

9th Sunday after Pentecost
Aug. 7, 2022



Messiah Lutheran Church, Amherst, NH

PRELUDE —

WORDS OF WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✝ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us
and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

To you, O God,

all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ✝ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

Amen.



GATHERING MUSIC

Sometimes by Step

Verse 1

Sometimes the night is beautiful
Sometimes the sky was so far away
Sometimes it seemed to stoop
So close you could touch it
But your heart would break
Sometimes the morning came too soon
Sometimes the day could be so hard
There was so much work left to do
But so much you'd already done

Chorus

Oh God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
Oh God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
And I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

Verse 2

Sometimes I think of Abraham
How one star he saw had been lit for me (him)
He was a stranger in this land
And I am that no less than he
And on this (the) road to righteousness
Sometimes the climb can be so steep
I may falter in my steps
And never beyond Your reach

Ending

And I will follow You all of my days
And I will follow You all of my days
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

CCLI Song # 915125

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



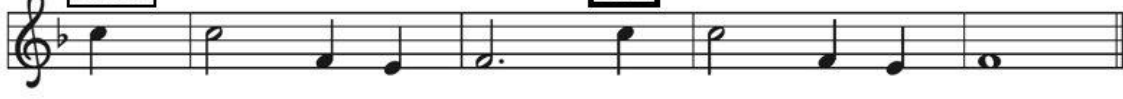
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All



O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader **All**



Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.



1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



To God be glo-ry for - ev - er! To God be glo-ry for - ev - er!



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

VERSE 2



2 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry to Christ Je - sus! ...

VERSE 3



3 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry to the Spr - it! ...

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

A reading from Genesis the 15th chapter:

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

PSALM 33:12-22 (ELW) (chanted or read responsively by all):

One: Happy is the nation whose God | is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to | be God's heritage!

**All: The LORD looks | down from heaven,
and sees all | humankind.**

One: God sits firmly en- | throned and watches
all who dwell | on the earth.

**All: God fashions | all their hearts
and observes | all their deeds.**

One: A king is not saved by the size | of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by | their great strength.

**All: The horse gives vain | hope for victory;
despite its great strength it | cannot save.**

One: Truly, your eye is upon those who fear | you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,

**All: to deliver their | lives from death,
and to keep them alive in | time of famine**

One: Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,
our helper | and our shield.

**All: Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,
for in your holy name we | put our trust.**

One: Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,
even as we place our | hope in you.

SECOND READING:

A reading from Hebrews the 11th chapter:

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris'n in-deed.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.' and 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris'n in-deed.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th Chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Messiah

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

Verse 2

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

Bridge

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Ending

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all

CREED

With the whole church let us confess our faith in the words of the 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

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence (*especially*). Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you (*especially*). Albert Demello, Claudette Briere, Steve Kasmar, George Waghorn, Dave Covell, Eric, Anika DiVirgilio, Marilyn Olson, Rita, Steve Bickett, Pastor Kim Hester, Andy Dahlen, Fran, Harold, Elaine and any who are suffering from addiction and mental disease. Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation be with our partners in ministry AMMPARO, the ELCA congregations of the New Hampshire conference, Habitat for Humanity, Ash Street Shelter, Share, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Ascentria, Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire and all who care for those in need. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

Amen.

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

Please share the peace with those around you

OFFERING The basket is in the narthex. Please place your offering there.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth . . . are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of our God.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God,
creator of heaven and earth.
You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys,
and taught them by the prophets.
You so loved the world
that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

As often as we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
in this meal,
and make us one
in this community of faith
and with your people
throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life,
Word made flesh,
Power of the Most High,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**



O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.



O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.



O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up -



on us, have . . . mer - cy up - on us.



Grant us your peace. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system of music has the lyrics: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;". The second system of music has the lyrics: "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with chords and single notes.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.

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REFLECTION ON COMMUNION

The Lord has welcomed us all and has been revealed to us all in the bread and the wine; his body and blood.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

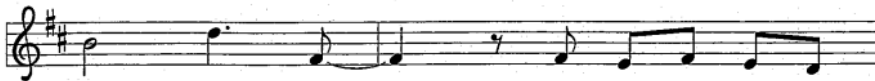
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The holy Three,
the holy One
increase your hope,
strengthen your faith,
deepen your love,
and ☩ grant you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ACS 925 Beautiful Things



1 All this pain; I won - der if I'll
2 All this earth; . . . could all that is
3 All a - round, . . . hope is spring - ing



ev - er find my way. I won - der if my
lost ev - er be found? . . . Could a gar - den
up from this old ground. . . . Out of cha - os,



life could real - ly change at all.
come up from this ground at all?
life is be - ing found in you.



You make beau-ti-ful things, you make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust.



You make beau-ti - ful things, you make beau-ti -



ful things out of us.

DISMISSAL

Now the service here at church has ended.

Now our service in the world begins.

POSTLUDE —

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Presider: Pastor Karl Hester Assisting Minister: Trudi Costa

Musician: Linnea Micciulla Lector: Glenn De Noble

SPECIAL OFFERING:

Our July through September Special Offering is focusing on Ascentria, former Lutheran Social Services. This resettlement agency which works with Church World Service & Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service, has resettled 500 Afghan evacuees in NH and MA. Checks should be made out to Messiah with "Special Offering" in the memo line. We thank you!
Doreen & Marge

Now – August 31 Walk the Walk for Camp Calumet

It is not too late to sign on to our Messiah Team. Talk to team captain Kim Kasmar if you are interested.

Sept. 11th God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, Sept. 11th we will be building bunk beds at Christ the King in Nashua. Rain date would be 9/18. More info to follow.

Oct. 30th CROP Hunger Walk

CROP Hunger Walk is on October 30, 2022 (Reformation Sunday). It is not too early to sign on to "Messiah Amherst" on the Greater Nashua Area CROP Hunger Walk. Our captain is Roxanne Meldrum, so feel free to reach out to her with any questions. Let's do this thing.

Just a gentle reminder that we need to know when things are going on in your lives in order to try to be responsive and minister with and to you through INVITING, CARING, GROWING & SHARING with you.

Here are some times when it is helpful to reach out to Pastor Karl and Joanne:

- When you or a family member receives a troubling diagnosis, is hospitalized or has other major health changes.
- When there is a death in your circle of family and friends or someone goes on hospice.
- If you are experiencing stress and duress, financial challenges, vocational displacement or relocation, family turmoil, etc., etc.
 - If you just want to talk.
- If you have an item or an update for the prayer list (please make sure you have permission before you share concerns of others)
- If you are interested in discussion discerning a call to public ministry in the ELCA.
- You are looking for ways to get more involved in the life and ministry of Messiah Lutheran.

Please don't assume someone else has passed information along to the pastor and the church office. We would much rather hear 7 times as opposed to not hearing at all. Thank you.