



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*August 16, 2026
12th Sunday after Pentecost*

*Pastor Ben Cherland
Susan Leaverton, LMA Presiding Today*

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Please take a moment to fill out a square on the Messiah Connects form located on the clip board at the end of your row so that we may make a connection with you.

GATHERING

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

955

Come to the Water of Life

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody features several triplet markings. The lyrics are arranged in four parts, with the first part having four numbered lines. The second part has four lines of lyrics. The third part has four lines of lyrics. The fourth part has four lines of lyrics.

1 All who are thirst-y for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y for
2 All who are thirst-y for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y for
3 All who are thirst-y for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y for
4 All who are thirst-y for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y for

love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,

come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1999 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

WATER OF LIFE

8 7 11 7

GREETING

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

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

- ¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
- ² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**
- ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**
- ⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

Please Stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

Hal - le - lu - jah.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with the Bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system ends with a repeat sign. The second system includes a measure with a fermata over the note 'lu' in the Treble clef. The third system ends with a final double bar line.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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GOSPEL: MATTHEW 15:[10-20] 21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

Please be seated

SERMON

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *ELW 650 In Christ There Is No East or West*

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you**

Please be seated

MEAL

OFFERING

ELW 186 Create in Me a Clean Heart

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

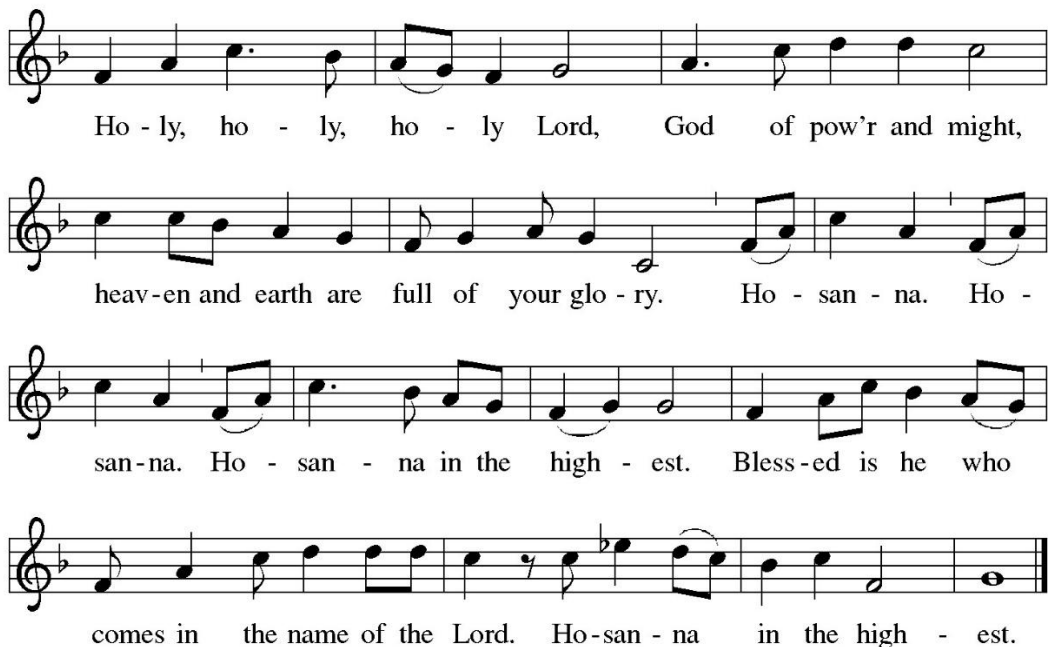
The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

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 (*Pastor*)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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 in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

