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**Messiah Lutheran Church**

**Parking Lot Worship**

**September 27, 2020**

**17th Sunday After Pentecost**

**audio on 103.7 FM**

**Gathering**

**Prelude Jesus, Joy of Man’s Desiring**

**J. S. Bach, pub. Hal Leonard**

**Words of Welcome**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Confession and Forgiveness Spoken Responsively:**

**East Wing of Parking Lot:**

**I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

**West Wing of Parking Lot:**

**Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.**

**West Wing of Parking Lot:**

**I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

**East Wing of Parking Lot:**

**Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power

through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen**

**Change My Heart, O God**

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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.**

**Spoken Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,

and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,

and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

**Spoken Canticle of Praise**

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Word**

**First Reading**

### Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

### A reading from Ezekiel the 18th chapter:

1The word of the Lord came to me: 2What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? 3As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

25Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. 27Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. 28Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. 29Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?  
30Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. 31Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

**Psalm 25:1-9 (read responsively)**

North: To | you, O Lord,  
   I lift | up my soul.  
**South: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**  
   **nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**  
North: Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
   rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.  
**South: Show me your | ways, O Lord,**  
   **and teach | me your paths.**  
North: Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
   for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all

| the day long.

**South: Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,**  
   **for they are from | everlasting.**  
North: Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
   remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of

your good- | ness, O Lord.

**South: You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;**  
   **therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**  
North: You lead the low- | ly in justice  
   and teach the low- | ly your way.

**Second Reading**

### Philippians 2:1-13

### A reading from Philippians, the 2nd chapter:

1If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
 6who, though he was in the form of God,  
  did not regard equality with God  
  as something to be exploited,  
 7but emptied himself,  
  taking the form of a slave,  
  being born in human likeness.  
 And being found in human form,  
  8he humbled himself  
  and became obedient to the point of death—  
  even death on a cross.

 9Therefore God also highly exalted him  
  and gave him the name  
  that is above every name,  
 10so that at the name of Jesus  
  every knee should bend,  
  in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
 11and every tongue should confess  
  that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
  to the glory of God the Father.  
  
  12Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

**Spoken Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Gospel**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Matthew 21:23-32

23When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” 27So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

**Homily**

**Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

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**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**

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your wide and merciful embrace, O God, we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your unfailing love made manifest to us in Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

**Holy Communion -- Words of Institution**

**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.**

**Blessing**

**Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises**

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**Announcements**

**Dismissal**

Go forth into the world as forgiven and loved children of God to serve God and the world with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love**

**Peter Scholtes, arr. Mark Hayes**

**pub. Alfred Sacred Performer**

**Departure**

Thank you for being here with us today. We are blessed by your presence. Your feedback is very important to us. Please share any and all comments with Pastor Karl who will share them with the core planning group.

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**Messiah Lutheran Church Parking Lot**

**303 Route 101, Amherst, NH**

**www.messiahnh.org**

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Service Leaders: Pastor Karl Hester, Linda Fraser, Bill Mitchell and Karla Seckinger.

Musician and vocalist: Linnea Micciulla