

15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 8:30 & 11 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

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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

Prelude

O God Beyond All Praising

arr. David Cherwien

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for self-examination.

P Most merciful God

C we confess that we are captive 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.

Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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.

Gathering Hymn

Earth and All Stars!

ELW 731

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.

Hymn Of Praise

O God Beyond All Praising

ELW 880

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray,
O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual
mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us
everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and
salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

Word

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

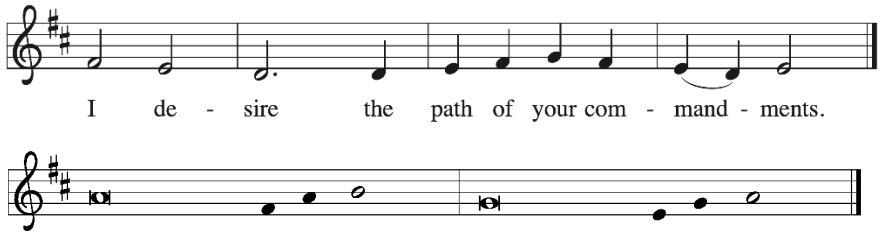
⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever
you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If
I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not
speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in
their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn
the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways,
the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our
transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of
them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I
have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from
their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will
you die, O house of Israel?

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Cantor sings refrain; All sing refrain: Cantor sings verses in alternation with assembly; Refrain sung by all.



³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. R**

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

ELW page 198

All sing refrain

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

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

Cantor: In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,* entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

All repeat refrain

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Bridger

Silence for Reflection; Stand

Hymn of the Day

God, When Human Bonds are Broken ELW 603
Stanza 3 High Voices, Stanza 4 Low Voices

Apostles' Creed

ELW page 105

**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

After each portion of the prayers:

A Hear us, O God, . . .

C Your mercy is great.

Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Greet those around you with these or similar words

Sit

The Lord's Supper

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

Offering is Received

Music at the Offering

Choir

Ubi caritas

Jacques Berthier

(Where True Charity and Love Abide)

Offertory

Stand as the Offerings are brought forward

Cantor/Choir stanzas, Congregation refrain

Spirit, Open my Heart

ACS 1043

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
 liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
 and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

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



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.

A Let us pray, God of field and forest, sea and sky,

C you are the giver of all good things.

Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



P Holy , mighty, and merciful Lord ... (the prayer continues) ...
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory,
now and forever.

C Amen.

The 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

Lamb of God

ELW page 201

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.

Distribution Hymns

I Come With Joy

ELW 482

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

ELW 470

Stand after all have communed

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

C Amen.

A Let us pray:

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment
we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread
your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our
dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Sending

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.

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**C** Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Go, My Children, With my Blessing

arr. Frederick Frahm

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Serving Today

Preaching Today – Pastor Bridger
Assisting Ministers – Christopher Peters (11)
Organist – Deborah Zudell-Dickey
Choir Director - Deborah Zudell-Dickey
Deacon – Michael Eckert & Alyssa Dory
Cantor – Dale Mortensen (8:30)
Altar Guild – Ruth Mortensen, Diane Paton

Altar Flowers

Are given in memory of Edward Kirst by his daughter Robbyn Baddour
and family.

In Our Prayers

- In celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with Jason Ryan Affolter last Sunday! And blessings upon the upcoming marriage of Jason and Bethany Ruessman.
- For the Pastoral Call process and for those serving on the Pastoral Call Committee as Messiah seeks to call a 2nd Pastor: Sam Gmetro, John Hayduk, Jay Machado, Kathy Neumann, Allison Younger-Waugaman, and Karen Wolf.
- For those with health concerns: Finley Paton, Linda Stoddard, Nina Long, Brianna Kaska (niece of Jacqueline Kaska & granddaughter of Nancy Kaska), Evelyn and Churchill Ward, Officer Nickolas, Carla (friend of Rita-Ann Shaffer), Kevin Kubovcik (son of Bob & Carol Kubovcik), Liz Dimmock, Dan Feuerstein, An (the brother in law of Jim Quayle), Andrew Boraggina, Marc Heidmann, Jim a friend of Paula, Jane Hegg, Pastor Mulba here in Cleveland, Pastor Sabine in Texas, Pastor Dana in Michigan, and all ahead of upcoming surgeries or medical appointments.

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.

God's Word for Next Week

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:(1-7)8-13, Romans 14:1-12,
Matthew 18:21-35

We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Messiah Lutheran School

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Email – school@messiahfp.org

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Pastor – The Rev. Seth C. Bridger

Pastoral Assistant – Deaconess Ruth Mortensen

Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

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

Admin. Assistant & 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.