



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pastor Amy Truhe
September 5, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
ELW Setting 3

Prelude Duo (Suite of the Second Ton) Louis-Nicholas Clérambault
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Johann Gottfried Walther

Call and Response:

We come to worship God who offers us love

While we seek to find meaning and purpose in things of this world.

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate;

for the LORD pleads their cause and will rob the life of those who are robbing them. (from Proverbs 22)

With humility, we come before our great God.

With humility, we seek the compassion we know God affords us all.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we**

**⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

**⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.**

**⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

**⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

**¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.] ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Healer of our Every Ill

#612

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Bless those who have come through hurricanes and fires, droughts and famine. Let caretakers be strengthened in their ability to provide care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. We pray for President Biden, Governor Kelly, Mayor Anderson and our military leaders. Fill them with wisdom and compassion through Holy Spirit. Unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. We especially pray for our members Rolland, Walli, Gloria and Gene, Ken, Bob, and Merlyn. We pray for our friends Denise, Bill, Dawn, Stephani, Karla, Danielle, Krista, Meghan, Robert, Amy, Sharon, Dan, and Kim and Jill. We pray for those serving in the military: Alex, Vicki, Ben, Jeremy, T.J., Daniel, Miranda, and Luke. We pray for Kaylie as she awaits a call. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation especially empower Sally in our infant care center, Logan through Dala Pantry, Ida as administrator, Steve our organist, Leslie our choir director, Ingrid as our council president, and Pastor Amy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you all: **And also with you!**

MEAL

Offertory

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

Georg Böhm

Offering Prayer

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

p. 144

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Congregation sings

p. 144

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

p. 145

Lamb of God

p. 146

Distribution of Communion

Prayer after Communion

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

People of God, you are Christ’s body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✠ one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Christ Be Our Light

#715

Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Basse de Cromorne

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

Worship Leaders today:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Kirsten Bruce Liturgist
Joy Janis Lector

Worship Leaders next week:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Kirsten Bruce Liturgist
Cindy Daniels Lector

Messiah Lutheran Church

7/31/2021

Actual

Actual

Budget

	Jul-21	Jan - Jul 21	Jan - Jul 21
Revenue	6,851.33	84,677.38	84,676.65
Expenses	8,748.44	76,872.31	93,616.19
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(1,897.11)</u>	<u>7,805.07</u>	<u>(8,939.54)</u>
Reserve Balance	<u>88,471.70</u>		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Walli Ellis, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, Merlyn Hilt, Ken Peterson, Bob Nyquist

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
	Daughter	Meghan	John & Margaret Presley's
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's	Presley	Daughter
	daughter	Amy Wright	Friend of Don Anderson
Robert Ahlstedt	Earl Ahlstedt's	Sharon Texley	friend of Marla Elmquist, Linda
	Brother		Lewis & many others
Kim and Jill Hett		Dan Braum	Warren Olson's friend

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		
Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife		
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson		

Seminary Kaylie Ines

Wider Church by Jeanne Ahlers

By one of those ironies of life that might seem far-fetched if one read them in fiction, Hurricane Ida made landfall near New Orleans on August 29, exactly 16 years after Hurricane Katrina. It was a Category 4 storm with 150 mph winds and torrential rain. Strong

surge caused widespread flooding and wind damage in southeastern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi. Homes were flooded, and rescue of residents was hampered by the high waters and debris-clogged roads. Strong winds knocked out power lines and electrical substations. More than a million people were left without power, including all of New Orleans. In some areas, electricity will probably not be restored for weeks. Ida weakened into a tropical storm as it moved inland, but caused heavy flooding in its path. The impact of Ida is yet to be assessed.

The cost of rebuilding after a hurricane of this scale will be costly and will take years. Lutheran Disaster Response is working with local ELCA synods and Lutheran social service organizations to coordinate a response to Hurricane Ida. Immediate needs include food, basic necessities and temporary housing. Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to accompany communities as they rebuild their homes and their lives, long after the headlines change.

Any gifts to support the survivors of Hurricane Ida will be used in full, 100%, to assist their needs until the response is complete. They should be addressed to "U.S. Hurricanes." They will show these, our neighbors, that they are not alone.

