



July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 a.m.



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Guest Preacher Kersten Stier
Organist & Pianist Rose Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Paul Allen, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

July 12, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"This Is My Father's World," #58 v. 1-3



1. This is my Fa - ther's world, And to my lis - tening ears
2. This is my Fa - ther's world, The birds their car - ols raise,
3. This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get

All na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
The morn - ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their Mak - ers praise.
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.

This is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought
This is my Fa - ther's world: He shines in all that's fair;
This is my Fa - ther's world: The bat - tle is not done;

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the won - ders wrought.
In the rus - tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev - ery - where.
Je - sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heav'n be one.

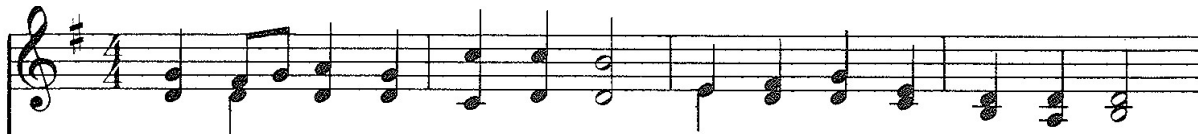
LITANY BASED ON PSALM 8

Leader: When I look at Your heavens,
All: the work of your fingers,
Leader: the moon and stars,
All: which You have set in place,
Leader: what is man that You are mindful of him,
All: and the son of man that You care for him?
Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PRAISE

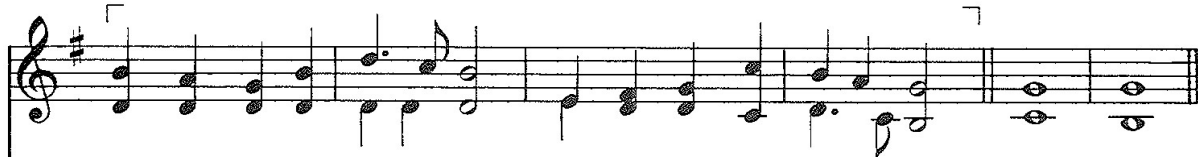
"For the Beauty of the Earth," #560 v. 1-5



- 1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
- 2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
- 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child;
- 4. For Thy Church that ev - er - more Lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
- 5. For Thy - self, best gift di - vine, To our race so free - ly given;



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies;
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light:
Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
Off - ering up on ev - ery shore Her pure sac - ri - fice of love:
For that great, great love of Thine, Peace on earth and joy in heaven:



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Spirit of the Living God," #247 (2X)



Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir - it of the



Liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,



use me. Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Leader: Holy and Gracious God,

All: I confess that I have sinned against you this day and every day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace and live each day for You.

Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Leslie McFarland

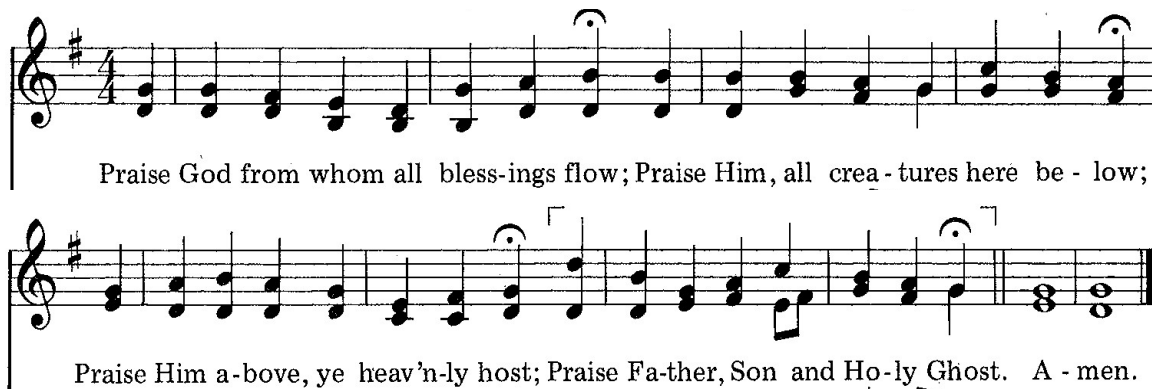
OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

RESPONSE

Doxology #625



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;

