

# **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.

# 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 10 am

*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.**

**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

*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

<sup>10</sup>When 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.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He  
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. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is  
better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for  
you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then 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.

<sup>6</sup>The 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. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day,  
God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it  
withered. <sup>8</sup>When 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."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the  
bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then 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. <sup>11</sup>And 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.*



The LORD is slow to an-ger and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

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

<sup>27</sup>Only, 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, <sup>28</sup>and 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. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since 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:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And 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?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When 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.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘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.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’

<sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So 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

*Faith Begins By Letting Go*

ACS 1004



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,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
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](http://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:

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

*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.*

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be - hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that  
move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:  
*Refrain*  
O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

*Father, We Thank You*

*ELW 478*

*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

*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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## **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 & 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, 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**

### **18<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

## **Messiah Lutheran School**

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[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.*