

18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

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

Prelude

*O Blessed Spring
Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*

David Cherwien
Max Drischner

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

At the Name of Jesus

ELW 416

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

Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

ELW 847

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray,
God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us
your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us,
and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

Word

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating
this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten
sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says
the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in
Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the
life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house
of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When
the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity,
they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall
die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have
committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their
life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the
transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall
not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.”
O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are
unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according
to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your
transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from
you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get
yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of
Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the
Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

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



¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. R**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day
long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of
your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure..

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

ELW 169

All sing refrain



Choir/ Cantor: My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me. (John 10:27)

All repeat refrain

Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’

²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Chris Neumann

Silence for Reflection; Stand

Hymn of the Day

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

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

Oh Blessed Spring *Aaron David Miller (8:30)*

The Solid Rock arranged by Jason W. Krug (ASCAP)
Joy Ringers (11:00)

Offertory

Stand as the Offerings are brought forward

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing: The Feast is Ready ELW 531
Choir/Cantor sings stanza 1 & refrain; assembly joins on stanzas 2, 3 & refrains

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

In the Singing

ELW 466

O Blessed Spring

ELW 447

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

To Be Your Presence

ELW 546

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Engelberg (To Be Your Presence)

Valerie Shields

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Serving Today

Preaching Today– Chris Neumann

Assisting Minister – Lindsay Baker

Acolytes – Nigel Copeland

Deacon – Ray Durban

Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Joy Ringers – Directed by Ruth King

Altar Guild –Elenor Davis, Ruth Mortensen

Altar Flowers

Are given by the Stoddard family in honor of Forrest and Holly's wedding.

In Our Prayers

- In celebration of the exchange of wedding vows between Carleen Ellerbruch & Rory Zakareckis on September 30th and Forrest Stoddard & Holly Disch also on September 30th.
- In celebration with Sophia Donahue, a current 5th grader within Messiah School, who will be Baptized this coming Wednesday morning during the weekly school chapel service. Sophia is also part of the 1st communion class this fall. May the love of Christ flow in Sophia's life in new ways as she receives the gift of Holy Baptism!
- 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: Linda Stoddard, Jane Hunger, Carl Eckebrecht, Anita Laurie, Carol Kubovcik, Delores Schaffer, Finley Paton, 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, Baby Miles, Carla (friend of Rita-Ann Shaffer), Kevin Kubovcik (son of Bob & Carol Kubovcik), Liz Dimmock, Dan Feuerstein, Andrew Boraggina, Marc Heidmann, 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

Oct. 4—FRANCIS OF ASSISI, d. 1226, example for the ages of Christ-like commitment to “the least of these.” THEODORE FLIEDNER, d. 1864, a German pastor who revived the ministry of Lutheran deaconesses.

Oct. 6—WILLIAM TYNDALE, d. 1536, burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English.

Oct. 7—HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBERG, d. 1747, missionary and organizer of the first Lutheran synod in America.

God's Word for Next Week

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14,
Matthew 21:33-46

We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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E-mail – church@messiahfp.org

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

Messiah Lutheran School

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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.