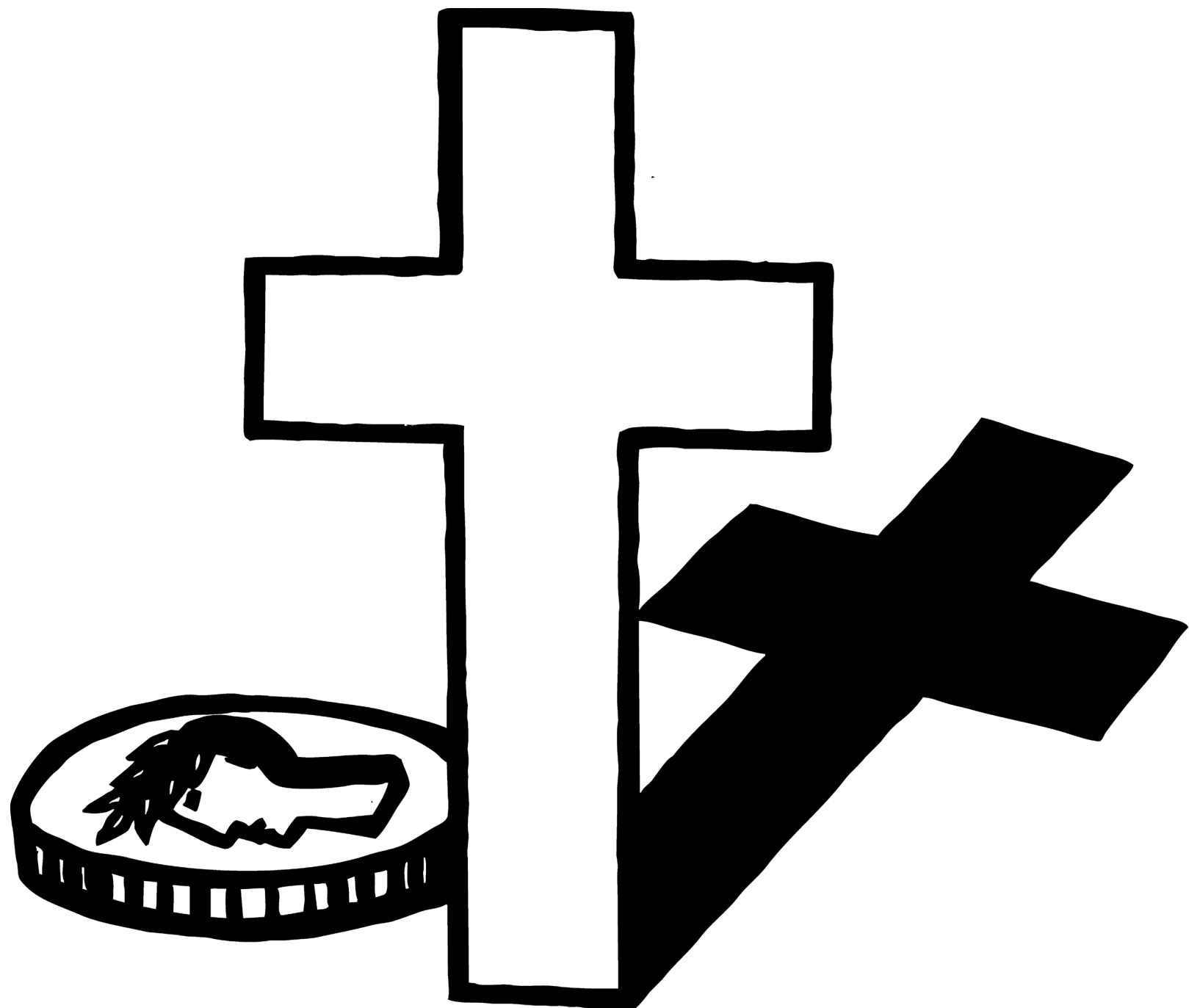


Sunday, October 18, 2020
20th Sunday after Pentecost



1 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411
(912) 598-1188
www.messiahsi.org

GATHERING

Note: Congregational responses in bold type.

WELCOME TO THIS WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living Christ's presence in our midst. Christ comes to us with new life and strength for Christian living in daily life through the hearing of the Word, preaching, prayer, song, and community.

