

Our Mission: To help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life.

Our Vision: To forever change lives through the Gospel of Jesus by becoming an equipping, empowering, and mobilizing church in our community that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all walks of life through worship, communion, service, fellowship, and compassion, led by the Holy Spirit and focused on the Great Commission (Mt 28.18-20).



“Forgive your
brother or sister
from your heart.”

MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV

September 17, 2023 – 9:00 AM
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Blessed Assurance* Larry Seidel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN *Awake, I Sleeper, Rise from Death* Hymn #452

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.

To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace.

There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all.

Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save,
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.

For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may
delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

WORD

CHORAL PRAYER

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

arr. Stan Engle

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
 you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 but you alone can grant us grace
 to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless
 the unforgiving heart
 that broods on wrongs and will not let
 old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals
 the truth we dimly knew;
 how trifling others’ debts to us;
 how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
 and bid resentment cease;
 then, by your mercy reconciled,
 our lives will spread your peace.

FIRST READING

ROMANS 14:1-12

R Let us listen for the word of the Lord.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

KIDS' TALK

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35

P The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GREETING

P Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord,
Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Tim Graham

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

Hymn #610

O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored
when reached by love that never ends?

From ev'ry ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.

In conflicts that destroy our health
we recognize the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills.
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION

P Today we welcome new members into our worshipping community at Messiah Lutheran Church. In doing so, these individuals will make public affirmation of their baptism and faith. At this service we welcome the following individuals to join us in our mission to help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life.

Let us pray. Loving God, thank you for these children of God, whom you have made your own in the gift of baptism. Enlighten and nourish them in this community of faith. Uphold us in the promises of baptism to support each of them in their life of faith. Unite us all in this gift. We ask in the name of Christ.

C **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P I ask you all — the entire body assembled here this morning — to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

P Dear Friends, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the faith covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ
through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and
to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

New Members' Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God gathered here today, do you promise to support these new partners in faith and support them in their life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through the water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up the gift of your Holy Spirit in each these children of God; confirm their faith, guide their lives, empower them in serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to everlasting life.

C Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Send your comforting presence to those areas devastated by natural disasters – the earthquake in Morocco and the flood in Libya. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially, for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy including Amy Laurence, Sarah Tackett, John Pearce, Julie Braun, Steve Montez, Lois Merica, Kathy Johnsonbaugh, Dave Myers, Bryce Shull, Cathy Chester, Marcus Black, Kandy Dold, Chris Waldron, Lorraine Bell, Stephanie Welbaum, and Val Neuhouser. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A We pray for Messiah Lutheran Church. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Empower us to forgive others, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Awaken our hearts to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world like those whom we remember. Surround Jenean Gibbons' family and Rick Powell's family as they grieve their loved ones, and unite them in the bond of love to support one another. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P We give thanks to you, O God, for your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C **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.**

INVITATION

P Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

DISTRIBUTION

Let Us Break Bread Together

Hymn #471

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

All Are Welcome

Hymn #641

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

Hymn #644

Although I speak with angel's tongue,
my faith, my knowledge all surpass,
but have no love, my gifts are vain
as clanging gong or blaring brass.

For love is patient, love is kind,
and never vain with boasting pride;
love bears all things, all things endures.
All things must end; love will abide.

For now we peer at darkened glass;
our visions end; our tongues all cease.
In part we know, in part now see:
then we will see love face to face.

The gifts are many, the Body one,
and into one are all baptized.
Beloved, share one heart, one mind,
one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING HYMN

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

Hymn #544

Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this Eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.

Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,
in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.

Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,
we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.

BENEDICTION

P . . . in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Assisting in the service today:

Pastor Tim Graham**Assisting Minister** Bill Marker**Pianist** Stan Engle**Lector** Cindy Riebersal**Communion Assistants** Sharon Clark, Kristy Huffine**Ushers** Rex & Ginny Smith**Technical Director** Josh Gumbert