



**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*October 4, 2026  
19th Sunday after Pentecost*

*Pastor Ben Cherland  
Pastor Kim Wilker Presiding*

## 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**

***ELW 678 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***

## 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.**

## 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

**Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7**

*The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.*

- <sup>1</sup> I will sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.
- <sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded rotten grapes.
- <sup>3</sup> And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.
- <sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield rotten grapes?
- <sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.
- <sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his cherished garden;  
he expected justice  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness  
but heard a cry!

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

### **Psalm 80:7-15**

*Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)*

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>8</sup> **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you cast out the nations and planted it.**  
<sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it;  
it took root and filled the land.  
<sup>10</sup> **The mountains were covered by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**  
<sup>11</sup> You stretched out its tendrils to the sea  
and its branches to the river.  
<sup>12</sup> **Why have you broken down its wall,  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**  
<sup>13</sup> The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.  
<sup>14</sup> **Turn now, O God of hosts,  
look down from heaven;**  
<sup>15</sup> behold and tend this vine;  
preserve what your right hand has planted.

## **Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please Stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc.

### Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>33</sup> “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. <sup>34</sup> When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup> But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup> Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup> So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup> Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup> They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

<sup>43</sup> “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. <sup>44</sup> The one who falls on this stone will be broken

to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

1004

### Faith Begins by Letting Go

1 Faith be-gins by let-ting go, giv-ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en-dures by hold-ing on, keep-ing mem-'ry's roots a-live  
3 Faith ma-tures by reach-ing out, stretch-ing minds, en-larg-ing hearts,

tak-ing risks and press-ing on, though the way feels less se-cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom-ise-fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar-ing strug-gles, liv-ing prayer, bind-ing up the bro-ken parts;

pil-grim-age both right and odd, trust-ing all our life to God.  
not through mer-it we pos-sess but by God's great faith-ful-ness.  
till we find the com-mon-place ripe with wit-ness to God's grace.

## **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 531 The Trumpet Sounds, the Angels Sing*

### **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

San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,

. . . lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.  
your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.

Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . . .  
. . . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to e - res, oh Dios.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version  
Music: Argentine traditional  
English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

ARGENTINE SANTO  
Irregular

# 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.

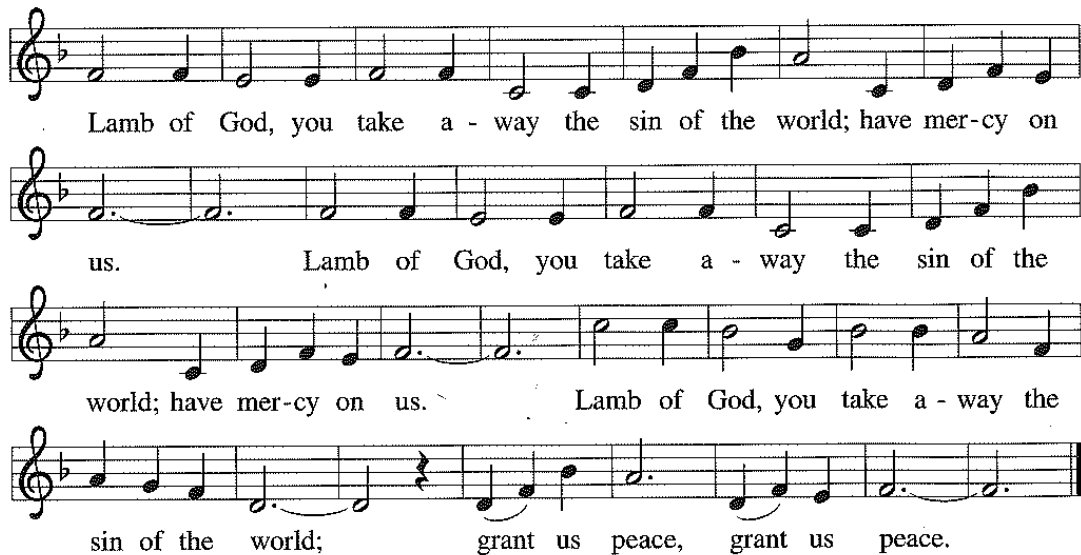
For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### COMMUNION



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.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948  
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

### 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

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**  
*Please Stand as you are able.*

### SENDING SONG

987

### Guide My Feet

Leader All

1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: African American spiritual; arr. *This Far by Faith*  
Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

GUIDE MY FEET  
8 8 8 10

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Special Offering for October is DSVS**

Sunday services will continue to be held here at Messiah during Pastor Ben's absence.

October 11<sup>th</sup>: Pastor Peter Christ of St. John's United

October 18<sup>th</sup>: Bishop Ben Quanbeck

October 25<sup>th</sup> Reformation Sunday Welcome Back Pastor Ben!



## **Neighboring Nations Indigenous Arts and Culture Festival**

October 8-12, 2026  
Red Lodge, Montana



### **Fireside Chat**

Thursday, Oct. 8 | 5:30-7:00  
Lutheran Church

"Stories That Make Us Relatives: An Evening of Storytelling  
and Conversation."



Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy (Oglala Lakota), the first Native female theologian in the ELCA Christian tradition, is joining us for a pre-festival fireside chat centered on storytelling, relationship, and responsibility.

Join Dr. Sherman-Conroy for an evening exploring the stories we inherit, the stories we tell about one another, and how listening differently can change the way we understand our responsibilities to one another and to the places we call home.

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  
Renee Boyer, Hannah Gonzales, Herb Hunt, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski,  
Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Bob Pollock, Carlos Ramalho, Nick Roselius, 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*