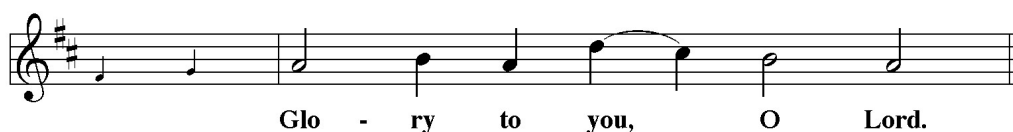
Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

FIRST LESSON, Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)

Reader: needed

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

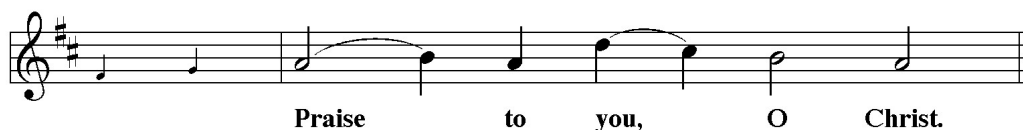
SECOND LESSON, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear."

¹⁸ "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."



MESSAGE

"From Hearing to Responding: The Ministry of the Word"

Student Ministries Director Kersten Stier

A manuscript for this sermon and those previous can be found in the Narthex.

HYMN

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is," #468 v. 1-3



1. The King of love my Shep-herd is, Whose good-ness fail - eth nev - er; I
2. Where streams of liv-ing wa - ter flow My ran-somed soul He lead - eth, And
3. Per-verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me, And
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, be - side me; Thy
5. And so thru all the length of days Thy good-ness fail - eth nev - er: Good



noth - ing lack if I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 where the ver - dant pas-tures grow With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 on His shoul - der gen - tly laid, And home re - joic - ing bro't me.
 rod and staff my com-fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.
 Shep-herd, may I sing Thy praise With - in Thy house for - ev - er. A - men.

WORDS OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Servers: Jane Costello, Angie Mitchka, Lynn Tapella

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

"Lamb of God"



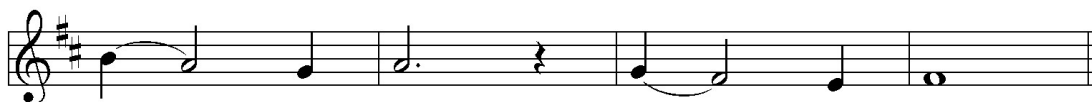
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Break Thou the Bread of Life," #274



1. Break	Thou the bread of life,	Dear Lord, to me,	As Thou didst
2. Bless	Thou the truth, dear Lord,	To me, to me,	As Thou didst
3. Thou	art the bread of life,	O Lord, to me,	Thy ho - ly
4. O	send Thy Spir - it, Lord,	Now un - to me,	That He may



break the loaves Be - side the sea; Be - yond the sa - cred page
 bless the bread By Gal - i - lee; Then shall all bond - age cease,
 Word the truth That sav - eth me; Give me to eat and live
 touch my eyes And make me see: Show me the truth con - cealed



I seek Thee, Lord, My spir - it pants for Thee, O liv - ing Word.
 All fet - ters fall; And I shall find my peace, My All in all.
 With Thee a - bove; Teach me to love Thy truth, For Thou art love.
 With - in Thy Word, And in Thy Book re - vealed I see the Lord. A - men

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," #559



- 1. Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come— Raise the song of har - vest - home:
 2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to His praise to yield;
 3. For the Lord our God shall come And shall take His har - vest home;
 4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest - home;



All is safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 From His field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin;



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied:
 First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear:
 Give His an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
 There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come— Raise the song of har - vest - home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In His gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all Thine an - gels, come— Raise the glo - rious har - vest - home. A - men.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you Father for the gift of salvation. Thank you Lord Jesus for this holy meal and the sacrifice of Your life. Thank you Holy Spirit for awakening faith within our hearts. We hear your voice in this meal and celebrate Your holy presence. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God," #556 v. 1-3



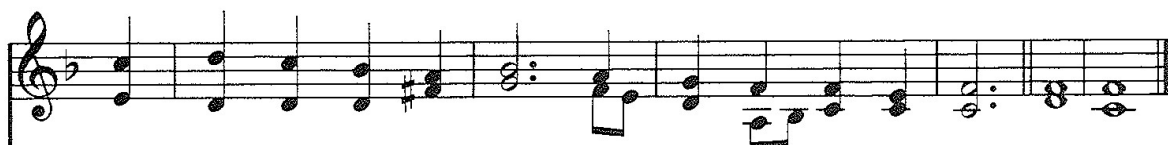
1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
2. O may this bounteous God Thro' all our life be near us,
3. All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,



Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices;
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us;
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,



Who, from our mother's arms, Hath blest us on our way
And keep us in His grace, And guide us when perplexed,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore;



With countless gifts of love, And still is ours to-day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

*God will never lead you to a place
where His grace cannot keep you.*



RSVP for the dinner banquet is appreciated!
Register here or call the church office:





SCHOOL SUPPLIES CAMPAIGN



WE ARE COLLECTING MONETARY DONATIONS
THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JULY.

