



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

Trevor Olson, reader

PRELUDE "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee"

arr. Behnke

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 "Take My Life that I May Be"

Hymn 583

Refrain/Estrillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas *Last time*



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estrillo



pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

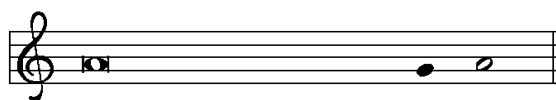
*GREETING

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.

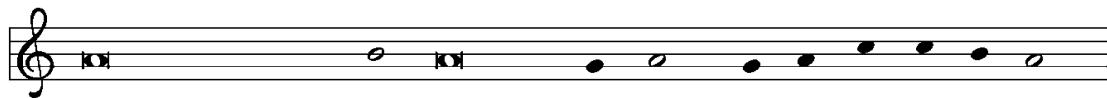
*KYRIE



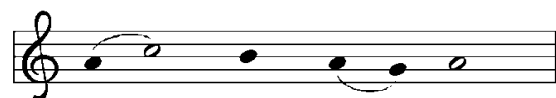
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



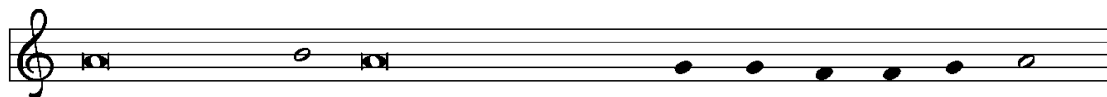
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving-kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Honor and Praise”

Paris

Chancel Choir

Righteous and holy in all of your ways, we come before you with honor and praise.

Here to adore you for all of our days, we come before you with honor and praise.

Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are, shine down upon us, O bright Morning Star.

Righteous and holy in all of your ways, we come before you with honor and praise.

Filling the temple, the work of your grace, we come before you with honor and praise.

Here to adore you for all of our days, we come before you with honor and praise.

Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are, rise in our spirits, O bright Morning Star.

Righteous and holy in all of your ways, we come before you with honor and praise.

WORD

Trevor Olson, reader

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

Old Testament 814

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 145:1-8

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

Leader: ¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

People: ² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Leader: ³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

People: ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

Leader: ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

People: ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

Leader: ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great
goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

People: ⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

New Testament page 174

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

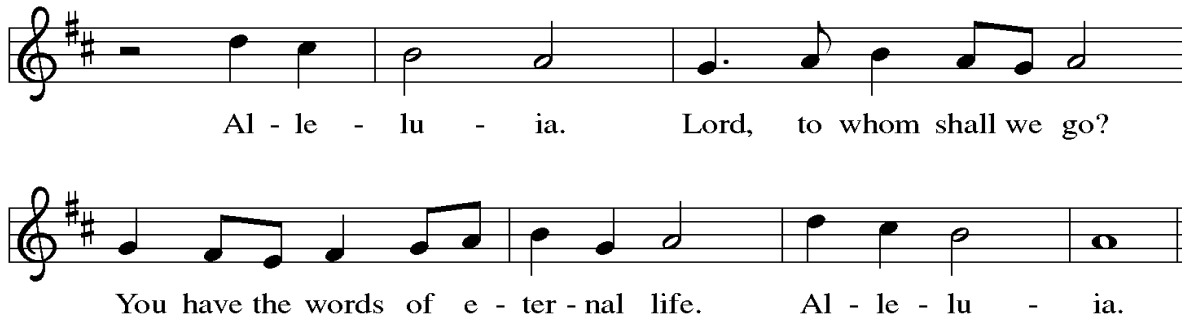
²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation.

And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

New Testament page 19

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

Leader: The Gospel according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay,

beginning with the last and then going to the first.’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Jason Talsness

*HYMN OF THE DAY “As Saints of Old”

Hymn 695



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of orchard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give;
3 In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to day



to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
to make our life an offering to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.



so we to-day first-fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,



of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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*Altar Flowers today
are given by Pam Allen “in celebration of
Steve’s birthday on
September 19” and by
Barbara Van Doren
and Tim Andrews “in
celebration of their
anniversary on Sep-
tember 19.”*

*Amanda & David
Ridberg donated the
September Eternal
Candle “with bless-
ings to all volunteers
at Messiah.”*

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."

***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: Hear us, O God,

People: Your mercy is great.

