

# The Feast of St. Matthew

## Holy Communion



9:00 a.m., September 22, 2024

### Welcome to worship this morning!

We are glad you're here! Please know that **children** are welcome to remain in worship; they are also welcome to take a break in our "Kid's Korner" in the Gathering Space where the service audio is played through speakers. **Bathrooms** are located down the hall, past the church office. **Hymns** are printed in the red book (ELW) available in the pew rack.

We practice **open communion** at St. Matthew, meaning all who desire the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome. If you prefer, you may also come forward for a blessing. During the distribution of Holy Communion, ushers will direct the congregation forward to receive communion in a **continuous line**. The pastor will distribute communion wafers, which you may intinct (dip) into red wine, or white grape juice, held by communion assistants. Please do not drink from the chalices. Gluten free wafers are also available. The pastor will deliver the sacrament to anyone unable to come forward. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit, available at the usher's table.

All are welcome!

PRELUDE: *Prelude on 'Schmücke dich'*

Jacob B. Weber

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, †  
and of the Holy Spirit. **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.**

I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing or sitting.

*A brief silence is observed for self-reflection.*

Most merciful God,

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

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

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.**

**OPENING HYMN: *O Savior, Precious Savior***

**ELW 820**

**GREETING**

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.**

KYRIE

ELW Setting 8

*Refrain*

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised tax collector to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## TEMPLE TALK:

**Outreach & Endowment – George Reider**

## FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:8—3:11

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel:

<sup>8</sup>You, mortal, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you. <sup>9</sup>I looked, and a hand was stretched out to me, and a written scroll was in it. <sup>10</sup>He spread it before me; it had writing on the front and on the back, and written on it were words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

<sup>31</sup>He said to me, O mortal, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel. <sup>2</sup>So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it. Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.

<sup>4</sup>He said to me: Mortal, go to the house of Israel and speak my very words to them. <sup>5</sup>For you are not sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language, but to the house of Israel—<sup>6</sup>not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you. <sup>7</sup>But the house of Israel will not listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me; because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. <sup>8</sup>See, I have made your face hard against their faces, and your forehead hard against their foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Like the hardest stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not fear them or be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. <sup>10</sup>He said to me: Mortal, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart and hear with your ears; <sup>11</sup>then go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them. Say to them, “Thus says the Lord God“; whether they hear or refuse to hear.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 3

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13**

*Regarded as a traitor to his people and an oppressor of the poor, this tax collector follows Jesus and then offers him hospitality. In the sharing of a meal Jesus reveals his mission: to serve God's mercy.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup>And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON:**

Rev. Ryan

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, You Give the Great Commission**

ELW 579

## 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

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing or sitting.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. For our bishops Elizabeth and Nathan, pastors, and deacons. For evangelists and teachers, for mission developers and young adults in global mission. For those who are discerning their calling. Bless and encourage all who respond to your call to ministry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth. For mountains, ponds and swamps, for parks in Hartford and greenways in the Farmington Valley. For all wild and domestic animals. We pray for courage to stand and protect fragile environments from harm by human greed or carelessness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern us, selectmen, council members, mayors, governors, and members of congress and all candidates for public office. Prevent them from abusing their power for personal gain, and inspire them to work for the common good. Bring an end to hatred, violence, and injustice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all those in need. For those who are sick, hospitalized, or healing. We ask for comfort found in a quick recovery. For those who are without a home or who are hungry. We ask for your blessing to come. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our practices of hospitality and outreach. Transform us through your gifts of mercy and forgiveness. Fill us with compassion and inspire us to lives of generosity and service. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember today St. Matthew and the whole communion of saints who have gone before us in the faith. Bring us, together with them, to the joy of the resurrection and to the fulfillment of your promise of unending life with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **OFFERING**

*At this time, ushers will pass the offering plate if you desire to give a financial gift. Donations may also be given online at [stmatthewavon.org/give](http://stmatthewavon.org/give), using the QR code in the bulletin, or mailed directly to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!*

## **OFFERTORY**

## DOXOLOGY

*All rise as the gifts are brought forward.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.  
We lift them to the Lord.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



# SANCTUS

## ELW Setting 4



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.  
**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*At this time, ushers will direct the congregation to form two lines. You will receive a communion wafer from a pastor, which you are invited to intinct (dip) into the red wine or white grape juice held by the communion assistants. Please do not drink from the chalices. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or indicate to an usher to have a pastor deliver the sacrament to your seat.*

Christ invites you to this table. Come taste and see!

### **THE DISTRIBUTION**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

# AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 4



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 HYMN: *Praise and Thanksgiving*

ELW 689

### BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

As you go on your way may Christ go with you.  
May he go before you to show you the way,  
Behind you to encourage you,  
Beside you to befriend you,  
Above you to watch over, And within you to give you peace. † Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: *Now We Join in Celebration***

**ELW 462**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

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**Today's Altar Flowers are given for the glory of God!**

**If you'd like to learn more about the Outreach Ministry, please contact the**

**Committee Head: George Reider**

**Phone: 860-678-7401**

**Email: gmcareider@cs.com**

## **MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Assisting Minister:** Kathy Alsgaard

**Lector:** Ben Wright

**Ushers:** Kevin Reichler

**Altar Guild:** MJ Bennett-Sandell & Ellen Ericson

**Live Stream:** George Spoering

**Coffee Hour:** Mark Boswell & Anne Fenn

## **STAFF**

**Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok – [pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org)

**Associate Pastor:** The Rev. Ryan Heckman – [revryan@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:revryan@stmatthewavon.org)

