



WELCOME TO THIS
WORSHIP CELEBRA-
TION of the living
Christ's presence in
our midst. Christ
comes to us with new
life and strength for
Christian living in
daily life through the
hearing of the Word,
preaching, prayer,
song, and community.

*As the Confession and
Forgiveness begins, all
may make the sign of
the cross, the sign that
is marked at baptism.*

*Congregational re-
sponses are in bold*

** Asterisks through-
out the order of
worship indicate
the people stand-
ing, in body and/or
in spirit.*

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

George Lawrence, reader

PRELUDE "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Kocher/arr. Jordan

Shirley Newhart, organ

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

Leader: Compassionate God.

People: **we confess to you all our sins.**

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Leader: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

People: **Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Hymn 879

Verses 1-4



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
a - gent of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Refrain

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

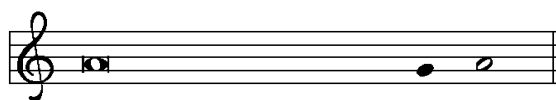
*GREETING

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

People: And also with you.

"Kyrie" is a Greek word meaning "Lord." In Christian liturgy, particularly in Kyrie Eleison, it's used as a plea for God's mercy. The full phrase, "Kyrie eleison," translates to "Lord, have mercy," and has a common element in various Christian worship services since the 4th century.

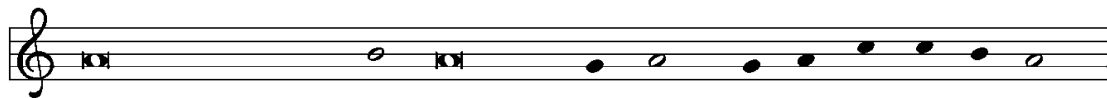
*KYRIE



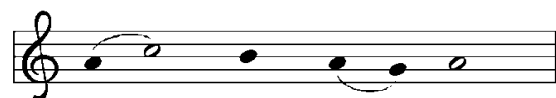
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



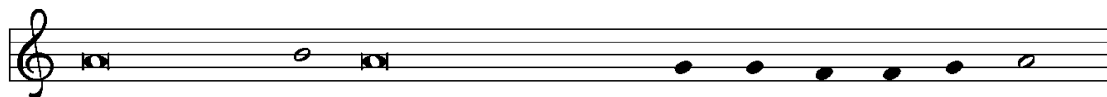
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

The reading of Scripture is the time that God makes known his will: God desires mercy and salvation.

Ultimately, this word points us to the Word, the incarnate Son of God.

Through Christ — God's only Son — are we able to know the Father's favor and grace.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “How Beautiful”

Twila Paris/arr. Larson

Rodney Powers, solo; Shirley Newhart, piano

WORD

George Lawrence, reader

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Old Testament 676

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, “I am with you.”

¹⁵ O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail. ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.
²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

Leader: ¹ Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with
integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

**People: ² Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my
mind.**

Leader: ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

**People: ⁴ I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

Leader: ⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

**People: ⁶ I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

Leader: ⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**People: ⁸ Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

New Testament page 142

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

New Testament 16

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

Leader: The Gospel according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON “Living Together in Mercy”

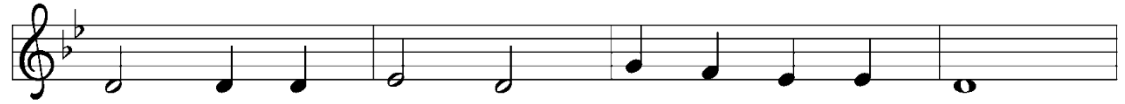
Rev. Karen Scheib

*Today’s Altar Flowers
are given by Virginia
& Ken Hylander “in
celebration of their
45th wedding anniversary.”*

*The August Eternal
Candle was donated
by Cheryl Liebgott “to
thank God for all his
blessings.”*

*HYMN OF THE DAY "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

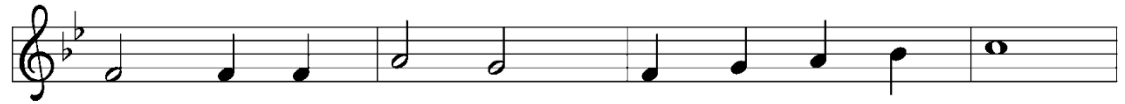
Hymn 800



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780–1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–189

That Christ visited the dead after his crucifixion is based on 1 Peter 4:6 "For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does."

In the Apostles' Creed, the phrase "holy catholic Church" refers to the universal Christian church, not exclusively the Roman Catholic Church. It signifies the belief in a single, unified body of believers across time and space, united by their shared faith in Christ.

*APOSTLES' CREED

**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**

(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is offered.)

Leader: Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

(Final petition and response.)

