



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pastor Amy Truhe
September 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
ELW Setting 3

Prelude

Adagio from “Concerto in A minor”

Cesar Franck

Announcements

Temple Talk: Leslie Mangrum: Choir

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

Prayer of the Day: God of mercy and compassion, **through the passion and resurrection of your Son you have freed us from the bonds of sin and death. Be with us on our pilgrimage, that may we offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving, fulfill our vows, and glorify you in the presence of all your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

²for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

⁶The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt well with you.

⁸For you have rescued my life from death,

my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;

⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

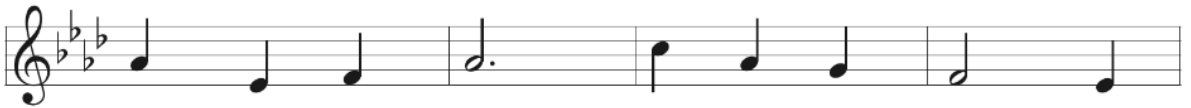
Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Homily

Hymn: God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson

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Prayers of Intercession

Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world. ...

For your work in the church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, both ecumenical and interfaith, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. God of grace, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in creation, we give thanks. Sustain peoples and places affected by climate change, ecological devastation, and natural disasters. Prosper the work of creation-care ministries locally and globally, that with our minds and hearts opened, our hands work to lovingly care for the earth. God of life, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work among the nations, we give thanks. Direct leaders in paths of honest service, that both their words and actions are carried out on behalf of those whom they serve. God of righteousness, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policy. Bring healing to all who are sick through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of physicians, nurses, therapists and caregivers. We especially pray for our members Rolland, Walli, Gloria, Gene, Ken, and Merlyn. We pray for our friends Denise, Bill, Dawn, Stephani, Karla, Danielle, Krista, Meghan, Robert, Amy, Sharon, Dan, 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 discerns a call. God of restoration, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in need. Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

Bless those who go out from here to labor in the building and across Lindsborg. Prosper the work of their hands. Bless those who receive the fruits of their labor, and may those who are sent receive blessing in return. May the gifts they use and share be signs of your love to all people.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name

For your work among those who came before us, we give thanks. We remember those who have died and are held forever in your loving hands. Hold us in your presence now and always. God of heaven and earth, **hear us when we call.**

P: Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send people out to do God's work, serving as God's hands to those who can receive.

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Praeludium in B-flat

J. S. Bach

Worship Leaders today:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Kirsten Bruce Liturgist
Cindy Daniels Lector

Worship Leaders next week:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Kirsten Bruce Liturgist
Gretchen Norland Lector

Messiah Lutheran Church

8/21/2021

	Actual	Actual	Budget
	Aug-21	Jan - Aug	Jan - Aug
Revenue	8,112.10	21	21
Expenses	11,866.09	88,738.40	106,989.94
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(3,753.99)</u>	<u>4,051.08</u>	<u>(10,216.62)</u>
Reserve Balance	<u>84,717.71</u>		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Walli Ellis, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, Merlyn Hilt, Bob Nyquist, the friends and family of Robert Ahlstedt

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
Dan Braum	Warren Olson's friend	Sharon Texley	friend of Marla Elmquist, Linda Lewis & many others

Kim and Jill Hett

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

Madagascar has a goal of reducing maternal and infant mortality rate from 353 to the global target of under 70 per 100,000 live births. The Madagascar Lutheran Church (MLC) health ministry is contributing to that goal and to the country's implementation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. A Lutheran diaconal project called Remafi provides services contributing to that goal.

Traditional birth attendants (TBAs) perform home deliveries in rural Madagascar. This significantly contributes to the high mortality rate, when after unsuccessful TBA-assisted home deliveries, expectant mothers arrive too late at health centers, with complicated obstetrics likely to result in fatal consequences.

State and civil organizations have tried to intervene to change people's habits, but have not attained the desired sustainable results. Laws passed to prohibit unqualified matrons from undertaking home deliveries, and substantial in-kind support has been offered as an incentive for women to give birth at health centers, but none of these has brought any changes. The weight of tradition and culture hinders efforts toward behavioral change.

