

Sixth Sunday of Easter Holy Communion

May 22, 2022
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

The seven weeks of Easter, the great fifty days, are a unique festive time in the life of the Church, in which we celebrate our Lord's victory over death and the grave.

If you are new to the congregation, please know that **children** are welcome to remain in worship or take a break in our "Kids' Korner" in the gathering space where the service is piped in for parents. **Bathrooms** are located down the hall past the church office. All who desire the sacrament are welcome for **communion**. Pre-filled communion cups are available at the usher's table.

PRELUDE: *"What a Friend we have in Jesus"*

John G. Barr

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

✠ *Water is poured into the font as the minister gives thanks:*

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; you opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness, and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: *This Joyful Eastertide*

ELW 391

GREETING and PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Let us pray, Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit, we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

9During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

11We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, 12and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. 13On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. 14A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. 15When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: This is the Feast

Setting Four

This ecstatic outburst of praise to God and to the Lamb is based on passages found in Revelation 5:12-13 and 19:5-9. Modern American Christians, enjoying the blessings of religious liberty, can miss the subversive elements in the text. This is the song of a persecuted, marginalized community, celebrating the eternal divine victory of one of the victims of the idolatrous and bloody Roman empire.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 5:1-9

Jesus performs a healing miracle on the sabbath. In doing so he both reveals divine creative power and teaches a richer, deeper meaning for the sabbath as a healing and creative time.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda, which has five porticoes. 3In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” 7The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” 8Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” 9At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Sandra D’Amico

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation. I invite you to kneel or remain standing.

A brief silence.

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace and guide us in your work. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. Grant peace to all experiencing oppression or violence. Especially we pray for the people of Ukraine and all those experiencing war. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace. We lift up to you the victims of the mass shooting in Buffalo. Care for grieving families. Inspire us to do what is necessary to bring an end to mass shootings, murderous intentions, and the sin of racism. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, those returning from prison, and all marginalized people. Accomplish your will through their efforts. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For what else shall we pray? (*Here worshippers may raise other prayers, aloud or silently, ending each prayer with the words, Merciful God, to which the congregation may respond, Hear our prayer.*)

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of Christ.

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

St. Matthew members and friends joyfully offer themselves, their time, and their possessions as a grateful response to God's generosity. Thank you for your continued faithfulness! Financial gifts may be given in person in the offering plate on your way out of church, online at www.stmatthewavon.org or mailed to the church.

DOXOLOGY

**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

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

At St. Matthew we welcome all who wish to share in Holy Communion to join us in this sacrament of grace. We invite you to wait to take to hand the pre-filled cup of grape juice and wafer after the Lord's Prayer and to open it at the Distribution. Trash cans are available at the exits of the church.

HOLY COMMUNION

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.**

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the fourth line. The music is written in a simple, clear style suitable for a church service.

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.



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

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

THE DISTRIBUTION

You are invited at this time to peel back the plastic on the top of the cup to reveal the communion wafer and consume it, and then peel back the top of the cup to drink the grape juice.

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION RESPONSORY

Ancient Plainsong



All repeat the alleluia after the cantor and sing it after the verse.

Cantor: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

[All sing the alleluia.]

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

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

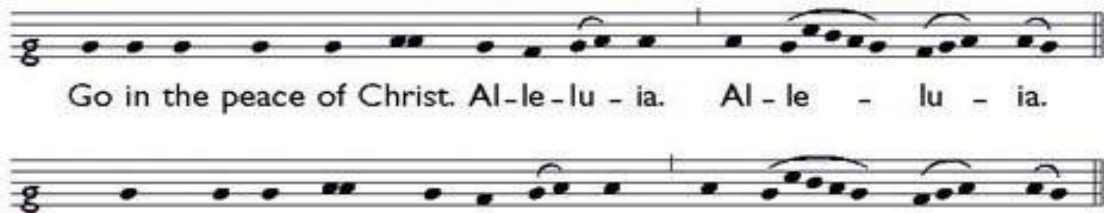
ELW 886 (*omit stanza 5*)

EASTERTIDE DISMISSAL

Ancient Plainsong

Luther learned the traditional dismissal tunes as a choir boy. In his Formula Missae of 1523, he encouraged their continued use in the reformed liturgy.

The cantor sings the dismissal and all respond.



Go in the peace of Christ. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

All Thanks be to God. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

POSTLUDE

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Altar flowers this morning are given for the Glory of God!

MANY THANKS THIS MORNING TO OUR:

Ushers: Bob Hoffman & Kevin Reichler (8:30)

Lectors: Anne Fenn (8:30)

Assisting Minister: Robin Lindquist (8:30)

Live Stream: Ben Wright (8:30)

Altar Guild: Deb Brodeur (8:30 & 11:00)

Staff:

Pastor Brian R. Rajcok, Associate Pastor-pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org

Pastor Sandra D'Amico, Interim/Transition Pastor- pr.sdamico@gmail.com

Richard Silbereis, Director of Music - contact the Church office (860) 673-3301

Diane Oates, Church Administrator - office@stmatthewavon.org

Roy Zurell, Sexton - contact the Church office (860) 673-3301

Visit us on our website: www.stmatthewavon.org

SAVE THE DATES

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Gallery Walk - 2:00-4:00 PM

Featuring St. Matthew artists:

- Ellen Ericson - landscapes, portraits, & seascapes
- George Spoering - showing Lisa's artwork
- Janice Davidson - painting on fabric
- John Pearson - photography
- Bob Davidson - miniature handmade furniture & other handmade wooden items
- Jane Hanson - handmade treasures

Refreshments will be provided. This event is free and open to the public so invite your friends and neighbors!

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Annual Church Picnic - Following the 11 AM worship service

Join us for food, fellowship and fun! The picnic will be outside, weather permitting, inside if not. We will be serving traditional picnic foods - burgers, hot dogs, salads, desserts and beverages. There will be games and activities for all. Ask a friend to come along - all are welcome! No need to bring anything. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board outside the church office to help us with a head count. If you decide to come at the last minute, please join us!

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday: 2:00 Staff Meeting

Wednesday: 5:00 Centering Prayer

Sunday: 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service
9:45 Adult Forum
11:00 Sanctuary Communion Service

Monday: Memorial Day – office closed

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.***