Announcements

On Thursday September 2, at 2:00, Bethany Church Women will have a program by Chet and Jeannette Peterson on **Show and Tell Archive**. All Messiah women are invited to attend this and other monthly meetings, which are usually held on the first Thursday of each month.

On September 12 our worship will be a shortened service! Wear your "God's Work, Our Hands" t-shirts and work clothing in order to participate in God's Work! Bring your offering, your energy and lawn tools (see Muriel for suggestions!); We'll have indoor and outdoor activities available for everyone to share the work! See you then!

KICK begins Wednesday, September 15 after school. Children grades K-6th are invited to sign up. The first day we will have a cookout at Swensson park with a bounce obstacle course. We need volunteers to help with serving food, helping wash dishes, and help sending baked desserts for dinner. And we always need teachers and helpers in classes. Please contact Rachel Ann if you can help. 785-212-0113

We have reached our goal for **Lutheran World Relief School Kits**, and will be assembling them as one of our indoor projects on our "God's Work, Our Hands" day September

12. Thank you for all of your donations of Personal Care Kits and School Kits and Bags. Any remaining school supplies will go to our local schools.

33rd annual W/ELCA Synod Convention will be held virtually on ZOOM Friday evening, September 10 and Saturday morning September 11, 2021. Theme: “My Story Your Story Our Story”, based on Psalm 51:15: “Oh Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.” Bishop Susan Candeia will speak Friday night, and the Rev. Kim Frederking of Wakeeney will speak Saturday morning. If you are interested in participating via ZOOM please let Sharon Hoffman know 620-712-9113 by August 29th, so she can send your email address so you can get an invitation to join the zoom. There are no fees to attend the convention this year.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



Sept. 12
2021

Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 9,100 congregations participating in “God’s work. Our hands.” day of service. Across the country, thousands of members will engage in service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God’s love. Join us as we do God’s work with our hands! **There will be opportunities for working on inside and outside projects. Please indicate your preference on the sheets in the fellowship hall. You may also call the church office to indicate your preference.**

Temple talk: Next Sunday: Dr. Mangrum on Choir

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



God's love breaks down boundaries.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:1-9	Service that pleases God
Thursday	Leviticus 19:33-37	Living a holy life
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22	One in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[I]f you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? **James 2:3-4 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you that your mercy triumphs over judgment and your love leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For the food that we eat and the food that we share, give us, O Lord, thankful hearts that show care. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God bless you with an open heart to receive and to give love through Christ Jesus our Savior.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does it feel like to be left out of a group or not selected for a team?
- How do you react when you see someone being excluded from a group?
- Jesus showed love even to strangers. How would you describe the way you treat strangers?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 7:24-37.

Jesus shows uncharacteristic rejection of someone in need. The Syrophoenician woman asks for help, but she is not Jewish. She is a foreigner, and Jesus suggests he came for the children of Israel, not those outside of Judea and Galilee. However, perhaps he is speaking the voice of the early church that is likewise wondering what are the proper boundaries for the mission field of the church. The answer: Gentiles—therefore, all people—are part of God’s arena of care and redemption through Christ. It is time for all ears, tongues, and hearts to be opened. God’s power of love and forgiveness is so awesome that it knows no boundaries. Thanks be to God! God’s compassion is present for all of us, stranger and friend alike. When have you reached out to a stranger with the love of God?

Pray: **Loving God, just as you reach out to us with your grace and forgiveness, give us hearts to reach out to others that all may know your care through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE

James 2 warns against worshipping communities showing partiality. Many congregations look very homogeneous. They attract people who look, act, and think like one another. Some of this is due to local contexts, but some of it is due to a lack of warmth and initiative taken toward new people. Who is someone who could use your warmth and care to help them feel welcome in your congregation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Welcoming others with the peace of Christ has been part of the Christian tradition for two thousand years. Look up the sign language for peace. Teach it to others. As a way to practice reaching out to others with hope and love, you can greet others in your home, neighborhood, school, and work with these words: “The peace of the Lord be with you.”

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to:

www.milestonesministry.org