PRELUDE

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.

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Praise the Lord! O Heavens

Hymn 823



- 1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
- 2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail.



sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

Text: *Foundling Hospital Collection*, London, 1796
Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

SPECIAL DEDICATION

Outreach Team

WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 45:1-7

OT 634

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,

whose right hand I have grasped

to subdue nations before him

and strip kings of their robes,

to open doors before him—

and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you

and level the mountains,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze

and cut through the bars of iron,

³I will give you the treasures of darkness

and riches hidden in secret places,

so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,

the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,

and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name,

I surname you, though you do not know me.

⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun

and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 96: 1-9

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;**

proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³Declare God's glory among the nations

and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,**

more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;**

power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,

ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;**

bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

NT 179

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

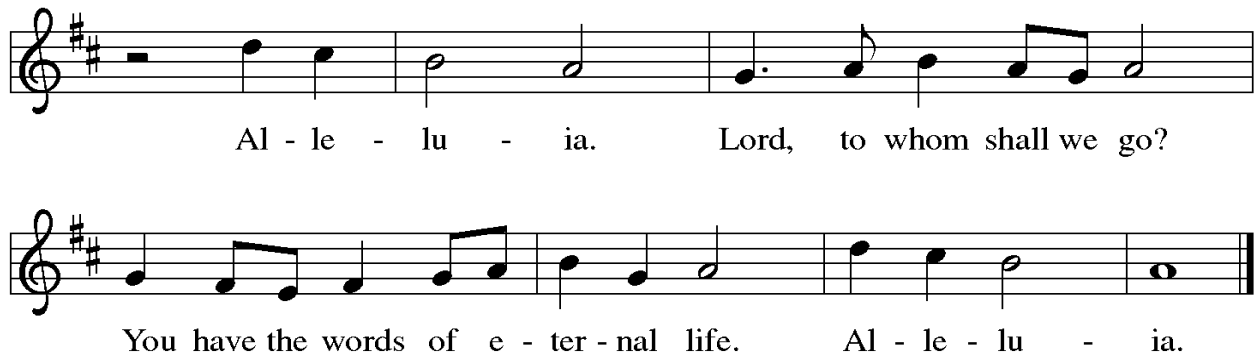
²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22: 15-22

NT 21

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The Holy Gospel according Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Jason Talsness

Please stand.



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

APOSTLE'S 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

Response after each prayer: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Response at end: Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Page 154

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God's love is poured out in Christ for you.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

(Communion will be distributed by Pastor Talsness. See the Announcements section for details about the process. For those who prefer grape juice, please indicate that to Pastor when he approaches your row.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Garden
Jane Holst & Mary Maner, Duet

Miles

Please stand.

PASTORAL BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

SENDING

PASTORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
And give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

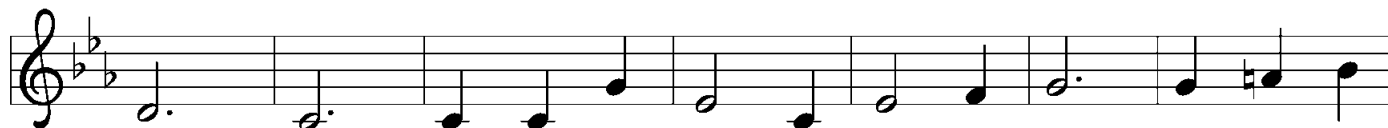
Follows on the next page.

Built on a Rock

Hymn 652
v. 1 & 4



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Carol & John Duren *in honor of our parents* and by Susan & Ron Whitaker *for our loved ones*.

THE ETERNAL CANDLE is given this month by Lana & Eric Gilster *to the glory of God*.

ASSISTING A VISITING FAMILY

Lori and Ted Dorsz are visiting Savannah from their home in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, and are attending Messiah while they are here. Their son John (Teddy/Ted) Dorsz II is a Savannah police officer. On September 10, 2020, he was diagnosed with APL Leukemia (Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia), which has a 90% remission rate and an approx. 80% cure rate with treatments.

Teddy grew up at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon, Pennsylvania his entire life before coming to Georgia. Messiah member Andrea Felkins has known both Teddy and his sister since they were babies. They are also family friends of Messiah charter member Ginny Romeiser.