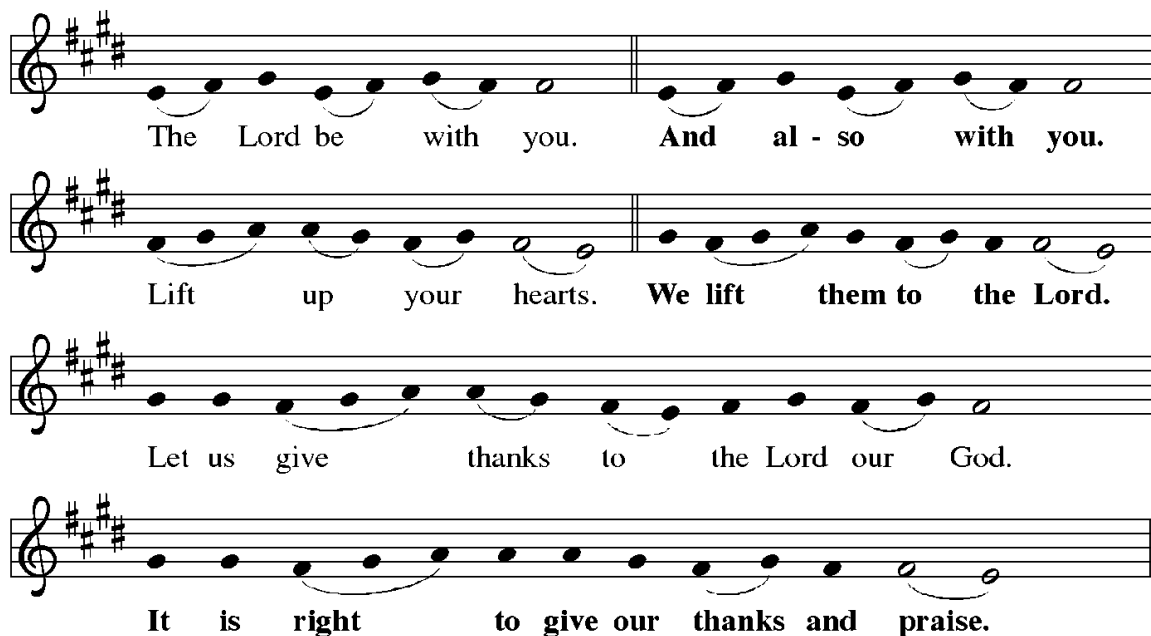
(Final petition and response.)

Leader: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

MEAL

*DIALOGUE



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

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

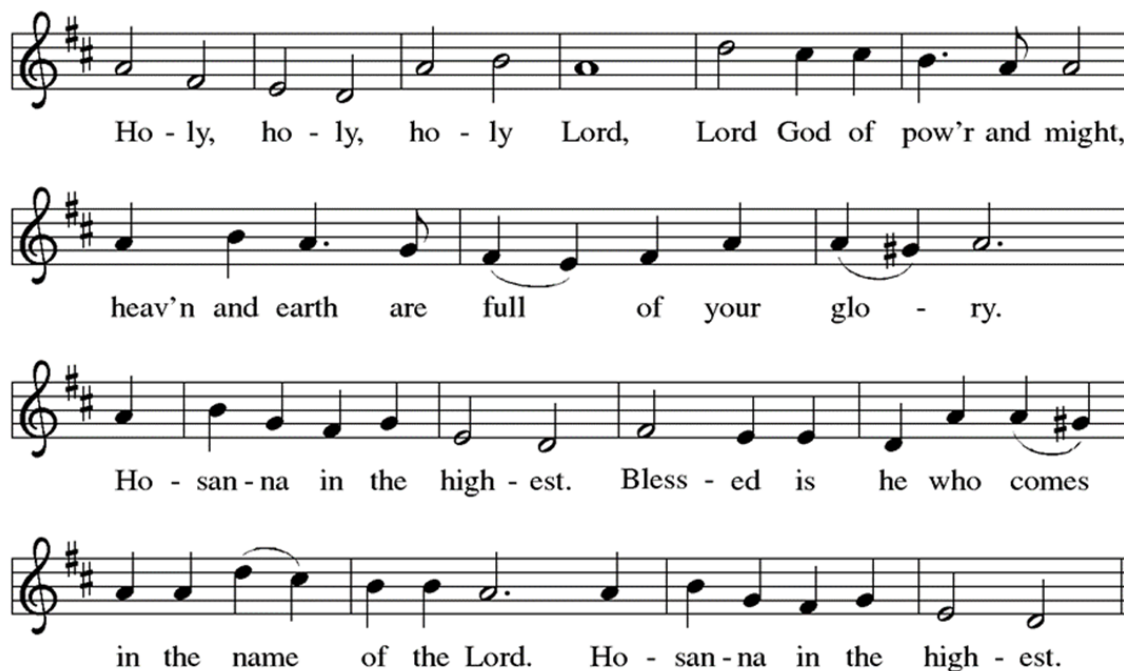
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

During Pentecost there is Holy Communion on the first and third Sunday of each month. All who are seeking Christ and his grace are welcome at our communion table.