However, since 2016, three years after the Remafi project began in the rural commune of Anjamanga, the district health unit has noted that the number of deliveries at health centers has been increasing. Remafi's goal of reducing mother and infant mortality started with the recruitment of a few Lutheran TBAs. Remafi has succeeded in transforming three target groups simultaneously: TBAs, new mothers and medical staff. The TBAs are now sensitizing and accompanying new mothers to give birth at health centers, and medical staff welcome TBAs as co-workers,

As PhD fellow Dr. Rivosoa Nasolonianiana of the Malagasy Lutheran Church puts it, "Remafi's professional practice takes into consideration the foremost concern of diakonia for marginalized people -- the practice of expressing Christian love as a source of essential change."

Announcements

Dala Pantry has been well used this past month. We are in need of some specific items to benefit our patrons. We are in need of individually packaged snack items and individually packaged oatmeal. We are also receiving monetary donations for the purchase of meats we can distribute. Hours the church is open are M-F 9-noon and Pantry Hours M 3-5, T 2-4, Th 4-6 p.m. Thank you for any assistance you can provide! The community is blessed by your generosity!

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

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



Sept. 12
2021

Our congregation is engaging in service work right here in our community today. 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**

Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission gathered members voted to become more informed about the Earth Charter. Here’s a chance to put that into action: on Saturday, October 23, we’ll gather at Camp Tomah Shinga (in person or by Zoom) to learn and share. Please consider attending along with others in your congregations. The cost is FREE, but we need to know if you are coming. If you have any questions, please contact Noni Strand at nonistrand@gmail.com. Thanks!

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus asks us to pick up our own cross.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross
Monday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	God's servant must suffer
Tuesday	James 3:1-12	Controlling the tongue
Wednesday	1 Peter 2:18-25	The example of Christ's suffering
Thursday	Hebrews 12:1-11	The example of Jesus
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalms 116:1-9	A prayer of thanksgiving
Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is the greatest

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." **Mark 8:34**
(NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to turn away from our self-centeredness and receive your life-giving power through the cross of Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, in mercy and kindness you feed us. Give us strength and goodwill to show mercy and kindness to others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of generosity give you rest and peace. (Psalm 116:7)

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

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:

- Tell or think about a time when you or someone else was being selfish.
- What happens when someone places their own needs before the needs of others?
- Jesus says that denying your own interests out of love is the way to find real life and joy. How do you overlook your own wants and interests for the sake of others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 8:27-38. This is it, the Caesarea Philippi moment, the moment Jesus asks his followers to identify who he is and what his life is about. Peter gets the title right but the mission wrong. It is clear in this reading that it is important to understand who Jesus is; he is the Son of Man. Jesus is the one who picked up his cross and laid bare his courageous and faithful life for others. This is the way of life that Jesus wants others to follow, too. Jesus was open to rejection, suffering, and his innocent death. Christian discipleship includes picking up our crosses to courageously and faithfully follow the one who holds the universe together. However, Jesus' own disciples did none of that at the time of his death. They were scared and ran away. The good news is that God will do great things through us, Jesus' imperfect followers. Where in your life might Jesus be asking you to pick up your cross to face life's challenges courageously and faithfully? *Pray:* **Dear God, give me the courage to face life with faith and hope that others may know the power of love and salvation through the cross of Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

The Letter of James points out that the way you live gives others an impression of what God is like. Think of someone you know who especially needs to hear words of mercy and kindness. How can you reach out to them this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Tertullian, an early Christian theologian, marked the sign of the cross on his forehead daily as early as the year 250. In 386, St. Cyril incorporated the sign of the cross during Mass. This is an ancient Christian blessing that reminds us that we are saved through the cross of Christ. This week before and after devotions, make the sign of the cross. Bring together your thumb, index, and middle fingers. Place them on your forehead, then to your chest, then from your left shoulder across to your right shoulder.

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

www.milestonesministry.org