

MESSIAH LUTHERAN
Skidaway Island

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Sunday, May 17, 2026
Seventh Sunday of Easter



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
1 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411
(912) 598-1188
www.messiahsi.org

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Babette Borsani, reader

PRELUDE “This Joyful Eastertide”

Shirley Newhart, organ

arr. Bouman

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us come into the light,
the revealing and healing light of God.

Leader: God of grace and glory,

People: **you have brought us through the night of sin
into the light of Jesus’ resurrection.
Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin.
Make us alive in Christ, O God.
Make us new as you make all things new.
Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin,
renew us in grace,
and restore us to living in your holiness,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.**

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.*

Leader: Rejoice with all creation around God's throne!
The light of the risen Christ
puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin,
restores innocence to the fallen,
casts out hate, brings peace,
and humbles earthly pride.
Jesus Christ loves you
and † frees you from your sins by his blood.
To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

People: Amen.

Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless.

—Charles M. Crowe

*GATHERING SONG "God is Here"

Hymn 526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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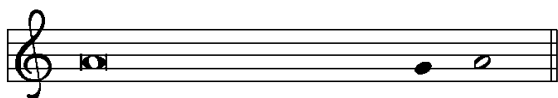
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*GREETING

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



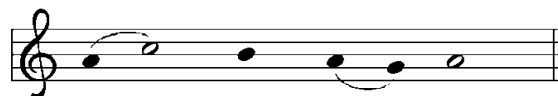
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



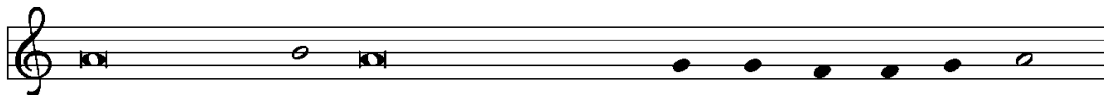
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

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.

*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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM "I Am the Resurrection"

Repp

Summer Choir

WORD

Babette Borsani, reader

FIRST READING Proverbs 9: 7-10

Old Testament 554

- ⁷ Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse;
whoever rebukes the wicked gets hurt.
- ⁸ Do not rebuke a scoffer, lest he hate you;
rebuke the wise, and he will love you.
- ⁹ Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still;
teach the righteous, and they will gain in learning.
- ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)

Leader: ¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

People: ² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at
the presence of God.**

Leader: ³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

People: ⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I Am is that name, rejoice before God!**

Leader: ⁵ In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

People: ⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

Leader: ⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

People: ⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

Leader: ⁹ You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

People: ¹⁰ **Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

New Testament 208

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore

support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 7:1-6**

New Testament 6

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. ² For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. ³ Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

⁶ “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON “Seeing Clearly in a Blurry World”

Reverend Jason Talsness

*Both vases of Altar
Flowers this week are
given by Peggy & Par-
ker Pearson “in cele-
bration of their 52nd
wedding anniversary.”*

Lutherans typically use the Nicene Creed at Easter because it is the church's most fully developed confession of Christ's resurrection and divinity, shaped precisely to address questions about who Jesus is. On a festival as central as Easter, it emphasizes that the risen Christ is "true God from true God," not just raised, but eternally one with the Father.

The Nicene Creed comes from the early church councils of First Council of Nicaea and First Council of Constantinople in 325 AD, where bishops clarified Christian teaching about Christ's nature in response to controversy. It is longer and more doctrinally precise.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

Hymn 608

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me.

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,**

of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Howard Anderson

***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: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers
to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

People: **Amen.**

MEAL

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Holy One,

People: through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new.

Send us as bearers of your peace and healing.

Amen.

SENDING

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

Leader: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

*SENDING SONG "Thine the Amen"

Hymn 826

Verses 1-4



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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*DISMISSAL

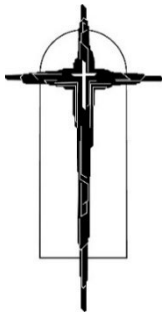
Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE "Easter Hymn"

Shirley Newhart, organ

arr. Young



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 17	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, May 18	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Strategic Planning Briefing <i>6:30 pm Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, May 19	<i>12:00 pm CPR Training</i> 2:00 pm Outreach Ministry
Wednesday, May 20	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study <i>12:00 pm CPR Training</i>
Thursday, May 21	
Friday, May 22	
Saturday, May 23	

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	Babette Borsani
Evangelism Greeters	Karen Floto & David Driggers
Ushers	Parker Pearson and Kathy Ritz
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread and Marcia Stinson
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Christine Lind (host & treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Roszlyn Willis-Hanenberger 05/18, Bonnie LaPread 05/23

Anniversaries: Peggy & Parker Pearson 05/17,

Karen Scheib & Jonathan Spingarn 5/20

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Survey Results

In February, Messiah conducted a survey of the congregation as part of the strategic planning process. The Strategic Planning Team is now ready to share the results.

Today, Howard Anderson will share a brief three-minute overview of the survey findings during worship. For those of you who would like more detail, there will be a follow-up presentation tomorrow at 4:00 pm led by Ken Hylander and Howard Anderson. Please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk if you plan to attend.

NEXT SUNDAY

March 24 is Pentecost—plan to wear red.

PLANS FOR SABBATICAL

For full information about Pastor Talsness' sabbatical, pick up the blue information sheet on the Narthex Table.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

For those who wish to use envelopes for their weekly offering, there are boxes on the Narthex Table. Feel free to take one.

INTERESTED IN JOINING MESSIAH?

If you would like to join Messiah before Pastor Talsness' sabbatical begins on June 1, please contact him no later than May 24. Messiah will welcome new members during worship on Sunday, May 31st. No classes are required—just a conversation with the pastor.

SERMON PREVIEW

Seeing Clearly in a Blurry World

This Sunday's Gospel from Matthew 7 has a familiar saying—"Do not judge"—but refuses to let us hear it superficially. Jesus presses deeper, exposing not just our tendency to judge others, but our remarkable blindness to ourselves: "why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own?" Before we can see clearly, he says, something must be removed from our own vision—"first take the log out of your own eye."

And yet, just as we begin to settle into this call to humility, Jesus adds a puzzling warning: "do not give what is holy to dogs... do not throw your pearls before swine." Jesus does not specify what is holy; and there is an apparent tension, since this command implies judgment of others. This week's sermon explores this section of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, reshaping the way we see ourselves, others, and the gifts placed into our hands.

Questions for Reflection:

When have you been wasteful with your grace or patience, that might connect with giving what is holy to the dogs? What might it mean to live with both humility and discernment—seeing ourselves truthfully while also recognizing what is truly precious?

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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.

