



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

Clyde Olson, reader

PRELUDE "God, We Praise You"

Sadowski

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 "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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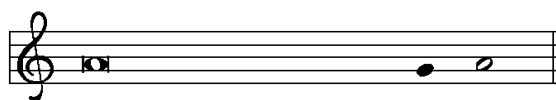
*GREETING

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.

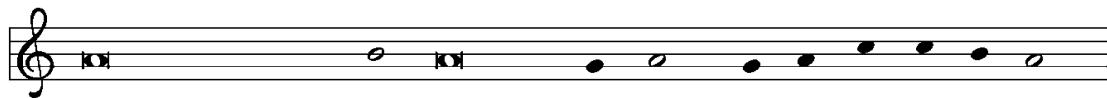
*KYRIE



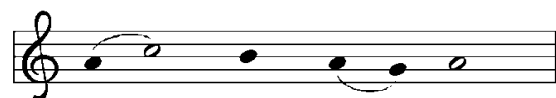
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



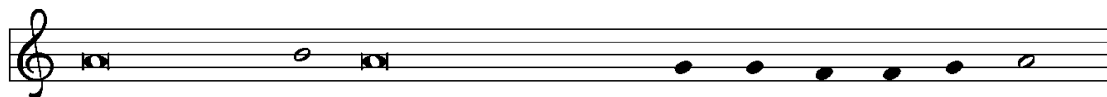
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings.
Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those
things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM “We Are the Body of Christ”

Brown/Hampton

Chancel Choir

One heart, one spirit, one voice to praise You.

We are the body of Christ.

One goal, one vision: to see You exalted.

We are the body of Christ.

And to this we give our lives to see You glorified.

WORD

Clyde Olson, reader

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Old Testament 740

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die.

²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

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.

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

Leader: ¹ To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

People: ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Leader: ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

People: ⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

Leader: ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all
the day long.

People: ⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

Leader: ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my
transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast
love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

People: ⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

Leader: ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

New Testament page 174

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

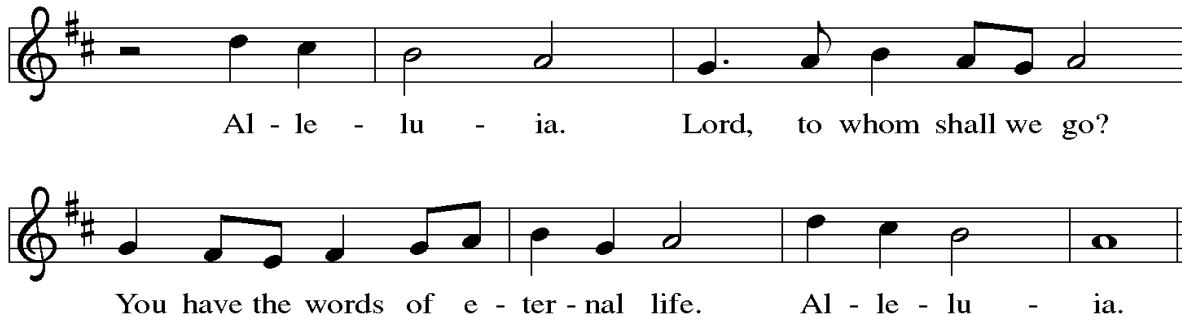
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

New Testament page 20

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

Leader: The Gospel according to Matthew.

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

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

*Today's Altar Flowers
are given by Amanda
& Genevieve Ridberg:
"Happy Birthday, Da-
vid. We love you!"*

*Amanda & David
Ridberg donated the
September Eternal
Candle "to the glory
of God."*

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. David Coffman, Guest Preacher

*HYMN OF THE DAY "O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

Hymn 818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

*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.**

*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.**

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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SENDING

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen

*SENDING SONG “Lead Me, Guide Me”

Hymn 768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, For if you
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am
help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways
dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris M. Akers, b.1922
Tune: Doris M. Akers, b.1922, harm. by Richard Smallwood
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***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

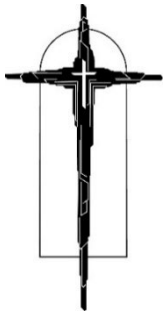
***POSTLUDE** “Cwm Rhondda”

Shirley Newhart, organ

Held

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 27	8:30 am Chancel Choir Warmup 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Communion Assistant Briefing 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, September 28	8:00 am <i>Landings Garden Club</i> 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 4:30 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm <i>Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, September 29	3:00 pm MLC Staff Meeting
Wednesday, September 30	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 1	3:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
Friday, October 2	1:00 pm <i>Needlepoint Society</i>
Saturday, October 3	8:30 am BUILD-A-BED

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	Clyde Olson
Evangelism Greeters	Gayle & John Denny
Ushers	Ken Mitchell and Jim Ross
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Pam Allen (host) Jennifer Nguyen(treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Elsa Lindenschmidt 9/28; Connie Squibb 9/29; Richard Oswald 10/2; Anne Gladden 10/3; Barbara Johnson 10/3

Anniversaries: David & Amanda Ridberg 9/29; Jimmy & Karin Viglione 9/30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUEST PREACHER

Today our guest preacher is The Reverend David Coffman. He serves as the Campus Pastor at Newberry College overseeing the Wolves Pantry in the fight against food insecurity, even on a college campus. We are pleased to welcome Pastor Coffman to Messiah and grateful for the opportunity to hear from him and learn more about his ministry at Newberry College.

He has served as a pastor, hospice chaplain, patient care coordinator, dementia specialist and educator, and a supply preacher across the Southeast. He chairs the Board of Trustees for South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers. He serves on the SC Candidacy Committee. He serves as Chair of the LTSS Alumni Board. He is a Doctor of Ministry Student at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He and his family live in Irmo and follow their three children across the state in their various teaching, traveling, and marching band adventures.

Newberry is a private Lutheran college located in Newberry, South Carolina. Earlier this year, Messiah provided financial support to Newberry College specifically earmarked for use by the campus pastor. This gift helps support a strong pastoral presence on campus—one that builds relationships with students, encourages them in their faith, and helps carry out the Church's mission in higher education.

COMMUNION ASSISTANT BRIEFING

If you are or would like to be a Communion Assistant, please stay after worship for a special briefing session on the process for assistants.

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.

SERMON PREVIEW

Who do you think Jesus is? Jesus asks his disciples. Jesus asks us. Are we like the first son? Or are we like the second son? What will be our response to God's call on our life? How do we show others we are a follower of Jesus? How do they know we are Christian?

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

Jason Talsness, Pastor

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skidawaypastorj@gmail.com

Peggy Pearson (2026)

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Vacant

Finance Ministry

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Pat Cooper (2027)

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cooperpat5@gmail.com

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.