Today, we will receive Communion by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine or juice). Here is the process:

Approach: Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward via the center aisle.

Receive the Bread: Extend your hands to receive a piece of bread or a wafer from the minister.

Dip: Hold the bread carefully and dip a portion into the chalice.

Consume: Place the intincted bread directly into your mouth and reverently return to your seat by the side aisles.

Note: If you prefer a gluten-free option or a blessing instead, please let the minister know as you approach.

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*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.

*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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Compassionate God,
People: through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen

*SENDING SONG “Lord of All Hopefulness”

Hymn 765



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

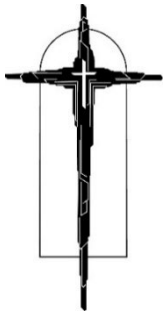
*POSTLUDE “When in Our Music God Is Glorified”

Shirley Newhart, organ

arr. Hobby

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 20	8:30 am Chancel Choir Warmup 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class
Monday, September 21	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:20 pm Sunset Cruise
Tuesday, September 22	2:00 pm Outreach Ministry 6:30 pm Messiah Reads
Wednesday, September 23	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 1:00 pm Audit Committee 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 24	<i>12:00 pm SNC Program</i> 3:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
Friday, September 25	3:30 pm Grief Group
Saturday, September 26	1:00 PM JUDY LAWRENCE FUNERAL

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	Kathy Ritz & Marcia Stinson
Reader	Trevor Olson
Communion Assistants	David Greenawalt and Bonnie LaPread
Evangelism Greeters	Alison McVeigh
Ushers	Jim Dawson and Rick Tallon
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	TBD (host) Amanda Ridberg (treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Lynn McLauchlan 9/22; Lisa Oswald 9/24

Anniversaries: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

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.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

2026 Build-a-Bed Event

Saturday, October 3, 8:30 am

If you have not yet registered for this year's Build-a-Bed event on Saturday, October 3rd, please consider doing so now. Early registration will help us ensure that we meet our volunteer goal and have enough helping hands to reach our goal of constructing fifty beds for children in our community.



In addition to hands-on build volunteers, we also need volunteers to help serve breakfast on the morning of the event. If you are available to help with breakfast, please contact Lisa Oswald at laoswald@icloud.com.

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

GOOD GRIEF

Understanding Your Grief Support Group

WHEN:

10 sessions, Fridays, September 25-December 4, 3:30 to 5:00 pm

WHERE:

Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 West Ridge Road

CONTACT:

For more information and registration, contact the Church Office (912.598.1188, ext. 101; mes-siahsk@gmail.com).

WHAT ELSE:

Please register by September 18. The group will keep the same members throughout the 10-week series. Registration closes after the first session. Brochures with additional information are on the Narthex Table.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

Please Help

On October 1-4, a team of 22 Kairos volunteers will return to Emanuel Women's Facility in Swainsboro, Georgia. Kairos means "God's Special Time". The purpose of this program is to establish a Kairos Community inside this prison by the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. This Kairos Team will spend 3 ½ days with the residents sharing God's love for them.

Here is how you can participate:

- **Pray for us:** Be a part of the Prayer Chain. This is vital...without prayer this weekend cannot happen. There will be a sign-up sheet and suggested prayers on the Kairos Table in Peper Hall for the next four Sundays.

- **Make a Donation:** All Kairos activities are funded by donations. One way to help is to buy meal tickets for the participants. A \$5 donation is suggested, but any amount will be helpful. The residents will see that someone they did not know was thinking about them and paid for their meal.
- **Color Placemats:** These placemats are used for each meal to brighten their

mealtime during the weekend. The residents are thrilled to see that someone has taken the time to brighten their day.

Please stop by the table in Peper Hall to participate in this worthwhile mission. You may also contact Pat Cooper (912.508.4250). God Bless.

SERMON PREVIEW

Our gospel reading features Jesus telling a parable about workers in the vineyard who arrive at different times of the day, but all end up getting paid the same.

We will consider what happens when God's generosity does not match our expectations. As Christians, we know we cannot earn our way to heaven—that we are saved by God's grace—a concept that can be hard to comprehend. In this parable we are confronted by God's generosity, to the point that we wonder whether it is, in some cases, warranted. God's generosity is a reason for joy, but also a challenge to comprehend.

Questions for reflection: When have you received more generosity than you thought you deserved? Why does someone else receiving grace sometimes feel unfair to us? Can you rejoice when someone else receives something good—even when you think they haven't earned it? Where might God be inviting you to become more generous yourself?

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

Jason Talsness, Pastor

(912) 556-8056
skidawaypastorj@gmail.com

Peggy Pearson (2026)

Education & Discipleship Ministry
443.995.1146
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Claire Cornwell-Williams (2028)

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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.