



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

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

Pat Cooper, reader

PRELUDE "Rejoice"

Skidaway Island Voices in Bronze

Gramann

*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 “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

Hymn 873

Verses 1-4

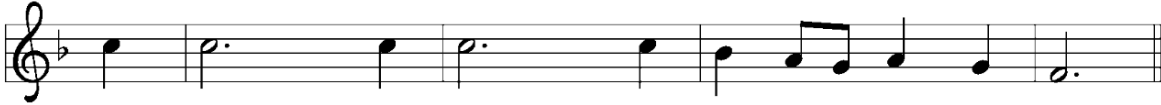


1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.
Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

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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" 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**

Please sing the verses in Greek. [KEE-ree-ay eh-LAY-ee-son (Lord have mercy) and KREE-stay eh-LAY-ee-son (Christ have mercy)].



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
2	Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
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*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: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM "Mercy Still"

Elsey/arr. Sorenson

Chancel Choir; Yvonne Johnson, violin; Oskar Johnson-Liu, cello

*Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners spare?
I have long withstood His grace. Long provoked him to his face.
Would not listen to his calls. I have grieved Him by a thousand falls.
Is there mercy still? Is there mercy still? Is there mercy still for me?*

*I my master have denied. I again have crucified,
and profaned his hallowed name, put him to an open shame.
There, for me, the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands.
God is love! I know, I feel. Oh, Jesus weeps, and loves me still.*

*Now incline me to repent. Let me now my sins lament.
Live in grace, and be restored. Weep, believe, and sin no more.
Depth of mercy, can there be? Mercy still reserved for me?
God is love! I know, I feel. Oh Jesus weeps and loves me still.*

WORD

Pat Cooper, reader

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

Old Testament 611

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

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.

¹ O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save
us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

Leader: ¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

People: ²**He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters,**

Leader: ³he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
For his name's sake.

People: ⁴**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I fear no evil
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.**

Leader: ⁵Thou preparest a table before me
In the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup overflows.

People: ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

New Testament page 175

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious

about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 22:1-14**

New Testament page 21

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

Leader: The Gospel according to Matthew.

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

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready;

*Today's Altar Flowers
are given by Janet and
Walter Reardon "in
celebration of October
birthdays."*

*Lynn & Ken McLau-
chlan donated the Oc-
tober Eternal Candle
"for the glory of God."*

come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mis-treated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "The King and the Guest List"

Pastor Jason Talsness

*HYMN OF THE DAY “As We Gather at Your Table”

Hymn 522



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

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*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.

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.

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."

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**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.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Returning member Linda Anne Goethe
Associate Member Trudie Harding*

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Leader: Hear us, O God,

People: **Your mercy is great.**

(Final petition and response.)

Leader: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up
these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through 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.**

SENDING

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen

*SENDING SONG “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy,”

From “This Far by Faith”



1 I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
2 I’ve got the peace that pass - es un - der - stand - ing,
3 I’ve got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,



down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;



I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
I’ve got the peace that pass - es un - der - stand - ing,
I’ve got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,



down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

Text: George W. Cooke
Music: DOWN IN MY HEART, George W. Cooke

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

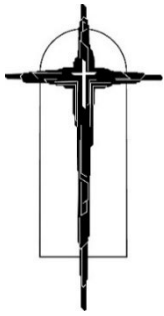
*POSTLUDE “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Shirley Newhart, organ

arr. Jordan

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 11	8:30 am Chancel Choir Warmup 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, October 12	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 10:30 am Johnson-Liu Recording Session <i>6:30 pm Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, October 13	3:00 pm Stephen Ministers
Wednesday, October 14	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 1:30 pm Worship & Music Ministry 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 15	3:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
Friday, October 16	
Saturday, October 17	

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	Jane Holst & Kay Yablecki
Reader	Pat Cooper
Evangelism Greeters	Janet Reardon and Kay Yablecki
Ushers	Ken Mitchell and Jim Ross
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Christine Lind (host) Cheryl Liebgott (cake)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Penny LeBlanc 10/15; Ron Whitaker 10/17; Joan Jacobson 10/17

Anniversaries: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Today is the second Sunday of the month, which means that we will celebrate everyone with October birthdays during Fellowship Time today. Please join us in Peper Hall following worship today for birthday cake and other refreshments.

NEW RESOURCE FOR MESSIAH

**From Peggy Pearson, Chair
Education & Discipleship Ministry**

I am excited to announce that our church now has unlimited access to *RightNow Media*—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. It is the source we use for Sunday adult education and men's bible study. Over the next three weeks, we will be sharing more information about the content and how to access the library.

We have chosen to let members "opt in," rather than automatically enroll everyone. It is a simple "opt-in" process--let us know if you are interested in more information, by signing up on the Narthex Kiosk or the Church Office. You may also text / call Peggy Pearson (443-995-1146).

Once you opt-in, you will receive an email from *RightNowMedia*, and then you can simply click the link in the email, create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos.

RightNow Media is a tool that can help us live out your faith in every area of life—at home, at work, on the golf course, at dinner, and in the community. In addition to series on books of the Bible,

RightNow Media has videos for everyone in the family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, and mental health as well as videos for youth and kids/grandkids.

May this be a blessing in your life.

MESSIAH READS

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30 pm

The book club's October meeting will be at the home of Joni DiGiorgio (jldigiorgio@aol.com). The featured book is *The Museum of Second Chances* by Jo Leever.

If you would like to join this group, please contact Patti Small (smallpatricia13@yahoo.com).

ATTENTION COMMUNION ASSISTANTS!

Coordinator Bonnie LaPreard has posted a revised signup sheet for Communion Assistants. Rather than signing up for an entire month, there are 2 spaces for each worship service with communion so you can sign up for an individual service. Please take a minute and signup on the Narthex Kiosk for the remaining services in 2026 (including Christmas Eve).

EMPTY BOWL FUNDRAISER

**Sunday, November 1 at Reynolds Square
11:00 am to 1:30 pm**

This mission-driven ceramic arts show, and tasting will feature soups prepared by Union Mission's culinary team, along with additional bites from our culinary partners – The Olde Pink House, Collins Quarter, Sentient Bean and Leopold's Ice Cream – and live music by harpist

Kristen King. Each attendee may select a hand-crafted bowl and branded tote to take home as a reminder of our community's compassion and care.

Following the event, guests are invited to tour the new Emmaus House Resource Center at 127 Fahm Center. The optional tour will begin at 1:30 p.m., and parking will be available. Proceeds will support the Emmaus House Resource Center, which serves more than 200 individuals each day by providing meals, medical-care, counseling and case management, workforce development, dignity services, and housing navigation – all in one location.

SERMON PREVIEW

The King & the Guest List

The parable of the wedding banquet is one of the more frustrating and perplexing of Jesus' parables. In Matthew 22 he speaks of a king who throws a wedding banquet and most everything goes wrong. The invited guests refuse to come, so the king opens the doors to all both "good and bad," which starts to sound like Jesus' grace and abundance until the king walks up to this poor fellow who isn't correctly dressed and kicks him out of the party.

This Sunday, we will consider what happens when God ruins the guest list, invites people who have no business being there, and then asks something of those who come to the feast.

Questions for reflection: Who would be on your guest list—and who probably wouldn't? What does it tell us about God that the king invites people from the streets, "both good and bad?" Why do you think some of the original guests refuse the invitation? If everyone is welcome, why does the wedding robe matter? Who could you invite into your life for dinner or coffee that you have never connected with before?

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.