You may give electronically in Church Center. Special envelopes are
available in the Narthex if you'd like to donate by check or cash.

THANK YOU!

Donate here:



NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Save these dates: Saturday, September 19th - Dinner Banquet at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 20th - Reception Celebration between services

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY - Resumes this morning!

Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults resumes this morning at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. Our opening topic will be "Resurrection of the Body."

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will continue until after the later service gets out. If you are an 8:30 attender - stay late! If Family Praise & Worship is your service - come early! Make new friends! If you'd like to help with Sunday morning coffee, please reach out to Joyce Pawlowski at 630-890-1203.

CONNECT WITH MESSIAH

You can use this QR code to let us know you're new, tell us that you're interested in next steps at MLC, submit prayer requests, fill out a Connect Card, and give online.



Scan here to connect with MLC:

Online Giving - There are two convenient ways to do it:

- 1) On our website at <https://www.mlcjoliet.org/give>.
- 2) Through the Church Center app on your phone or tablet, or scan the QR code above.

MEMORY BEARS



Messiah's Memory Bears Group normally meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is **July 28th**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses an email-based Prayer Chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community, and nation in times of crisis. Prayers are shared amongst the group via email and are kept confidential as much as possible. Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

PRAYER TEAM

Our in-person Prayer Team meets Thursday mornings in the Fireside Room from 10:15-11:15 to pray together over our prayer request list. For more info, reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478, or Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Items for the bulletin are due by the end of the day each Tuesday, and newsletter material is due the 20th of each month.

QUILTERS

Messiah Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday each month from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **Please note that we will not meet in July.** We have a lot of quilts ready to complete and if you can tie a knot, you can help us out! We even have jobs you can do sitting down. Think about stopping in and see what we do. If you are unable to join us and would like to sew at home, we have kits available and can show you how easy it is to sew a quilt top together.

Contact Kathy Mueller at 815-953-6601 or scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **August 18th**!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES CAMPAIGN

We are collecting monetary donations for our annual School Supplies Campaign throughout the month of July. Scan the QR code to give electronically, or by cash or check using an envelope available in the Narthex.



MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW) SUMMER PROGRAM

Our MKW program has been canceled for this summer.

NATIONAL BIBLE BEE

The National Bible Bee has been canceled for this summer.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our summer session for K-8th graders will run through August 16th. We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club.

For more info on ministries for kids pre-K through 5th grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org or Megan Kuhn, Christian Ed. Director, at christianed@mlcjoliet.org.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

Bible Study for high schoolers is in the Fireside Room continues year-round.

SUMMER S.A.L.T. (for both FAM and H2H groups)

This summer we're meeting in a combined format for 6th-12th graders! Our summer program meets at church on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 through August 5th.

For more info on ministries for students 6th through 12th grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided by Dave & Karen Nygard in celebration of their 44th anniversary, and by Lynn Tapella in loving memory of Henry Smeets.

If you would like to sponsor Altar flowers, please sign up in the Narthex or call the office at 815-741-4488. Arrangements are \$25 each.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

SUNDAY, July 12

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

MONDAY, July 13

n/a

TUESDAY, July 14

n/a

WEDNESDAY, July 15

6 p.m. Summer SALT

THURSDAY, July 16

10:15 a.m. Prayer Group
12 p.m. Staff Meeting

FRIDAY, July 17

n/a

SATURDAY, July 18

10 a.m. Janice Holmes Funeral
1 p.m. Tom Cleary Funeral

SUNDAY, July 19

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 81
10:45: 52
Online: 17

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Philippians 4:12-13

I know what it is to be in need,
and I know what it is to have plenty.
I have learned the secret of being
content in any and every situation,
whether well fed or hungry,
whether living in plenty or in want.
I can do all this through him who
gives me strength.

Messiah office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
otherwise by appointment. Please call (815) 741-4488.

