

**17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
September 15, 8:30 am & 11:00 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

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

# 17th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Prelude                      Partita on "All Are Welcome"     by Charles L. Lenz

## 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                      “Lift High the Cross”                      ELW 660

### 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.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

### First Reading

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalms 116: 1-9

*Cantor sings Refrain. All repeat refrain.*

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

I will walk in the pres-ence of the LORD.

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,  
and listened to my | supplication,

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given | ear to me  
whenev- | er I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me; I came to | grief and sorrow.

**<sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:**

**“O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.”**

**Refrain**

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the | LORD and righteous;  
our God is full | of compassion.

**<sup>6</sup>The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent;  
I was brought low, | and God saved me.**

<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.  
for the LORD has dealt | well with you.

**<sup>8</sup>For you have rescued my | life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;**

<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence | of the LORD  
in the land | of the living.

**Refrain**

## Second Reading

James 3: 1-12

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

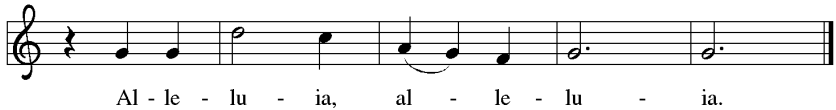
A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

*All sing Alleluia.*



*Cantor: Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous,\* in order to bring you to God. (1 Peter 3:18) All repeat Alleluia.*

## Gospel

Mark 8: 27-38

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

*Silence for reflection; please stand.*

Hymn of the Day “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said” ELW 667

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

O God of All Things Old and New by Michael Cherup (8:30)

Give us Vision and Strength, O Lord Gerhard Krapf (Choir11:00)

*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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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.**

*Please be seated.*

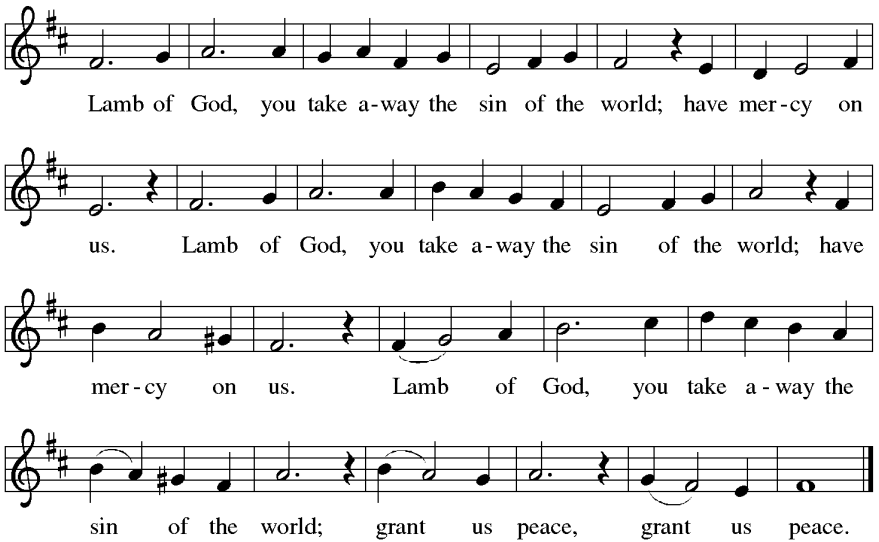
## Communion

*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 “God Extends an Invitation” ELW 486  
*Cantor/Choir sings stanza 1; assembly sings 2 more times.*

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life” ELW 816

*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.

## Sending Hymn

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

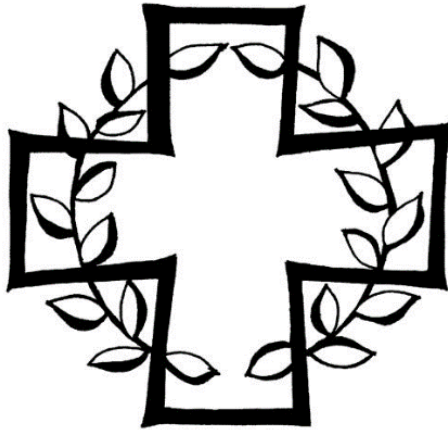
ELW 534

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

C Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

Processional on "Lift High the Cross" by Donald Busarow



# Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Rev. Seth Bridger

Presiding Minister -- Rev. William Weidenbach

Deacons – Bob Trapp (8:30) Terrie Leske (11:00)

Cantor – Ruth King (8:30)

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

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Altar Guild – Ruth Mortensen, Maria Geier

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## 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.
- For educators, school staff, and administrators during these important early days of the new school year.
- For those with health concerns: Alta Renard, Jackie Kaska, Carol Markus, 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 memory of his mom, Elva  
by Craig Jernigan.

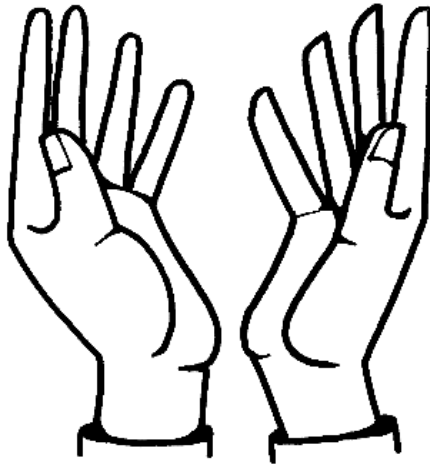
## This Week's Commemorations

*Sept. 16*—CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE, d. 258, a bishop and martyr renowned for his care of the church under persecution.

*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.

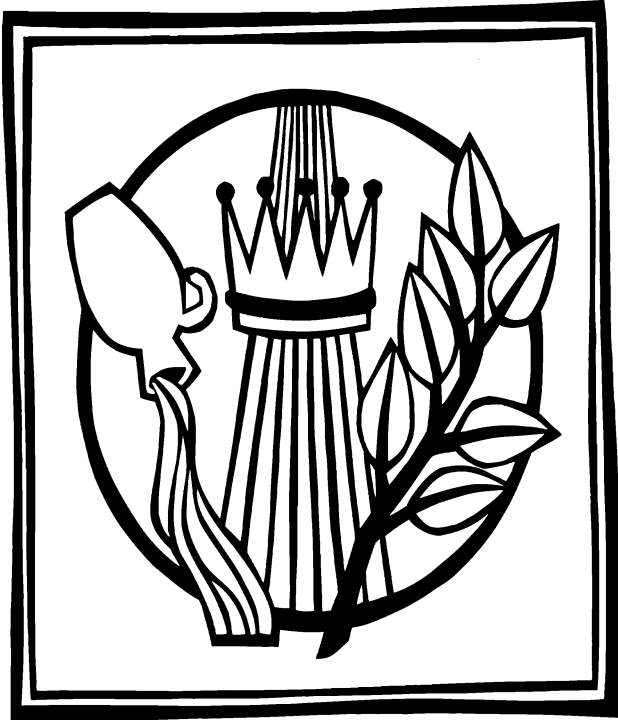
*Sept. 21*—ST. MATTHEW, the apostle and evangelist



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

Jeremiah 11: 18-20, Psalm 54, James 3: 13—4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9: 30-37

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



## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

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(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**

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(440) 331-6553

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[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.*