



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*July 5, 2026
6th Sunday after Pentecost*

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church
6th Sunday after Pentecost | July 5, 2026

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn *ELW 887 This Is My Song*

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.

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

Children Sermon

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 145:8-14

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

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

⁹ **Lord, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures
throughout all ages.**

You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Romans 7:15-25a

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it
and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from
such a futile existence.*

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very
thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in
fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the
good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good
lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil

I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ a Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Listen Now for the Gospel

972

Refrain
Leader

All

The musical score is written for a two-part setting. The top part is for the 'Refrain Leader' and the bottom part is for 'All'. Both parts are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Lis - ten now for the gos - pel! Al - le - lu - ia! It is God's word that chang - es us! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is written in a clear, legible font with standard musical notation including treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and bar lines.

Lis - ten now for the gos - pel! Al - le - lu - ia! It is

God's word that chang - es us! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum,

will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

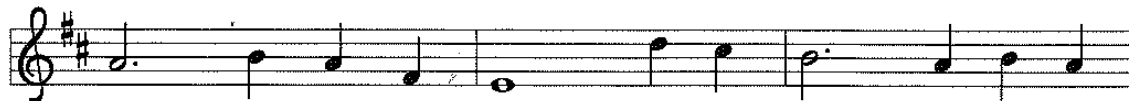
Hymn of the Day

1017

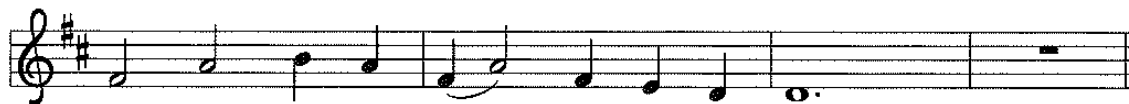
Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
 fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
 yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
 me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
 fore you; do not run from me in fright."
 side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
 gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

