

Service of the Word

The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Lectionary 29
Liturgical Year A
October 18, 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 and/or in the church parking lot. 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 October 25 during Park and Pray. Should Communion be 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	Tom Griffith
Organist	Glenn Odenbrett
Reader	Katie Moody

GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Jesus, I Have Promised
(based on the tune to ELW #810)

*(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,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

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. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,

³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

¹Sing to the LORD¹ a new song;
sing to the LORD,¹ all the earth.
²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name¹ of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from¹ day to day.**
³Declare God's glory a-¹mong the nations
and God's wonders a-¹mong all peoples.
⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly¹ to be praised,
more to be feared¹ than all gods.**
⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they¹ are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have¹ made the heavens.
⁶**Majesty and magnificence are¹ in your presence;
power and splendor are in your¹ sanctuary.**
⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon-¹or and power.
⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts¹ of the LORD.**
⁹Worship the LORD in the beau-¹ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD,¹ all the earth.
[¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The¹ LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peo-¹ples with equity."**
¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that¹ is

therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

We Give Thee but Thine Own (ELW #686)



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(A brief silence)

Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt (*especially*). Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you (*especially*). We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of 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

God Is Here! (ELW #524)

God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)

POSTLUDE

*Variation on "God Is Here!"
(based on the tune to ELW #526)*

Messiah Staff Members

Organist: Glenn Odenbrett

Choir Director: Vicki Lester

Christian Education Director: Cheryl Moser

Office Administrator: Steven Liss

Building & Custodial: Steve Newcomer

Attributions

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Portions of Service of the Word.

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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: The family and friends of Mac Davis, who passed away after heart surgery – especially pray for comfort and emotional healing to his wife, Lise, and sons, Scott, Noah and Cody; the family and friends of Dave Fenbers; the family and friends of Derry Peterson; the family and friends of Claudia Stibora; the Armenian people and our Armenian Orthodox neighbors in the Hillcrest area; Lila Boehler, Jim Butler, Dan Filer, Tracy Galvin, Takisha Jackson, Bob Kopsak, the Musial family, Lisa Perry, Sid

Pryor, Phyllis Short, Amy Square, Kathy Strom, Jim Szatkowski, 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.

Confirmation: A group of this year's Confirmands will affirm their baptism on Sunday, October 25th, 2020, at the Park and Pray Eucharist worship service. Please join us in celebrating their confirmation and growth in faith.

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.

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

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. NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

Church Council: the next meeting is on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:00pm.

The Messiah Book Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10th at the home of Mary Lou Bregitzer to discuss *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 83-1/4 Years Old*.

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 October 11, 2020:

YouTube Views + Park & Pray Attendees: 40

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$2,934

(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.

- ♥ Thanks to Vicki Lester and the Carolina Wren for the beautiful version of Amazing Grace. It was truly inspirational and much needed during these trying times.
c/o Jim Rase
- ♥ Thank you to all those who attended the fundraiser for Jaime and who sent him cards, well wishes and continue to pray for Jaime's recovery.
c/o Sheryl Trost
- ♥ Words cannot convey how surprised and delighted I was last Sunday at my Retirement from Sunday School celebration banner, balloons, decorated table with posters and mum plants on our front lawn PLUS the wonderful greetings from the parade of Messiah members who drove by, honked, waved, blew kisses etc. WOW!! I so appreciate your warm wishes for me as I conclude 45 years of teaching and music for the little ones at our church. It has been a blessing for me and as I have said many times, our young children so often have taught **me**. THANK YOU AND HUGS to Cheryl Moser who orchestrated this recognition and everyone else who helped make the morning so special for me. As Bob Hope said, "thanks for the memories."

c/o Karyn Schmidt

- ♥ I want to thank Sue Joliat for the 30+ pine tree saplings she brought for our congregation to the outdoor worship service last summer. All three of my pine trees are thriving.

c/o Jill Snellman