



# Service of the Word

The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Lectionary 23  
Liturgical Year A  
September 6, 2020

## Messiah Lutheran Church

Lyndhurst, Ohio + 440.442.6941 + [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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:

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	The Rev. Paul Moody
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jim Burghart
<b>Organist</b>	Glenn Odenbrett
<b>Reader</b>	Katie Moody

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*  
(based on the tune to ELW #719)  
Tom Trost, Trumpet

*(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. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

# WORD

## **FIRST READING**

**Ezekiel 33:7-11**

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of

them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 119:33-40

*I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)*

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it | to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of | your commandments,  
for that is | my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to | your decrees  
and not to | unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;  
give me life | in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,  
which is for | those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach | that I dread,  
because your judg- | ments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for | your commandments;  
by your righteousness en- | liven me.**

## SECOND READING

## Romans 13:8-14

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you

to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 18:15-20**

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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**

*Kyrie Eleison*  
SOP #21

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

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*(A brief silence)*

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community (*especially*). Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered)*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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](http://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

*Kyrie Eleison*  
SOP #21

*(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

*Earth and All Stars!*  
(based on the tune to ELW #731)  
Tom Trost, Trumpet

## **Messiah Staff Members**

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

## **Attributions**

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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 Glen Odenbrett's mother, the family and friends of David Kosovich's nephew Nicholas Piks, the family and friends of Hank Schwenkhoff – especially his wife Mary and sons Todd and Andy, the Family and Friends of Tom Short, Lila Boehler, Dan Filer, Tracy Galvin, Bob Kopsak, the Musial family, Lisa Perry, Phyllis Short, 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.**

**From Social Ministry:** Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's men's shelter now needs men's clothing of all types - underwear, socks, pants, shirts, shoes and

more! Please consider donating some fall clothing, used or new, to the shelter. Bring your bagged donations to the church and place them by the parking lot door, in the covered area, on Sunday Sept 6, any time before 5:30 pm. The donations will be delivered safely to the shelter.

**A Sunday Video Hymn-Sing:** The COVID-19 coronavirus has changed almost every part of our lives, especially our communal worship as a congregation. We are thankful that we have technology that allows many to worship via video online, but as you know, we have had to adapt the ordo and our other traditions to accommodate our new circumstances. Singing is one of the great traditions of the faith, but we have not been able to sing many old favorite hymns for many months now. Pastor Paul and Glenn are working on coordinating an at-home “Hymn Sing” video service to be offered sometime in September, which will include a good number of familiar and formative hymns of the Church. We will share more details when it is closer to completion.

**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](mailto: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, September 15, 2020 at 7:00pm.

**The Messiah Book Club** will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15th at the home of Mary Lou Bregitzer to discuss *America For Beginners* by Leah Franqui.

**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 August 30, 2020:

YouTube Views: 25

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$4,721

(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](mailto:office@messiahlyndhurst.org) by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep submissions in print for two weeks.*

- ♥ Thank you to our Messiah family for the many sympathy cards and notes I have received. Thank you to Faith Circle for the lovely plant and wooden cross dedicated to Tom. Thanks for memorial gifts given in Tom's memory. A special thank you to Vicki. It is a blessing to have such caring at this time.  
*c/o Phyllis Short*
- ♥ Glenn and the rest of the Odenbrett family wish to thank the many members of the Messiah community who have expressed their condolences on the death of Glenn's mother, Muriel. We find comfort in the Bible verse that appeared on the cover of her funeral bulletin: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" - 2 Timothy 4:7.  
*c/o Glenn Odenbrett*

- ♥ Thank you to Kristy Bohinc for her continued time, caring and perseverance as she keeps our Messiah website up to date and filled with special tools for all of us to use during these difficult times.  
*c/o Gail Ross*
- ♥ A thank you to our Messiah Family for your prayers for our health and wellbeing. We feel blessed to have prevailed COVID-19 and now with confirmed antibodies are safe for a while.  
*c/o Karen and Mike Zak*
- ♥ Per the Sun Messenger – congratulations are in order for Grace Pierce who made the Dean's List, again, at Miami University.  
*c/o Karyn Schmidt*
- ♥ Thank you to Sheryl Trost and family for providing the Sunday School lesson video on August 30.  
*c/o Cheryl Moser*
- ♥ Thank you to Sarah Dellinger and family for providing the Sunday School video on August 23.  
*c/o Cheryl Moser*