

# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

## Holy Communion

9:00 a.m., August 10, 2025



### Welcome to worship this morning!

We are glad you're here! **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 while kneeling or standing at the altar rail. 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 sip** 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: *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*

Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of † Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:** *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

**ELW 618**

## **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**

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church.  
Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you  
wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

A reading from Hebrews:

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Rev. Ryan

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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing or sitting.

*A brief silence.*

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are attentive and prepared to act in faith for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened. We pray especially for the waters and lands around us: the Farmington River, the Connecticut River, the Long Island Sound and all waterways. Guide the work of environmentalists and all people who labor on the land. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. We pray in faith and hope for peace in our world, especially on the news this week that more nations have pulled out of nuclear and other weapons treaties. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for the peace we pray for. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need especially all those on St. Matthew's prayer chain. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go, but knowing they needed to go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of ELCA Global Refuge and other means of support and advocacy for migrants. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance. Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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) or mailed directly to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!*

## **OFFERTORY**

## DOXOLOGY

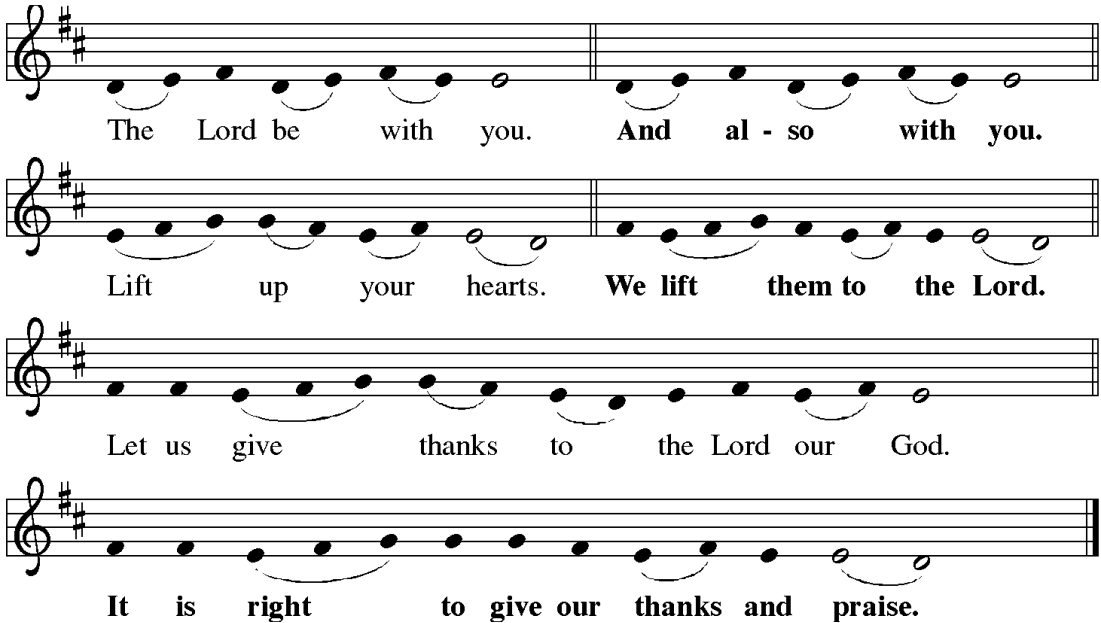
*All rise as the gifts are brought forward.*

**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

Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION



The musical notation for the Holy Communion section consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
- Staff 2: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
- Staff 3: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- Staff 4: 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 3

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
 You are most holy,  
 and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
 but have eternal life.



We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace.  
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## 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 approach the altar where you may kneel or stand. You will receive a communion wafer from the pastor, which you are invited to intinct (dip) into the red wine, or white grape juice held by the communion assistant. Please do not sip from the chalices. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or the pastor will deliver the sacrament to your seat.*

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 3

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS: *Have No Fear, Little Flock*  
*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ELW 764  
ELW 502

**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**

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
May the Lord look upon with you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

ELW 632

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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Today's Altar flowers are provided for the glory of God!

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

**Altar Guild:** Mj Sandell & Ellen Ericson

**Assisting Minister:** Rick Hanson

**Lector:** Anne Fenn

**Livestream:** John Pearson

**Usher:** Gary Kurtich & Doreen O'Leary **Coffee Hour:** Deb Brodeur & Kathy Kurtich

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch) **Instagram:** @stmatthewlutheranavon

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday	10am: A.A.	7pm: Finance Mtg.	7pm: Avon Land Trust
Wednesday	9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W		7pm: O.A.
Thursday	Paul: Out of Office	2pm: Centering Prayer	
Friday	Paul: Out of Office		
Saturday	11:30am: Dorothy Oehrle Funeral Service & Reception		
Sunday	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DOROTHY OEHRLE FUNERAL SERVICE & RECEPTION

All are welcome to attend the funeral service and reception being held for St. Matthew member Dorothy Oehrle, which will take place next Saturday, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Dorothy's obituary can be viewed on the Carmon Community Funeral Home website.

### RALLY DAY NEWSLETTER

With Rally Day, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, sneaking its way into the calendar sooner rather than later, staff will be compiling articles for an upcoming Newsletter planned to be released on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. **If you have any notifications, articles, or content involving St. Matthew and its ministries, please send it to staff for review by August 14<sup>th</sup>!**

We hope to utilize a more collaborative effort for the Newsletter in the upcoming program year; all are welcome to submit for review!

## **RALLY DAY: SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, Sept. 14, following worship service**

Join us after worship service on Sunday, Sept. 14 for our annual kick-off to the program year!

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY: SEASONAL DONATIONS**

The Outreach Ministry is supporting various targeted organizations on a bi-monthly or seasonal basis in addition to continuing our support for Gifts of Love and the Canton Food Pantry with items always needed by their clients.

The first Seasons of Giving effort will collect school supplies for those in need in Hartford County. Collection is through the end of August. The organizations we are working with are Gifts of Love, The Village for Families and Children and Grace Lutheran Church. Supplies needed include: #2 pencils, colored pencils, pencil cases, sharpeners, thick and thin markers, crayons, individual-colored folders, spiral notebooks, water bottles, lunch boxes, thumb drives, and backpacks. Monetary donations made directly to the organizations so that they can make purchases in bulk are also welcome. Goods that are "Always Needed" are personal care products, paper goods and non-perishable food items especially pasta sauce, canned tuna and fruits, cereal, 100% juice, coffee, and 1# bags of rice.

If you'd like to donate directly to The Village, please use the following online link:  
<https://thevillage.org/SMLC>

## 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.***