



7th Sunday of Easter

10:30 am - May 17, 2026

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

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!

GATHERING HYMN

#1038 "God, We Gather as Your People"



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.

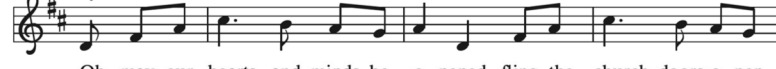


Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

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

Leader: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL:

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son Lord, have mer-
 cy up-on us.
 Chri-ste e-lei-son Christ, have mer-
 cy up-on us.

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ALL:

A - men, A - - - - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the

Please
 be seat-
 ed

ends of the earth.”⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

Leader: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

#748 “Bind Us Together”

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Bind Us Together" (#748). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love." The score includes various musical notations such as chords, rests, and slurs. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: F, Dm, Gm, C7, F, F, Dm, Gm, C, F.

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam - ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.

There . . is on - ly one Bod - y; that . . is why we can sing:
You are God's cho - sen de - sire, you are the glo - rious new wine.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand
as you are
comfortable
in body or
spirit.

In the dark before dawn,
we believe that God is alive.
In the midst of our grief,
we believe the Spirit is at work.
In the chaos of our broken world,
we believe that love is on the loose.
For no stone could keep God at bay,
and no violence could keep God's love from us.
So today we sing,
Alleluia!
For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,
hope lives.
Christ has died,
and Christ has also risen.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick, especially... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC "Love Like This" by Lauren Daigle, *soloist, Sara Parks with Celebration Band*

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you gave us the one thing we could not earn or keep for ourselves -- life out of death, morning out of the grave. Receive what we return to you now: these gifts, this hour, ourselves. Use them in the world you would not stop loving, that others might find, as we have found, that the stone has been rolled away. **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 right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Please be seated.

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

(Each line led by song leader & repeated by congregation.)

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might

2. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho-san - na in the high - est

3. Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...
 ... with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

The risen Christ kept showing up at meals—on the road, on the shore, in the upper room. The Table was where the disciples knew him. It still is. Come: whether you are certain or still sorting things out, whether resurrection feels close or far. Christ sets this Table, and Christ invites you. You are welcome.

When an usher invites you, come forward.

*At either station, receive **bread and dip it into the wine** (intinction); Or, if you prefer the **common cup**, receive bread at either station, eat it, and then step to the minister between the stations to drink from the shared cup; **Gluten-free wafers and separate wine or grape juice** are available; If you prefer a **blessing**, come forward with your arms crossed. Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

Please be seated.

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world

Have mer - cy on us



#403 "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

#826 "Thine the Amen"

Please
stand as
you are
comfort-
able in
body or
spirit.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION

Let us give thanks for the following leaders: Jen Bleckiner, Sarah Bleckiner, Paul & Mary Beth Carstens, Dave Echelbarger, Christine Thomas-Echelbarger, Emily Fitzpatrick & Rebecca Ulland.

BENEDICTION

**Benedic-
tion:** *God
blesses us
and sends
us in
mission to
the world.*

Go now into the world
that God refused to abandon.

Go as people who have heard it:
the stone has been rolled away.
Death does not have the last word.
The risen Christ is already out ahead of you.

So look for him on the road.
Look for him at the table.
Look for him in the face of your neighbor.

And may the God who creates and sustains you,
the Christ who died and rose for you,

and the Spirit who moves through you
go with you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Firm Foundation" *by Cody Carnes*

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad

That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

He won't He won't

I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
So I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength

'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season
So why would He fail now

He won't He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

He won't He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail No

(Oh) Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
(And) I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through

(Oh) Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
(And) I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through

Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause I'm standing strong on You
Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause my house is built on You

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad

That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

He won't He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

He won't He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail
No

SENDING

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Preacher:	Pr. Allan Johnson
Assisting Minister:	Molly Luty
Reader:	Nancy Hamlin
Ushers:	Bev Evans, Jean Reynolds
Communion Assistants:	Kerry McGinley, Karen Burkman, Linda Chapman, Marina Shinkarenko
Greeters:	Nancy Skoog, Ellen Symons
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Ross Larson, Darren Smith
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Inga Banitt
Nursery:	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	Bev Evans

Acknowledgements:

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