**Director of Music:** Sarah Schiener-Redenz – [music@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:music@stmatthewavon.org)

**Office Administrator:** Paul Martin – [office@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:office@stmatthewavon.org) or (860) 673-3301

**Sexton:** Roy Zurell – contact the office

## VISIT US ONLINE

Website: [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org)

YouTube: @StMatthewAvon

Facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch Instagram: @stmatthewlutheranavon

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Sunday</b>	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:20am: Adult Forum & Sunday School	10:30am: Confirmation Class
<b>Tuesday</b>	10am: A.A. (Open to All)		
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W	7pm: Choir Rehearsal	7pm: O.A.
<b>Thursday</b>	2pm: Centering Prayer		
<b>Saturday</b>	11am: Private Event – Hall of the Evangelists		
<b>Sunday</b>	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:20am: Adult Forum & Sunday School	10:30am: Confirmation Class

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INSTALLATION CHOIR – POTLUCK DINNER RESCHEDULED

With the Rev. Ryan's installation service coming up on Sept. 29th, we are looking for volunteers to join a special installation choir! **The potluck dinner has been rescheduled to next Wednesday, the 25th at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room**, followed by a rehearsal at 7. Another rehearsal will follow on the 29th before the service. If you would like to participate, please sign up on the bulletin board or let Sarah know. We are excited to help make this service special!

### PASTOR RYAN HECKMAN - INSTALLATION SERVICE

#### Sunday, Sept. 29 - 4:00 pm

Join us on Sunday, Sept. 29th at 4:00 pm for the Installation of Ryan Heckman as the new Associate Pastor of St. Matthew! Following the service will be a light reception with a "special cake", coffee, and other treats provided by the Fellowship Committee. All are welcome to celebrate and welcome Ryan officially into his new role as Associate Pastor of our vibrant congregation! The service will also be livestreamed and uploaded to our YouTube page for those who are unable to attend in-person.

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, Oct. 6th @ 11:30 am

Join us at 11:30 am, Sunday, October 6, on the front lawn for a blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis Day! After morning worship, go home and return with your pets, or their picture, for a special blessing. Invite your friends and their pets too!

## NEW HORIZONS VILLAGE - BOOK DONATIONS

New Horizons Village is looking for book donations for a new library that they are creating on their campus. New Horizons Village is home to 101 adults with physical disabilities. Many of their residents prefer large print books since some have vision challenges. These types of books can be difficult to find in regular libraries. **If anyone is interested in donating a large print book, puzzle, or a Barnes & Noble gift card to this life-enriching initiative, please bring them to the church and place them in the donation box located opposite the office before October 16th.** For a list of desired books, please check our weekly emails for a link, or contact the office.

"Thank you for your continued support of New Horizons Village - we are truly grateful for all that you have done for our community!" - New Horizons

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, October 15th, 1:00 to 3:00 Hall of the Evangelists

Our first Women's Fellowship, with 30 women in attendance, was a big success, and now we are looking ahead to the next one.

The October gathering will feature a mixture of women sharing a craft they love - knitting and theorem stenciling - which will be interspersed with poetry reading. And if that doesn't make you want to come, just think about warm apple crisp with real whipped cream, pumpkin bread, and molasses cookies, in honor of fall! All SMLC women are invited!

DATE CHANGE: Friday, October 17th, 6:00 PM

**Pennsylvania Dutch-themed harvest dinner and hymn sing**

*Stay tuned for details!*

**SMLC TRUNK OR TREAT: SAVE THE DATE: Friday, Oct. 25th @ 6:00 pm**

Time to get ready for some spooktacular fun at our Third Annual St. Matthew Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 25th at 6:00 pm! Bring your little ghouls, ghosts, and goblins, for an evening of candy, costumes, and community. All are welcome—invite your friends and family for a frightfully good time!

**ADULTS:** We will need volunteers to decorate their cars and fill them with candy! Look out for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in October, and contact the office if you'd like to get involved. Thank you!

**TAG SALE**

This year's Tag Sale will be held on Friday evening from 5 to 8pm Nov. 1st with a \$5 admission fee and Saturday, Nov. 2nd from 9am to 3pm. Our recipient this year will be the Grace Lutheran Meals program.

We do not plan to accept and sell clothing including hats. Clothing may be donated to Gifts of Love in Avon. Please do not donate items that no longer work, VHS tapes, no bedding (pillows, sheets) and please clean the dirty dusty items prior to donation. So start getting your donations ready.

## ONLINE GIVING

Make a one-time gift, or set-up recurring donations, via Vanco! You may use the QR code below to access the website, or visit: [stmatthewavon.org/online-giving](http://stmatthewavon.org/online-giving)

*We ask those that wish to set-up recurring donations, please select the "GENERAL OPERATING FUND" and choose withdrawals to take place on either the 1st or 15th of the month. Thank you! If you have any difficulty, please contact the church office or see one of the Pastors after service!*



### St. Matthew Mission Statement:

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping community called to proclaim God's love for all and to grow spiritually together. Challenged by Jesus' example, we strive to connect people of all ages, abilities, and needs, and to nurture them to be disciples of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the wider community and welcome our neighbors to a life of worship, preaching, teaching, Christian care, service, and spiritual growth.*

***In Christ, We Are Digging Deep, Reaching Out, Changing Lives.***