



# 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

The book of James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us clearly that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir of the kingdom.

# 16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

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

Prelude

Praeludium in G

Felix Mendelsson

## Gathering

### Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin and come to God for holiness and healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first  
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

P God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.

**C Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

### 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.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

### First Reading

Isaiah 35: 4-7a

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 146

*Cantor sings Refrain. All repeat refrain.*

*Cantor sings regular print. All sing **bold** print.*



I will praise the LORD as long as I live.



<sup>1</sup>Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your | trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there | is no help.

**<sup>4</sup>When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,  
and in that day | their thoughts perish.** Refrain

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

**<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;  
who keeps promis- | es forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who  
hunger. The LORD sets the | captive free.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those  
who | are bowed down; the LORD | loves the  
righteous.** Refrain

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares | for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of  
the wicked.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD shall | reign forever, your God,  
O Zion, throughout all generations.  
| Hallelujah!** Refrain

## Second Reading

James 2: 1-10, 14-17

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?

<sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

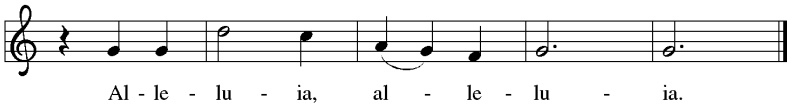
A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Cantor/Choir sings Alleluia. All repeat.*



*Cantor: Rejoice in the Lord always;\* again I will say, Rejoice. (Philippines 4:4)*

## Gospel

Mark 7: 24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.

<sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Rev. Seth Bridger

*Silence for Reflection; please stand.*

Hymn of the Day

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

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.

Prayers of the Church

*After each portion of the prayers:*

P Lord in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

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

Give us Vision and Strength, O Lord

Gerhard Krapf (8:30)

Choral Song

Edward Broughton (11:00)

*Stand as the Offerings are brought forward.*

*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](http://tinyurl.com/giveMLC)*

A Blessed are you, O God,  
 C **source of every gift of your creation.**  
**By these gifts and with our lives,**  
**help us to serve one another and all in need,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
 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:

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.

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.*

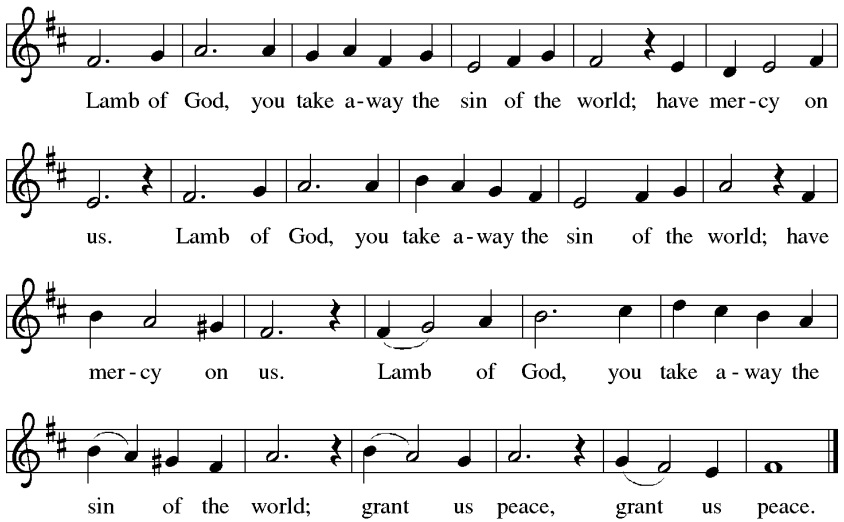
## Communion

*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



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

Here is Bread

ELW 483

*Cantor/ Choir sings stanza 1*

Around You, O Lord Jesus

ELW 468

*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 Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing

P God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you  
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.

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

C Thanks be to God.

## **Serving Today**

Preaching Minister – Rev. Seth Bridger

Presiding Minister -- Rev. William Weidenbach

Acolyte -- Zachary Bridger

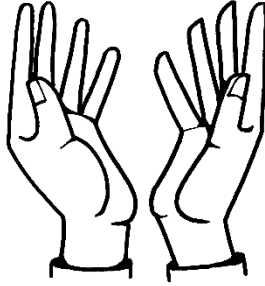
Assisting Minister – Lindsay Baker

Deacons -- Michael Eckert and Alyssa Dory

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

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Altar Guild – Martha Trapp, Marilyn Edwards



## In Our Prayers

- For Pastor William Weidenbach, Messiah's newly called Senior Pastor, and his wife Linda as they transition to living in the Cleveland area.
- Prayers of care and support for the Berghaus family upon the death of Sharon Berghaus and for the Weber family upon the death of Helen Weber.
- Prayers of Christian sympathy to Karen Wittrock, upon the death of her brother Larry in Missouri.
- For a safe and blessed Labor Day weekend; for those who work to protect and serve throughout the holiday weekend.
- For those with health concerns: Alta Renard, Audrey Ruettinger, Gloria Costo, Sue Nerlinger, Nina Long, Andrew Boraggina, Ray Durban, Cliff Preuss, Rev. Gerry Miller (former Pastor with Messiah Lutheran), Michael Miller, Liz Dimmock, Evelyn and Churchill Ward, Marc Heidmann, Officer Nickolas, Baby Miles, Carla, those quietly receiving medical treatments and those living with addictions.

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## Altar Flowers

are given in Loving Memory of Ed Kirst  
by Heidi Tysl

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## This Week's Commemorations

*Sept. 9*—PETER CLAVER, d. 1654, a Jesuit missionary who ministered to slave ships arriving in the Columbian port of Cartagena.

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

# **God's Word for Next Week**

## **17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a, Psalm 116: 1-9, James 3: 1-12

Mark 8: 27-38

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

## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH 44126

(440) 331-2405

E-mail – [church@messiahfp.org](mailto:church@messiahfp.org)

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

## **Messiah Lutheran School**

4401 W. 215<sup>th</sup> St., Fairview Park, OH 44126

(440) 331-6553

Email – [school@messiahfp.org](mailto:school@messiahfp.org)

[www.messiahfairview.org](http://www.messiahfairview.org)

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Senior Pastor -- The Rev. William C. Weidenbach, Jr.

Associate 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.*