

# Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

## Holy Communion & Outdoor Worship

9:00 a.m., July 7, 2024



Welcome to outdoor worship this morning! We are blessed to be in God's good creation!

Please place your chairs wherever you feel most comfortable on the lawn. If you need a chair, you can either see an usher or find one near the door of the church.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments following worship!

PRELUDE: *Prelude in F Major*

Robert D. Vandall

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.**

Please remain standing for Confession and Forgiveness.

*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: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

ELW 742



- 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 - spite, 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

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

*In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.*

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel:

<sup>1</sup>[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.<sup>2</sup> And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." <sup>5</sup>Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

*Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.*

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians:

<sup>2</sup> I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—<sup>4</sup> was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup> But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, <sup>7</sup> even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup> Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup> but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
 - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13**

*At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup> On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." <sup>5</sup> And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup> He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup> If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Brian**

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Here I Am, Lord*

ELW 574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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## 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

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

Glorious God, you bend down to wash the feet of your disciples. Teach us to overcome rejection and follow your way. Let the servant church arise in our teaching, our praying, our healing, and our doing. Make all your faithful people powerful in weakness and strong in grace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, your fingers trace the heavens and your hands mold the earth. Where there is drought, bring nourishing rain. Where there is devastation from fire or flood, bring relief. Sustain the well-being of every living thing. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, as we remember our nation's Independence Day this week, we thank you for the gift of freedom and pray for all people in all nations to be free; and we ask that you to protect our nation from any who threaten our national ideals of liberty and justice for all. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, in your presence strangers become companions and enemies become neighbors. Open our doors to those we have so easily shut out, particularly people who are different from us or who are marginalized by church or society. Open those who govern to the cries of all who journey with no food or shelter, especially those fleeing violence, seeking freedom, and in search of community. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, you gather us into your house of many dwelling places. We give you thanks for our faithful departed. Inspire us by their lives of faith until, with them, we rest forever at our journey's end. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of Christ's peace with your neighbor. Afterward, the congregation may be seated.*

## OFFERING

*Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness! You are invited to place an offering in the offering plate by the usher's table on your way out of service. Donations may also be given online at [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org) or mailed to the church.*

## COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**



## HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

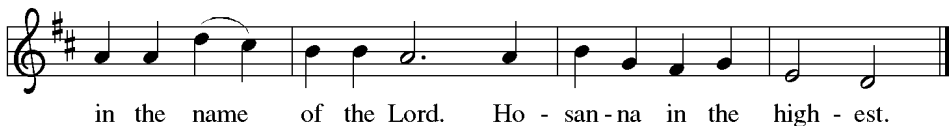
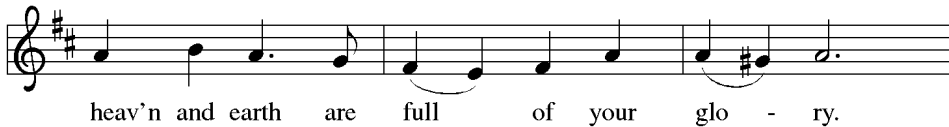
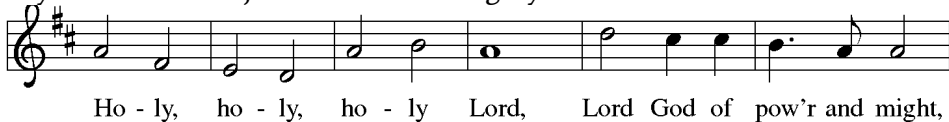
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:



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**

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

## AGNUS DEI



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.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

*The presiding minister will instruct the congregation on our outdoor communion practices.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## 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

Jesus, Bread of life,

we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,

now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

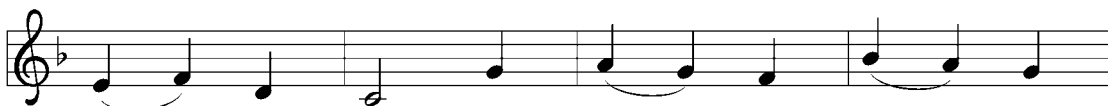
As you go on your way may Christ go with you.  
May he go before you to show you the way,  
Behind you to encourage you,  
Beside you to befriend you,  
Above you to watch over,  
And within you to give you peace. † Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN: *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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## 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 provided for the glory of God!**

## MANY THANKS FOR TODAY’S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

**Lector:** Anne Fenn

**Assisting Minister:** Kathy Alsgaard

**Ushers:** Kevin Reichler

**Altar Guild:** Deb Brodeur

## STAFF

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

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

**Director of Christian Ed.** The Rev. Ryan Heckman – [education@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:education@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)

**Facebook.com:** [SaintMatthewLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch)

**YouTube:** [@StMatthewAvon](https://www.youtube.com/@StMatthewAvon)

**Instagram:** [@stmatthewlutheranavon](https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewlutheranavon)

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am: Outdoor Worship w/ Holy Communion		
<b>Monday</b>	OFFICE CLOSED		
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am: A.A.	7:00 pm: Finance Mtg.	7:00 pm: Avon Land Trust
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30 am & 5:15 pm: W.W		7:00 pm: O.A.
<b>Saturday</b>	4:30: Music at Greenwood - Michael Kelly Blanchard		
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFICE REMOTE WORK

Please be informed that our office will be working remotely on Mondays from now until, at least, Labor Day. During this time, the office will still be available to take phone calls and receive emails as usual.

If you need to visit the office in person on a Monday, please contact the office administrator in advance to schedule an appointment.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

### MUSIC AT GREENWOOD | MICHAEL KELLY BLANCHARD

**Saturday, July 13th, 4:00 p.m. | Hall of the Evangelists**

Our next concert features local singer, songwriter, and storyteller Michael Kelly Blanchard! Blanchard will lead the audience on a textured path of memories and emotions evoked through both word and song, ending with a hope drawn from the firm trust in the loving heart of God. Come join us at St. Matthew in Avon on Saturday, July 13th, at 4:00 p.m., and stay after the program to enjoy a reception of light appetizers. An offering will be received at the door (suggested donation: \$10). We hope to see you there!

### ST. MATTHEW TIME & TALENT SURVEY

*“Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”* **1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

**What are your God-given gifts?**

What are your gifts and abilities? What are the things God has blessed you with that you can use to help him bless others? Let us know the ways God has gifted you for service at St. Matthew and beyond.

Please prayerfully complete the Time & Talent survey, which can be found in the weekly Constant Contact emails, and let us know how you want to serve God at St. Matthew. If you'd like a printed version of the survey, please contact the office.

**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.***