

10:30 am - August 17, 2025 Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN** #977 "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"

10th Sunday after Pentecost



#### Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion. We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention--all are welcome!

#### 2 PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text. You are invited to read the bold portions.

Lamb of God,
You unveil what is hidden—
not to shame us,
but to heal us.
You reveal the powers we've trusted,
the silences we've kept,
the idols we've served—
and you still call us beloved.

We confess our complicity: when we have bowed to the beasts of our day, when we have traded courage for comfort, truth for approval, faithfulness for fear.

We confess our weariness: when we have grown lukewarm in love, numb to suffering, slow to listen, quick to judge.

We confess our forgetting: when we have lost sight of you walking among us, radiant, wounded, and near.

Unveil us, O Christ.
Unbind us from all that distorts your image in us.
Open our eyes to what is real,
and remake us in the shape of your love.
Amen.

Church, hear the good news:
The One who stands among the lampstands is not ashamed to stand among us still.
The One who bears the wounds of empire has overcome it in love.
The One who holds the keys of Death and Life has never let go of you.

In Jesus Christ, we are seen.

# In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we are made new.

So do not be afraid.

The Lamb reigns.

The story is not over.

You are free to live as people of hope.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

#### **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.** 

#### **KYRIE**









#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, you reign at the heart of all things. Lift our eyes from chaos to your glory, that our worship may reflect your peace, our lives your praise, and our hope your coming kingdom, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

FIRST READING Isaiah 6:1-8

Please be seated

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

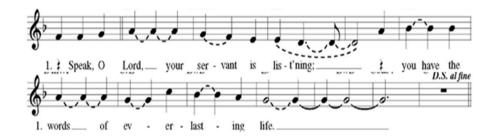
Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

#### **ACCLAMATION**

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or in spirit.





#### PRIMARY READING

Revelation 4:1–2, 6b–11; 5:1–2, 5–10

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne!

...And in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and back: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

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"Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come."
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And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

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"You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."
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Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the

Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

Word of God, Word of Life.

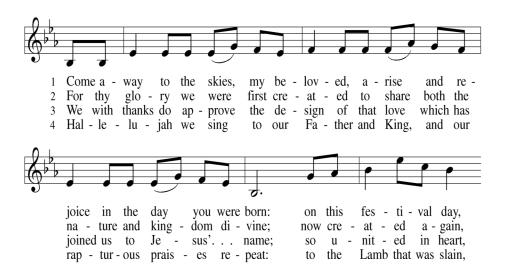
Thanks be to God.

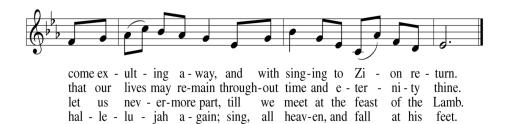
## Please be seated

#### **SERMON**

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

WOV #669 "Come Away to the Skies"





#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of all people. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present, and His kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O

#### 9 God. Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound, especially... Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.** 

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Please be seated

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.** 

#### THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

It is indeed ...

And so with the angels and elders, with every creature and every generation,

we join the unending hymn:



...

So we remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await the city whose light is the Lamb.

#### Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

#### Christ will come again.

... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

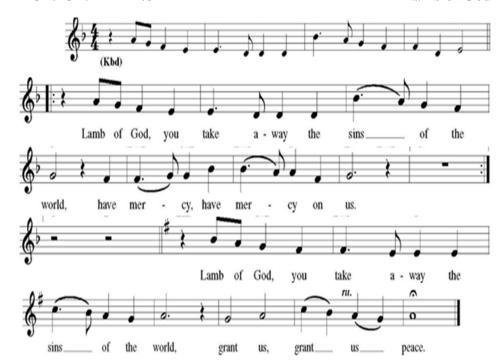
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will

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.

#### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

"Lamb of God"

Please be seated.



#1017 ACS "Come to Me, O Weary Traveler" #492 "Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or

spirit.

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **SENDING HYMN**

"Breakthrough" Red Rocks Worship

Benediction: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.







### **SENDING**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

#### Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church



#### Children belong in worship!

Worship kits and a nursery space is available. God rejoices in the joyful noise of children and so do we!



#### God calls us to welcome everyone!

Messiah seeks to be a welcoming community and to share the love of God with our neighbors. If you are new, please introduce yourself to our pastors.



#### Worship should be accessible!

Hearing devices (and T-Coil) and large print bulletins are available. We invite you to sit or stand as you are comfortable. All gender and family restroom facilities are available on the first level, please see signs in the Narthex.



#### All are welcome at Jesus' table!

During communion grape juice and gluten-free options are available. Those not wishing to commune may come forward for a blessing. Those not able to come forward may receive communion in their pew, please notify the usher.



#### God calls us to pray!

Private prayer requests may be made by writing them on the back of the Welcome Card. If you would like to be added to the prayer list or receive a pastoral care visit, please contact the church office.

Preacher: Pr. Andrew Plocher

Assisting Minister: Mike Hill

Reader: Josh MacIvor-Andersen

Ushers: Jean Reynolds

Communion Assistants: Mike & Joan Hill, Gayle Mack, Marina Shinkarenko

Greeters: Linda Carlson, Marina Shinkarenko

Songleader: Sara Parks
Pianist: Jacob Schmeltzer

Band Members: Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson

Audio Technician: Traci Zini
Livestream Technician: Traci Zini
Projection Technician: Lesley Williams
Nursery: Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery: Sally McQueen

#### Acknowledgements:

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If you wish to designate your donation to a specific fund, please be sure to do so. Any undesignated donations automatically go to our general fund which supports the entirety of our ministry.

#### Thank you for your generosity!

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