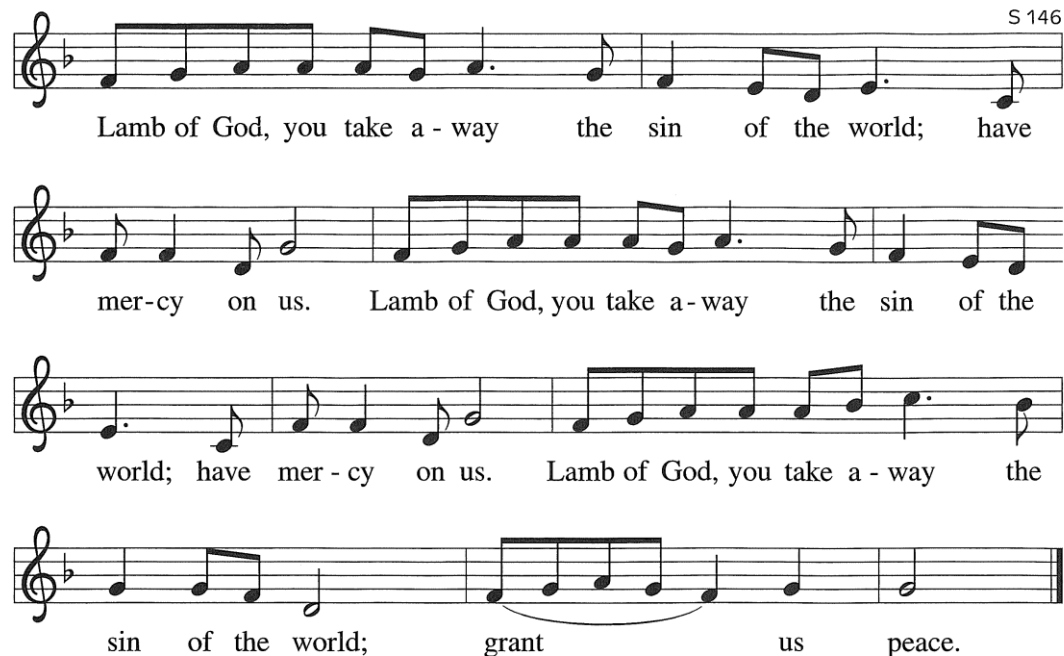
and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION

S 146



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.

ELW 496 One Bread, One Body

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *ELW 759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

DELVING INTO THE BIBLE

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) encourages believers to motivate one another towards love and good deeds, emphasizing the importance of community and fellowship. The verses state: "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

~Kathy Kreatz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to send a sympathy card to Pat Keifert's family their address is
909 Chandler Road
Denton, TX 76207

**The
Special Offering for August is
Carbon County Arts Guild Youth Education**

The annual Hospice Memorial service will be held here at Messiah August 26th at
5:00 pm.

Sunday services will continue to be held here at Messiah during Pastor Ben's
absence with the exception of August 30 when we will join the Community UCC
and Calvary Episcopal congregations for Worship on the Pass.

August 23rd: Pastor Jim Johnson

August 30th: Worship on the Pass at 10 am

September 6th: Festival of Hymns

September 13th: Pastor Robert Leaverton

September 20th: Susan Leaverton, LMA of the Montana Synod

September 27th: Pastor Paul Schauer

October 4th: Pastor Jim Johnson

October 11th: Pastor Peter Christ of St. John's United

October 19th: Bishop Ben Quanbeck

Please write your prayer requests in the prayer request book in the gathering area.
We ask that you re-submit requests at the first of each month if they are still desired
or contact the church office at 406-446-2430 or email requests to
redlodgemessiah@gmail.com
with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

The people of Messiah are praying for
Claudia B, Renee Boyer, Cassidy Flynn, Hannah Gonzales, Herb Hunt, the family
of Reverend Pat Keifert, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner,
Mary Lair, Bob Pollock, Carlos Ramalho, Nick Roselius, Sadie Sceva,
David Smiley, Guynema Terry, Judy Yasi
and
The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

**Messiah Lutheran Church
912 Lower Continental Dr, P.O. Box 1330
Red Lodge, MT 59068
redlodgemessiah@gmail.com, 406-446-2430
Administrative Assistant Hours
Monday – Thursday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

In an effort to make Messiah comfortable and welcoming for everyone, we ask that you refrain from using strong personal scents or perfumes. Thank you.

*As a community of Christ's followers, we seek to grow, making a difference in the
lives of others.
Live by faith . Share Christ's Love . Be a Voice for Hope*

Susan Leaverton, a Lay Ministry Associate, has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

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