



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 21, 2026
4th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church
4th Sunday after Pentecost | June 21, 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 876 Let the Whole Creation Cry*

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

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

Children Sermon

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

⁷ O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:
 “Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”
 All my close friends
 are watching for me to stumble.
“Perhaps he can be enticed,
 and we can prevail against him
 and take our revenge on him.”
¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
 therefore my persecutors will stumble,
 and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
 for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
 will never be forgotten.
¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;
 you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
 for to you I have committed my cause.
¹³ Sing to the Lord;
 praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
 from the hands of evildoers.

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

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind. (Ps. 69:16)

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
 and shame has covered my face.
⁸ **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
 an alien to my mother’s children.**
⁹ Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
 the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
¹⁰ **I humbled myself with fasting,
 but that was turned to my reproach.**

- ¹¹ I put on sackcloth also,
and became a byword among them.
- ¹² **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**
- ¹³ But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O Lord:
“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.
- ¹⁴ **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**
- ¹⁵ Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.
- ¹⁶ **Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.**
- ¹⁷ Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
- ¹⁸ **Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.**

Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Listen Now for the Gospel

972

Refrain
Leader

All

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 10:24-39

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *ELW 769 If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

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 879 For the Beauty of the Earth*

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.

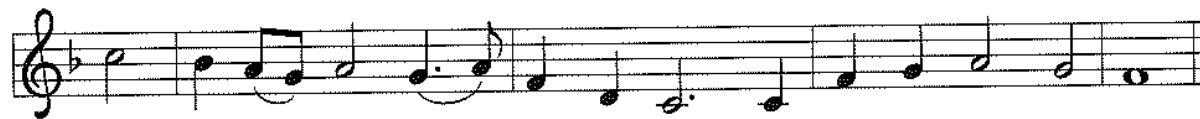
Invitation to Communion

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.

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 851 When in Our Music God Is Glorified*, vs 1,2,3 & 5

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

Announcements

Thank you to all who participated in leading worship today, including:
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.

For the very first time, Messiah will be part of a 4th of July weekend parade - we'll be **walking on July 3rd**. We're decorating the Morales' truck with signs and paint. June 28th you'll have an opportunity to help make those signs with your handprints after church. We're planning to hand out Freezies and are looking for donations to help defer the cost. And there will be bubbles! So come walk with us or cheer us on from the crowd!

Meet the New Handbells

Today, 11:30–12:30

Formed in 2022, Messiah Chimes gathered church and community musicians as a ringing ensemble of Choir Chimes. In recent months, we've enjoyed a borrowed set of handbells from First Lutheran, Havre.

Now, we invite all to join our Meet & Greet on the occasion of displaying and ringing, for the first time, our newly acquired, 5 octaves plus, used set of Schulmerich Handbells.

Rather than a performance, this is an “opening round,” suitable for listeners, curiosity seekers, current ringers, and want-to-be participants of high school and adult ages. While not required on this occasion, music reading becomes essential. Both church and community friends are welcome to attend this hands-on get acquainted time.

By hour's end, we'll make some lovely music.

We are hosting the youth choir of St. Steven's Lutheran Church of Bloomington, Mn. who will be presenting a concert here, June 25 at 7:00 pm. The choir and chaperones will be staying at the church and we will be providing a Taco bar dinner for them. Please sign up in the gathering space if you can bring food.

A congregational meeting is scheduled for June 28th after worship to get the congregation's approval for the walking trail easement given to Beartooth Trails to install a walking path on the far end of the fellowship field.

**The
Special Offering for June 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, Cassidy Flynn, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski,
Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Misty Milligan, Bob Pollock, Carlos Ramalho, Sadie Sceva,
David Smiley, Guynema Terry, Josh Winter, and Judy Yasi,

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.

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