



**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/September 6, 2026  
Service of the Word/Festival of Hymns*

*Pastor Ben Cherland*

## ***Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church***

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

### **GATHERING**

**PRELUDE** Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

\*When cued, congregation stands to sing:

*Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!*

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **God Welcomes All**

**978**

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God Welcomes All'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;'. The second system has the lyrics 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.'.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell

Text and transcription © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

AMEN THEMBA

4 4 9

955

## Come to the Water of Life



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

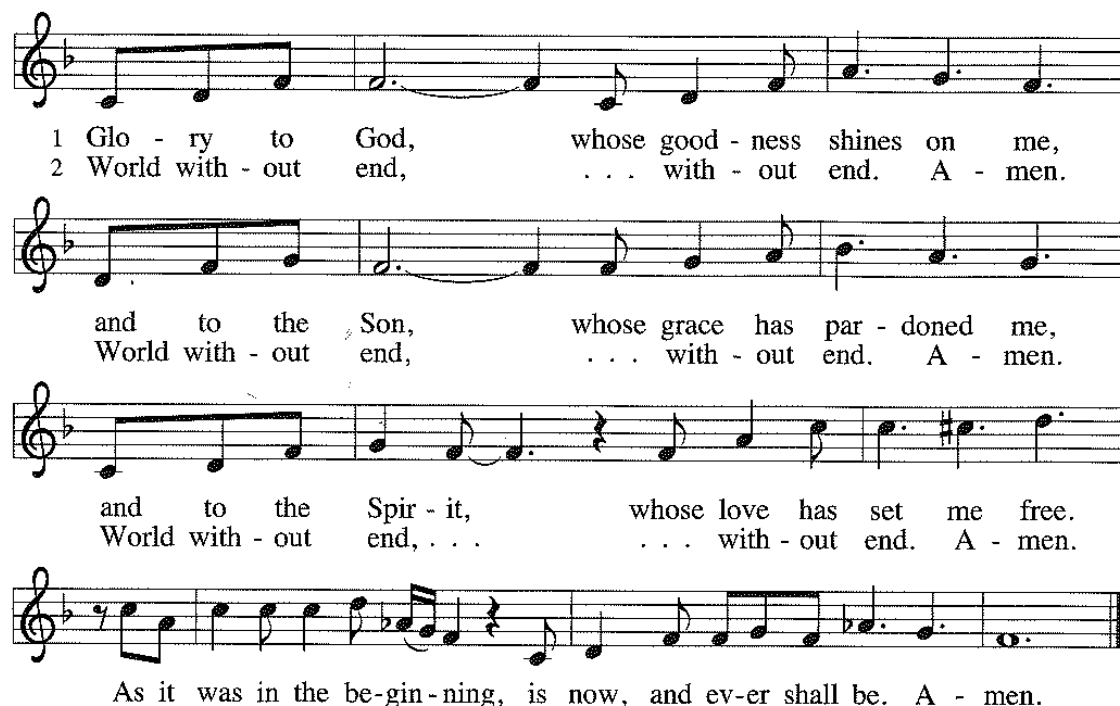
8 7 11 7

**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.**

# 1087 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be. A - men.

Text: Paul M. Vasile, b. 1976, based on the Gloria Patri  
Music: Paul M. Vasile  
Text and music © Paul M. Vasile, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GLORY TO GOD  
Irregular

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

## CHILDREN'S WORDS AND SONG

*I've got peace like a river... joy like a fountain ... love like an ocean, in my soul.*

## FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 33:7-11

<sup>7</sup> So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup> If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup> But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and

they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup> Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup> Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: 119:33-40**

<sup>33</sup> Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup> **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup> Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

<sup>36</sup> **Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.

<sup>38</sup> **Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup> Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup> **Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.**

### **SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to

wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;  
<sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness  
and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling  
and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.  
<sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to  
gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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.

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

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## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:15-20**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup> “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION OF SCRIPTURE WITH SONG**

\*When cued, congregation reads antiphonally:

God be in my head, **and in my understanding;**

God be in mine eyes, **and in my looking;**

God be in my mouth, **and in my speaking;**

God be in my heart, **and in my thinking;**

God be at mine end, **and at my departing.**

# Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

783

*Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its  
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and  
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A<sup>7</sup> D F#m

righteousness, and all these things shall be  
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be  
 every word that proceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: st. 1, Matt. 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; st. 2, Matt. 7:7; st. 3, Matt. 4:4  
 Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948  
 Text st. 1 and music © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Co.

LAFFERTY  
irregular

*ELW 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

*ELW 646 The Peace of the Lord*

## PEACE

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

## THANKSGIVING

### OFFERING

Share a favorite hymn in the first basket, then monetary gifts with the ushers.

### DOXOLOGY

\*When cued, congregation stands to sing:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise him all creatures here below,  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### HYMN SING OF FAVORITES

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### 752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment is in the same key and time. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues the melody from the first system. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;' and 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.'

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943  
Music: Ken Medema  
Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company

CHILDREN PRAYING  
98 99

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Hear us, O God. **Your Mercy is Great.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

## **BLESSING**

*ELW 677 This Little Light of Mine*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go out with joy. Be a light in the Beartooths!  
**Thanks be to God.**

Thank you for making worship possible this morning:  
All who gathered to worship (in person and online), all who shared a favorite hymn,  
Pop-up Choir, Maria and the children, Duane on sound/video, Aiden as acolyte,  
Sandy as presider, Dianne as cantor/soloist, Bob and Martha as readers, Michele  
and Kallie as greeters/ushers, Barb on harp, Jim on guitar, Jodie on chimes, Dick  
and Bonnie on piano.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **The Special Offering for September is ELCA World Hunger**

Attention all women: There will be a meeting Thursday here at the church at noon to discuss resuming Women's Bible Study. This is your chance to offer your input on a time to meet and what you would like to study.

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](mailto:redlodgemessiah@gmail.com) with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

The people of Messiah are praying for  
Renee Boyer, Hannah Gonzales, Herb Hunt, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski,  
Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Bob Pollock, Carlos Ramalho, Sadie Sceva, David Smiley,  
Guynema Terry 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*

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