marc Heidmann, those quietly receiving medical treatments and those living with addictions.

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This Week's Commemorations

Aug. 28—ST. AUGUSTINE, d. 430, bishop of Hippo in North Africa, renowned philosopher, and perhaps the greatest of all theologians in the Western church. MOSES THE BLACK, d. 405, the leader of a gang of bandits who became a desert monk and whose conversion had a great impact on his native Ethiopia.

God's Word for Next Week

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1: 17-27

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for worship next week.

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN SCHOOL FACULTY & STAFF
2024-2025**

Helen Casselberry, *Principal*
Mary-Ann Coreno, *School Secretary*
Janelle Stamper, *Auxiliary Services Clerk*
Janice Snyder, *Admissions Counselor*
Danielle Twigg, *Preschool Teacher*
Kimberly Hilden, *Preschool Teacher*
Stephanie Vega, *Kindergarten Teacher*
Allyson Bolyard, *First Grade Teacher*
Castanza Hartel, *Second Grade Teacher*
Kim Kasinecz, *Third Grade Teacher*
Karen Groppe, *Fourth Grade Teacher*
Lisa Hill, *Fifth Grade Teacher*
Janice Silcox, *Faith Formation/Intervention Specialist*
Nancy Shucofsky, *Technology Teacher*
Pete Rowe, *Physical Education Teacher*
Sarah Jackson, *STEM Teacher*
Amy Roman, *Art Teacher*
Brian Polenz, *Athletic Director*
Meagan Grauel, *Librarian/School Nurse*
Linda Mincher, *Tutor*
Andrea Brant, *Aide/Music*
Myisha Conley, *Aide*
Daniel Weaver, *Aide*
Cheryl Raimann, *After Care Supervisor*
Maryellen Ott, *Speech Pathologist*

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Connect with Messiah – text 'MESSIAHFP' to 84576 to sign-up

Messiah Lutheran School

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(440) 331-6553

Email – school@messiahfp.org

www.messiahfairview.org

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Pastor – The Rev. Seth C. Bridger

Pastoral Assistant – Deaconess Ruth Mortensen

Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministry – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Technology Manager – Jared Waugaman

Building Manager – Jason Reynolds

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorf College Fund Director – Darlene Waugh

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Heinsbergen

Bookkeeper & Pierstorf College Fund Business Manager – Lisa Daley

Administrative Assistant – Diane Ward



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.