

## **16th Sunday after Pentecost**

September 17, 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

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

# 16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

## Prelude

Variations on *Oh, For a Thousand Tongues* (II, III, IV) by Robert A. Hobby

## 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

*Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

ELW 452

*Stanza 3 High Voices, Stanza 4 Low Voices*

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, 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.**

*Sit*

## Word

### First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>Realizing 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?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even 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. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:(1-7)8-13

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



v



- <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- <sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and forget not | all God's benefits—**
- <sup>3</sup>who forgives | all your sins  
and heals all | your diseases;
- <sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life | from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R**
- <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires | with good things  
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide | vindication  
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**
- <sup>7</sup>You made known your | ways to Moses  
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R**
- <sup>9</sup>you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
- <sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
- <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
- <sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is | from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**
- <sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion | for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **R**

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those 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. <sup>4</sup>Who 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.

<sup>5</sup>Some 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. <sup>6</sup>Those 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.

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

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

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

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**

ELW 169

*All sing refrain*



*Choir/ Cantor: We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are forgiven on account of his name. (1 John 2:1, 12)*

*All repeat refrain*

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

<sup>21</sup>Peter 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?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, 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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>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.**

*Sit*

Sermon

Brian Upton

*Silence for Reflection; Stand*

Hymn of the Day

*Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

ELW 605

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

Offering is Received

Music at the Offering

Choir (8:30)

*Ubi caritas*

Jacques Berthier

*(Where True Charity and Love Abide)*

*Where true charity and love abide, God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.*

Joy Ringers (11)

*Hope for Tomorrow*

Sandra Eithun

Offertory

*Stand as the Offerings are brought forward*

*Cantor/Choir stanzas, Assembly refrain*

*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

ELW 681

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.**

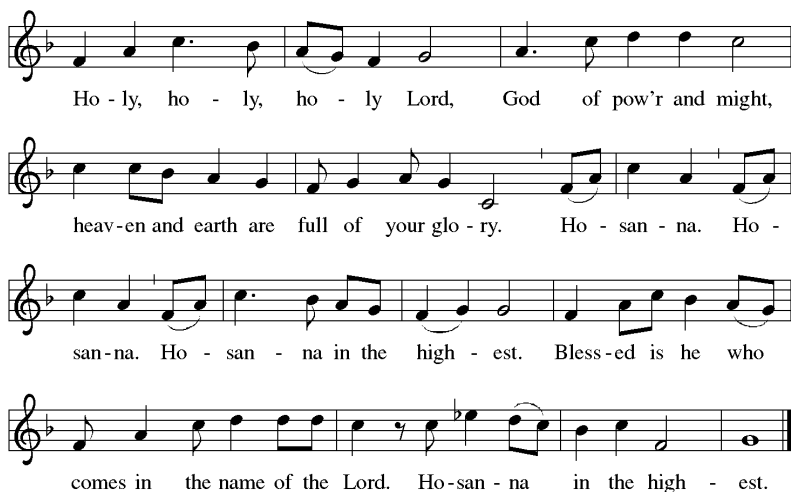
Lift up your hearts.

**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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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 , 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

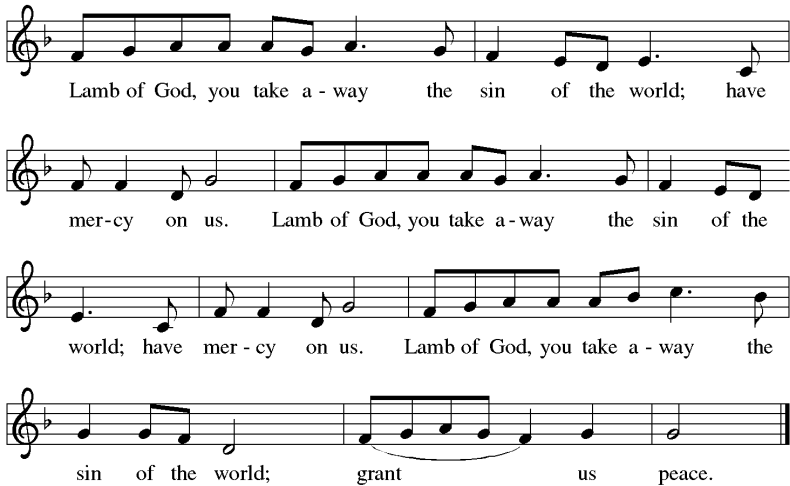
**Our Father in heaven,**  
 hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
 as we forgive those  
 who sin against us.  
**Save us from the time of trial**  
 and deliver us from evil.  
**For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

*Sit*

# Communion

*Lamb of God*

*ELW page 146*



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.

## Distribution Hymns

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW 471

*Now the Silence*

ELW 460

*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.**

## Sending Hymn

*Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*

ELW 721

*Choir/Cantor sings one time; assembly joins second time.*

## Dismissal

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Paul Manz

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*Let Us Break Bread Together*; Text and Music: African American Spiritual

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## **Serving Today**

Preaching Today – Brian Upton

Presiding Today – Pastor Bridger

Assisting Ministers – Nancy Richter (8:30)

Organist/Choir Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Joy Ringers – Directed by Ruth King

Deacons – Amy & Mark Hunger (11)

Cantor – Ruth King (11)

Altar Guild – Diane Paton, Trudy Gustke

## **Altar Flowers**

Are given in gratitude to God for all the pastors of Messiah, past and present, by Pastor Ron Morgan.

## In Our Prayers

- In celebration of the births of two new born babies: Amelia Grace born to Chris and Elizabeth (Liz) Norman and Dylan Chase born to Drew and Mandy Senney.
- 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.
- In thanksgiving for the gift of music and musicians .
- For those with health concerns: Jan Breckel, Finley Paton, Delores Schaefer, Baby Miles, 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. 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.

*Sept. 20*—NELSON WELEY TROUT, d. 1996, the first African American to serve as a bishop in the American Lutheran Church, a predecessor of the ELCA.

*Sept. 21*—ST. MATTHEW, the apostle and evangelist.

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

### **17<sup>th</sup> 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](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

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.*