He and his fiancée, Tori Klug, are both police officers with the Savannah Police Department. After graduating from the Police Academy, he met his fiancée, who lost her husband two years ago. He has since fallen in love with her four children and could not imagine them not having a father. He has taken them on to become a family. Since his relationship with Tori began, they have produced a wonderful baby boy named Caleb who is now 3 months old. The family of seven reside in a home about 8 miles from the church at 5607 La Roche Ave., Savannah GA 31406.

The Dorsz are asking for Messiah's assistance to join their "Meal Train," which helps supply the family with meals about 3 times a week. The web site is easy to navigate and to

choose a date that is convenient for those who wish to help. Lori is more than happy to also take a phone call (610) 999-9900 and add you to the list or transport the meal. There is a cooler at their gate, which is located down a sandy road (Saussey Avenue) off LaRoche, which is the first house on the left. This is one of the easiest families to prepare for as the kids are not picky eaters. You can see their Meal Train page at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/7y56w2>

FLOWERS

If you donate flowers for worship, you are welcome to take them home with you to enjoy through the week.

IT'S STEWARDSHIP TIME

The annual stewardship letters were mailed on October 1. Please give prayerful consideration to the exercise of your financial stewardship plan, complete the Pledge Card, and return it in the accompanying envelope by Sunday, October 27. The Pledges will be dedicated on Sunday, November 13, during worship.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY SUSPENDED

The group that meets on Mondays at 9:30 am has decided to temporarily suspend their bible study sessions. Watch *The Messiah Minute* and the Sunday bulletin for news about when they will begin meetings again.

ARE YOU BORED? WANT SOMETHING NEW TO DO? HAVE TOO MANY PLASTIC BAGS?

If you answered YES, to any of the above, please come join us under the bell tower each WEDNESDAY at 10 am in Fellowship Hall. **PLEASE BRING all your old plastic bags (grocery, Walmart, Dollar General, whatever you have)**. We will be making *PLARN*—which was recently featured in the *TWATL*. These are "plastic mats" that are donated to the homeless shelter for distribution to those on the streets. They are **EASY TO MAKE**. There are several steps, that we will break into groups to learn. No previous skills needed. You will find where you fit in and will be an important part of our project!!

We will social distance, wear a mask (if you choose), bring a chair to work in, scissors, hydration, and all those plastic bags!! If you cannot come but wish to donate bags, you may do so at the church office entrance.

Thank you!! See you on WEDNESDAY!!

SECOND HARVEST UPDATE

Messiah Members!

We are collecting boxed or canned pasta meals for the month of October. The pictures are examples of such items.



Thank you once again for your donations to Second Harvest. Feeding the hungry.



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Elizabeth A. Eaton
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Organist	Diane Boyd
Choral Director	Mary Maner
Altar Guild	Cheryl Liebgott and Layne Rabold
Reader	Joy Olson

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Michele Marie Derr 10/18, Carol Duren 10/20, Fayha Polite 10/22,
Anne Jeanblanc 10/23, Maurine Bagwell 10/23*

Anniversaries: Layne & Gary Rabold 10/22

WELCOME to WORSHIP

REMINDERS FOR THIS TIME OF COVID-19

If you are ill, have a fever, or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 in the past two weeks, please stay home. If you cannot follow these requirements, enjoy the taped worship service at home.

- Please always wear a mask.
- Hand sanitizer will be available outside, in the Narthex and in the pews.
- Keep your physical distance:
 - Follow the markers outside.
 - Greet people outside. No handshakes or hugs.
 - No socializing inside.
- Place your offering in the offering plates on stands as you enter the Sanctuary.
- Sit in your reserved seat. An usher will accompany to your seat, and your bulletin will be in your seat.
- Pew materials have been removed.
- Although there will be music, please do not sing.
- Speak the responses softly.
- There will be no Communion, and we will not pass the peace.
- Pastor Jason will coordinate dismissal by rows beginning at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- You are welcome to bring a water bottle.
- There is no coffee social, and all meeting rooms are closed.
- Restrooms are open, but please use them one person or family at a time.

Giving Thanks for Twenty-five Years