AUSTIN

87 87

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.**

MEAL

Offering

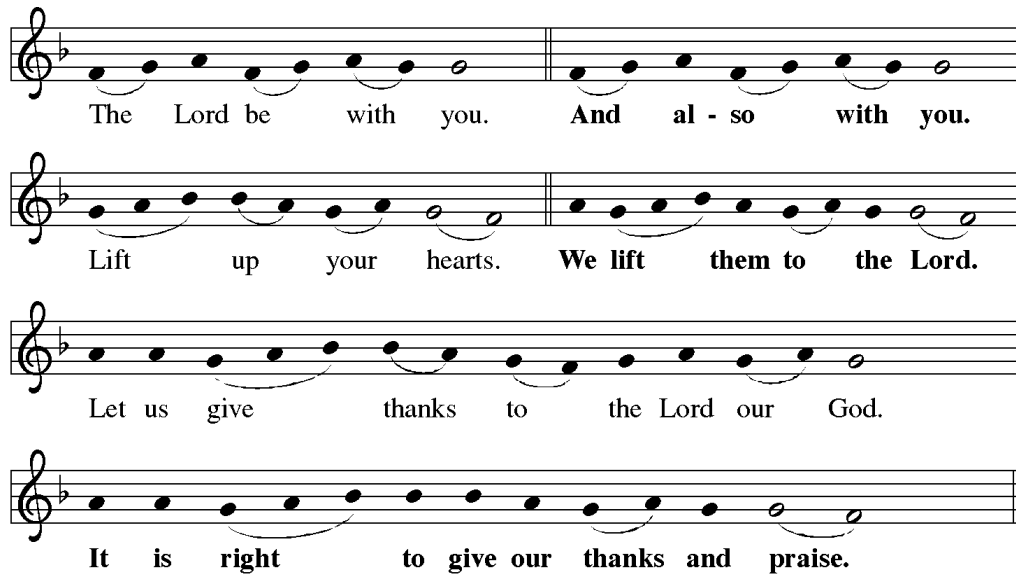
Hymn ELW 822 *Oh, Sing to the Lord*

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue



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

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

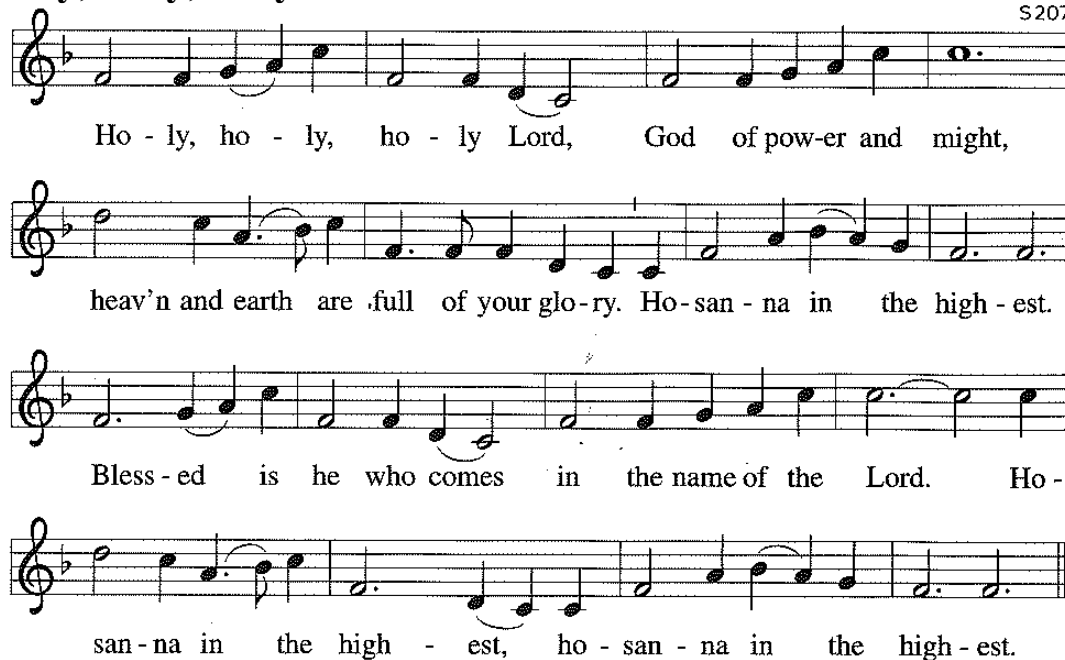
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface (*Pastor*)

Holy, Holy, Holy

S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The 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

S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

ELW 742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Prayer After Communion

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn *ELW 890 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

Dismissal

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

Delving Into the Bible

My favorite story from the Bible is actually from the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament. It comes from Numbers, which is a book from the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, that chronicles in more detail some of the experiences of the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness after being freed from Pharaoh and receiving the Law at Mt. Sinai. Look it up: Numbers 21:1-9 The Bronze Serpent.

The basic idea is that God seeks for us to look upon that which inflicts us for us to be healed.

I'm looking forward to being in Berlin, Germany. I've been told that it is a city of monuments to its historical mistakes, betrayals, and blindnesses – the role it played in the Second World War. It will be a stark contrast to our life here in the US, where our historical mistakes, betrayals, and blindnesses are stricken from view, increasingly denied in fact.

This story also informs how I think about Jesus' death on a cross. How he was lifted up, fully in view to all – Romans, Jews, disciples, crowds.

It reminds me that God seeks our healing and will go to the greatest of lengths to give it. But also that healing requires a thorough view and remembrance of the disease. *Pastor Ben*

Announcements

Readers, Ushers, Communion Assistants, and Tech Booth Attendants.
If you'd like to participate in leading worship, speak to Martha Crofts - there is
always a need for more faces in these roles.

The Trash to Treasure sale will be on August 7th and 8th
You can begin bringing your donations to the church.
This is something we have done well in the past. Let's make it another great sale!

ECUMENICAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE & PICNIC

July 26, 2026

10:00 A.M. Worship

with Picnic to Follow

Kaleva Park

7790 US Hwy 212, Roberts, MT

**Please bring side dishes and desserts. Pulled pork sandwiches and cowboy
beans will be provided.**

**The
Special Offering for July is
The RLACF Fun Run**

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, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski,
Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Bob Pollock, Carlos Ramalho, Sadie Sceva, David Smiley,
Guynema Terry, Josh Winter, and Judy Yasi,
and
The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

Messiah Lutheran Church
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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.

Live by faith . Share Christ's Love . Be a Voice for Hope