

Service of the Word

The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Lectionary 15
Liturgical Year A
July 12, 2020



Messiah Lutheran Church

Lyndhurst, Ohio + 440.442.6941 + messiahlyndhurst.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church!

It is good to be together, even if we are meeting online. If you are new to Messiah, you can find out more about our community at messiahlyndhurst.org or on our facebook page. During this current health crisis, we will upload our service to our website each Sunday morning (www.messiahlyndhurst.org). We invite you to follow along at home with the order of service included below.

Prayer Concerns can be shared via email (pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org) or phone (440-442-6941). Please indicate if you would like your request to be considered for inclusion in worship. Please note that some elements of the service are pre-recorded and prayer requests may not make it in until the following week.

Children are encouraged to participate at home as they are able. If you would like an at-home Sunday School Lesson Packet, please contact Cheryl Moser for more info.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is typically celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month, as well as on festival days. The date of our next Communion Sunday is TBD. If Communion is new for you, we invite you to have a conversation with Pastor Paul.

Serving in Worship Today:

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Paul Moody
Assisting Minister	Jim Burghart
Organist	Glenn Odenbrett
Reader	Kathy Johnson

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Unser Herscher
(based on the tune to ELW #533)
Charles Callahan

*(As God gathers us on this day of resurrection,
we take time during the prelude to center ourselves
and prepare to receive the Gospel: both its proclamation
of grace and its call to action.)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked
at baptism, as the presiding minister begins)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

**By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;**

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

[¹You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;
to you shall vows | be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one | who answers prayer,
to you all | flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are strong- | er than we are,
but you blot out | our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell
there!**

**They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness |
of your temple.**

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our
salvation,

O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.

⁶**You make firm the mountains | by your power;
you are girded a- | bout with might.**

⁷You still the roaring | of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your |
marvelous signs;**

you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.

] ⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is | full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.

¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,
and the hills be | clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them-¹ selves with grain;
let them shout for¹ joy and sing.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some

seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Paul Jones Moody

(Please observe a moment of silence after the sermon)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come and Fill Our Hearts
ELW #528

(The hymn will be taught in the worship service; please listen and respond as you are able)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

(A brief silence)

Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have given. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reigning God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, care for all who are in need (*especially*). For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries (*especially*) and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(If you are gathered with others, please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you" or similar response.)

OFFERING

(In response to God's command to love our neighbors, we give of the resources God has given us for the sake of the common good. Please give your tithes and offerings by mail or electronically at messiahlyndhurst.org)

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

SENDING

MISSION PRAYER

As God has gathered us and filled our hearts with the Gospel, now God sends us forth to serve in mission. Let us pray:

**Gracious God, through belief in Christ and through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empower us to share the word; care and support each other and God's community; worship as a family in Christ; and be Christ-like examples to those whose lives we touch.
Amen.**

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Come and Fill Our Hearts
ELW #528

(The hymn will be taught in the worship service; please listen and respond as you are able)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)

POSTLUDE

Go, My Children, with My Blessing
(based on the tune to ELW #543)

Messiah Staff Members

Organist: Glenn Odenbrett
Choir Director: Vicki Lester
Christian Education Director: Cheryl Moser
Office Administrator: Steven Liss
Building & Custodial: Steve Newcomer

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Prayers

Prayer Team & Partners: Prayer is a vital part of the Christian life. Messiah has a Prayer Team which will pray with/for you. If you have a prayer request, please complete a blue Prayer Request Card – available in the sanctuary – which offer these options: (1) request a Pastoral follow-up, (2) include in the intercessory prayers to be read aloud in worship, (3) add to the ongoing list in the Bulletin and Grace Note, or (4) add to the Prayer Partner Email Chain.

(Contact Nancy Pittard to participate in the Prayer Partner Email Chain and/or to serve on the Prayer Team)

Please pray for our siblings in Christ: Jay Imel, Jayne Imel, Bob Kopsak, David Kosovich, Mr. Marshall, Lisa Perry, Kathy Strom, Jim Szatkowski, Helen Wolfe, and all in need of comfort and healing.

(Your prayer request, printed in the bulletin, will remain active for a period of four weeks. If you wish to have the prayer renewed, please fill out a new request card.)

Announcements

PLEASE NOTE: All upcoming activities and events are subject to change as Messiah responds to the ongoing world health crisis.

Park and Pray: Messiah will be hosting our inaugural parking lot worship service on Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00pm. Attendees will stay in their cars and tune in to Pastor Paul via the new AM transmitter recently purchased. A special Bulletin will be issued via email in advance of the service.

OHIO Covid-19: Now that testing is more widely available – we wanted to share some of the key resources:

- *Ohio Corona Virus Portal:*
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>
- *Link/Map for Testing Sites:*
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/testing-ch-centers/>
- *Phone for Info:* 1-833-427-5634

Pastoral Care: The world is experiencing an unprecedented season of difficulty, and all of us are affected in our own way. If you would like to connect with Pastor Paul for a conversation, please call or email the church office: 440-442-6941 or pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org.

BOOK CLUB: The Messiah Book Club will meet on Tuesday, July 14 at 7:00pm at the home of Mary Lou Bregitzer to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.

LWR Personal Care Kits: Messiah is collecting items to assemble Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Collection bins for the items are located by the coffee area. Our goal is 50 kits! PLEASE NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

Church Council: the next meeting is on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Miles of Quarters: To help with Messiah's budget deficit, we are collecting a mile of quarters – over 63,000 quarters – more than \$15,000. Put your quarters in the glass jug by the easel. NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

Church Office Hours This Week:

The Church Office will not be open until further notice. However, we will be checking voicemail and email regularly.

Attendance and Offering for the week of July 5, 2020:

YouTube Views: 39 Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$3,329

(NOTE: \$4,000 a week is needed to remain current with our budget)

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service: Social Ministry has placed educational posters about the ELCA's history of helping refugees through the work of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). Take a look at the new posters in the coffee area when you are able, or check out the LIRS website: <https://www.lirs.org/>.



Special Acknowledgments

This is our space to honor expressions of appreciation. Email items c/o office@messiahlyndhurst.org by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep submissions in print for two weeks.

- ♥ Thank you for including the "Peanuts" cartoon in the Grace Note. I fear too many adults think the same way as Lucy! It is one of my pet peeves that people no longer use Independence Day as the name of the holiday.

c/o Irene Rogner

- ♥ Thanks to Kristy for singing the psalm on Sunday. It was great to hear the sound again (and to sing along!).
c/o Irene Rogner
- ♥ Thank you to Pastor Paul for making his sermon (7/5) "just for me." It was a message I truly needed to hear.
c/o Irene Rogner
- ♥ Thank you to Tom Trost for all the great trumpet music he has shared with us. I was particularly inspired by Sunday's pieces (7/5). Thanks also to Glen for his accompaniments.
c/o Irene Rogner
- ♥ Thank you to all my Messiah family for your kind and loving expression of sympathy on the loss of my sister, Lois Kugler. Also, thank you to Faith Circle for the lovely flowers.
c/o Nancy Durst
- ♥ A big thank you to Kristy Bohinc for putting together the Father's Day presentation. It was perfect and greatly appreciated.
c/o Jim Rase