



# Service of the Word

The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Lectionary 27  
Liturgical Year A  
October 4, 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>	Drinda Kiner

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*God, When Human Bonds Are Broken*  
(based on the tune to ELW #603)

*(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. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# WORD

## **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 5:1-7**

*The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.*

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,

judge between me  
and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 80:7-15

*Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)*

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O <sup>1</sup> God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>8</sup>**You have brought a vine <sup>1</sup> out of Egypt;  
you cast out the nations and <sup>1</sup> planted it.**

<sup>9</sup>You cleared the <sup>1</sup> ground for it;  
it took root and <sup>1</sup> filled the land.

<sup>10</sup>**The mountains were covered <sup>1</sup> by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees <sup>1</sup> by its boughs.**

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils <sup>1</sup> to the sea

and its branches | to the river.

<sup>12</sup>**Why have you broken | down its wall,  
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

<sup>14</sup>**Turn now, O | God of hosts,  
look | down from heaven;**

<sup>15</sup>behold and | tend this vine;  
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

## SECOND READING

## Philippians 3:4b-14

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

<sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 21:33-46

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

<sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" <sup>41</sup>They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes?'

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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**

*Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil*

ELW #721

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

## **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)*

Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation (*especially Francis of Assisi, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders (*especially*) seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered)*

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard (*especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society*). May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. 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](http://messiahlyndhurst.org))*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

*Amazing Grace*  
Vicki Lester and Carolina Wren

Today's special music was requested by Phyllis Short after the passing of her husband, Tom. She called Vicki and said Tom always wanted her to sing Amazing Grace at his funeral. Since there was no funeral, she asked if Vicki would sing it out in her backyard. She did and this little Carolina Wren joined her for all five verses. Phyllis said it was Tom smiling down.

# 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

*Let All Things Now Living*  
ELW #881



1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing  
2. God rules all the forc - es: The stars in their cours - es



To God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
And sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,  
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,



And guides us with care to the end of our days.  
The deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be - fore us,  
We too should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing;



A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is ban - ished,  
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing:



As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
"To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)*

## POSTLUDE

Variation on *The Ash Grove*  
(based on the tune to ELW #881)

### **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; Lila Boehler, 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.**

**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, October 20, 2020 at 7:00pm.

**The Messiah Book Club** will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13th at the home of Mary Lou Bregitzer to discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover.

**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 September 27, 2020:

Park & Pray Attendees and YouTube Views: 53

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$2,795

(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 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*
- ♥ I want to thank Glenn Odenbrett for playing some favorite hymns this past Sunday, and the beautiful transition from one hymn to another.

Also Tom Trost for the excellent trumpet accompaniment. And for anyone else who may have been involved behind the scenes.

*c/o Jim Rase*

- ♥ The Odenbrett family would like to thank the choir members and director Vicki Lester for the beautiful plant sent in memory of Muriel Odenbrett, Glenn's recently deceased mother. It was very much appreciated.

*c/o Glenn Odenbrett*

- ♥ Thanks to Glenn and Tom Trost for the inspirational music that perked up the holiday weekend service.

*c/o Karen Zak*

- ♥ I would like to thank Tom Trost for the lovely accompaniment to Glenn Odenbrett.

*c/o Judy Burghart*

- ♥ 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*