17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 10 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

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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

Prelude

Slane (Lord of All Hopefulness)

Robert J. Powell

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.
- 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 H Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

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,

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

Mission Moment

Jay Machado

Word

First Reading

Jonah 3:10--4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

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





¹I will exalt you, my | God and king, and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

²Every day | will I bless you and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

³Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised! There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴One generation shall praise your works | to another and shall de- | clare your power. R

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty and all your | marvelous works.

⁶They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts, and I will re- | count your greatness.

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

8The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents.

For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

ELW 169

All sing refrain



Choir/Cantor: Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your son. All repeat refrain

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?

¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

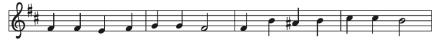
Sermon Pastor Bridger

Silence for Reflection; Stand

Hymn of the Day



- 1 Faith be gins by let ting go, giv ing up what had seemed sure,
- 2 Faith en dures by hold ing on, keep ing mem-'ry's roots a live
- 3 Faith ma-tures by reach-ing out, stretch-ing minds, en larg ing hearts,





pil - grim - age both right and odd, not through mer - it we pos - sess till we find the com-mon-place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

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

Strive Side by Side in Faith Albert Thate, adapted D. Zudell-Dickey

Offertory

Stand as the Offerings are brought forward

Cantor/Choir stanzas, Assembly refrain

Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 583

Choir sings Refrain and stanza 1; Assembly joins on Refrain and stanzas 2-4

- 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.

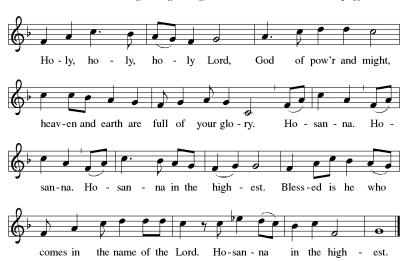
Lift up your hearts.

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:



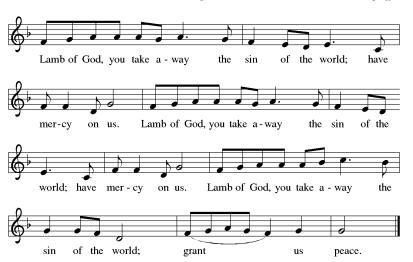
P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord ... (the prayer continues) ... to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

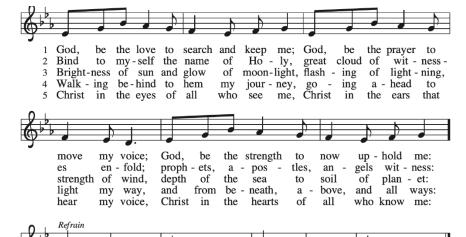
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,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

Sit



Distribution Hymns

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me: O Christ, Surround Me ACS1084 Choir sings stanzas 1 &2, Assembly sings refrain and stanzas 3-5.



Father, We Thank You

me;

0

Christ, sur - round

ELW 478

me.

Stand after all have communed

Christ, sur - round

O

- 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

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW 669

Stanza 3, low voices; stanza 4 high voices

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

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Toccata in F Major, Dietrich Buxtehude, P.D.

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Serving Today

Preaching & Presiding Today – Pastor Bridger
Assisting Ministers – Nancy Richter
Acolytes – Annalies Anderson, Noah Bridger
Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey
Joy Ringers – Directed by Ruth King
Deacons – Alyssa Dory and Michael Eckert
Usher – Ed Kus
Altar Guild –Maria Geier, Marilyn Edwards

Altar Flowers

Are given in Memory of Cheryl, God's treasured gift and the love of my life by David Kucera. "Two shall become one."

In Our Prayers

- In celebration of the exchange of wedding vows last weekend between Bethany and Jason, the newest Mr. and Mrs. Affolter.
- 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: Carol Kubovcik, Anita Laurie, Delores Schaffer, Jan Breckel, Baby Miles, Finley Paton, Linda Stoddard, Nina Long, Nick Dobrinich (husband of Deaconess Judy Hoshek), Brianna Kaska (niece of Jacqueline Kaska & grandaughter 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, 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. 25—SERGIUS, d. 1392, renewer of monastic life in Russia. He also ended four wars between Russian princes.

Sept. 29—ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.

Sept. 30—JEROME, d. 420, translator of the Vulgate, the Latin Bible used in churches for over 1500 years.

God's Word for Next Week 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

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 – <u>church@messiahfp.org</u>

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

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
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



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