Leader: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have
promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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.**

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SENDING

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

Leader: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

People: Amen

*SENDING SONG “On What Has Now Been Sown”

Hymn 550



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

*DISMISSAL

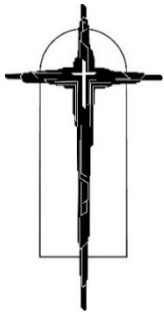
Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE “Partita on Darwall’s 148th”

Shirley Newhart, organ

Callahan



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 30	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class
Monday, August 31	<i>6:30 pm Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, September 1	
Wednesday, September 2	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Thursday, September 3	4:30 pm Nominating Committee
Friday, September 4	<i>1:00 pm Needlepoint Society</i>
Saturday, September 5	

Italics indicate outside group

MESSIAH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday-9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Wednesday-8:30 am to 11:30 am

Friday-Closed

ONLINE GIVING

Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to Messiah using the secure online portal at the website (messiahsi.org) and clicking on the Give tab. Another option to reach the portal is to scan this QR code using your smartphone's QR reader. This link may be used for paying for altar flowers and other church-related activities. Questions? Contact the Church Office.



If you would like to give the old-fashioned way, the offering plate is on the table as you exit the Sanctuary.



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Director, Faith Formation	Ken Ritz
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Janet Reardon
Reader	George Lawrence
Evangelism Greeters	Julie Anderson & Gayla Webb
Ushers	Ken Mitchell & Jim Ross
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Pam Allen (host) Milda Blaney (treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Parker Pearson 09/03; Betty Anderson 09/05; Barbara Van Doren 09/05

Anniversaries: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

End of Summer Fiesta

Friday, September 4, 6:00 pm

Welcome Pastor Talsness back and thank our amazing staff! The Parish Life Ministry is hosting a low-country boil for the celebration. Sign up on the Narthex Kiosk. Invite a friend! Questions? Contact Gayle Denny (513.604.0764).

Sunset Boat Ride

Monday, September 21, 5:20 pm

Join the fun for a sunset cruise from North Harbor Marina. The cost is \$35 per person (cash at the boat), and there is a maximum of 35 people. Bring your own drinks and an appetizer to share. Sign up on the Narthex Kiosk and contact Gayle Denny (513.604.0764) for more information or a gate pass.

Chapeau Sunday

Sunday, September 13

Ladies, time to dig those hats out of the closet! Our Parish Life Ministry created this Messiah "tradition" in 2013. While we take the Gospel seriously, we do not have to take ourselves seriously! Playfulness can be a part of the joy of the life of a congregation. The ladies of Messiah Lutheran remind us of how important this philosophy of life is when they celebrate Chapeau Sunday. On that day, all women and girls of Messiah Lutheran are encouraged to wear their finest hats to church to proclaim their devotion to the chapeau, sometimes known as the bonnet, the hat, the head covering, the cap. What a plethora of millinery designs is then on display! Typically, we observe this tradition on the last

Sunday of the Chancel Choir's summer break. So, this year, Chapeau Sunday is September 13.

Messiah Reads Kickoff Supper

Tuesday, September 8, 5:30 pm

Deadline to Sign up: Friday, September 4

Messiah's book group will hold a potluck supper on September 8 in Peper Hall to organize for the upcoming year, including selecting the books for 2026-2027. Once the organizers know who will be attending, they will coordinate the food. Please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk or contact the organizers Patricia Small (smallpatricia13@yahoo.com) or Lisa Oswald (laoswald@icloud.com). If you would like to join the group this year for the first time, please contact one of them.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Council is seeking to involve more people in the life of the church. Approximately 50% of the congregation has joined Messiah in the last 10 years, and Messiah's leaders want to give everyone an opportunity to participate.

To make that happen, there is a new "Time & Talent" form, which is available on the Narthex Table. Please complete the form and place it in the Offering Plate or drop it off at the Church Office. Additional copies are available on the Narthex Table.

OUTREACH MINISTRY
2026 Build-a-Bed Event
Save the Date

This year's **Build-a-Bed** event to benefit **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** will take place on **Saturday, October 3, from 8:00 a.m. to noon.**



Join us for a morning of fellowship and service as we work together to build beds—and hope—for children in our community. Breakfast will be served, and water will be provided.

If you plan to participate, please register in advance using the QR Code.

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT
Handbell Rehearsal to Resume
Thursday, September 10, 3:30 pm

Voices in Bronze, a combined Bell Choir of Messiah Lutheran and Skidaway Community Church, will resume rehearsals on September 10 in the Classroom (Bell Room).

Chancel Choir Kickoff
Wednesday, September 16, 6:30 pm

Messiah is once again assembling vocal talent for the Chancel Choir year. The first rehearsal will be at the home of Choir Director Rodney Powers on September 16. Both returning members and newcomers with the inclination to “sing” are welcome. The strength of the choir is its diversity of singers, which creates “...a musical expression that cannot be put into words, and that cannot remain silent” (Victor Hugo).

Singing in the choir does mean a commitment of time for rehearsal and worship; but, if you love music and love to sing, it is well worth it. Take a little time to reflect on your calling and hear if the Spirit is calling your name. For more information, contact Choir Director Rodney Powers.

SERMON PREVIEW

Living Together in Mercy

In the second half of Romans 12, Paul turns from who we are becoming to how we are to live with one another. He describes a life marked by genuine love, mutual honor, hospitality, compassion, humility, and a refusal to repay evil with evil. These are not simply isolated virtues, but the shape of a community being transformed by God’s mercy. This Sunday, we will consider what it means to live together as people whose lives are shaped by God’s mercy.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

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¹ Greg Stinson is serving the second year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

² George Lawrence is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2028.

