

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

9:00 a.m., November 19, 2023



Welcome to worship this morning!

If you are new to the congregation, please know that **children** are welcome to remain in worship, or take a break in our “Kid’s Korner” within 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.

All who desire the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome; you may also come forward to receive a blessing. During the distribution of Holy Communion, ushers will direct the congregation to kneel at the altar rail. The pastor will distribute communion wafers, which you may intinct (dip) into the red wine, or white grape juice, held by communion assistants. Please **do not sip** from the chalices at this time. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or the pastor can deliver the sacrament to you.

PRELUDE: *Nun freut euch, lieben Christen, g'mein*

Matthias Weckmann

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
I invite you to kneel or remain standing.
Silence is kept for 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: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

ELW 705

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

We will now read responsively from the book of Psalms:

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were
born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly
and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians:

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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: Luke 16:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house — ²⁸for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Bill White

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

ELW 708

APOSTLES' 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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. I invite you kneel or remain standing.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For what else shall we pray...? (Worshippers may raise other prayers, aloud or silently)

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

At this time, ushers will pass the offering plate if you desire to give a financial gift. Donations may also be given online on our website (stmatthewavon.org), or mailed to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

All rise as the communion elements 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

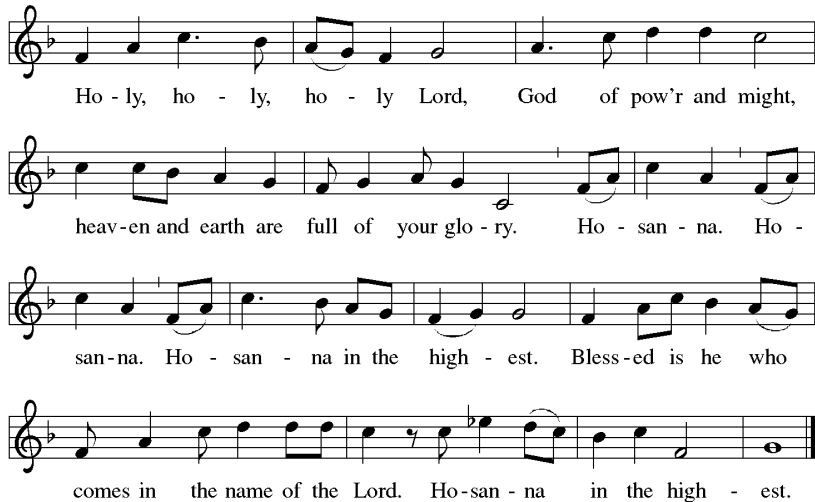
God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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:



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.

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.

GREAT AMEN

“Amen” is sung over and over to the tune of “Amazing Grace”

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 at this time. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or the pastor will deliver the sacrament to your seat.

Christ invites you to this table.

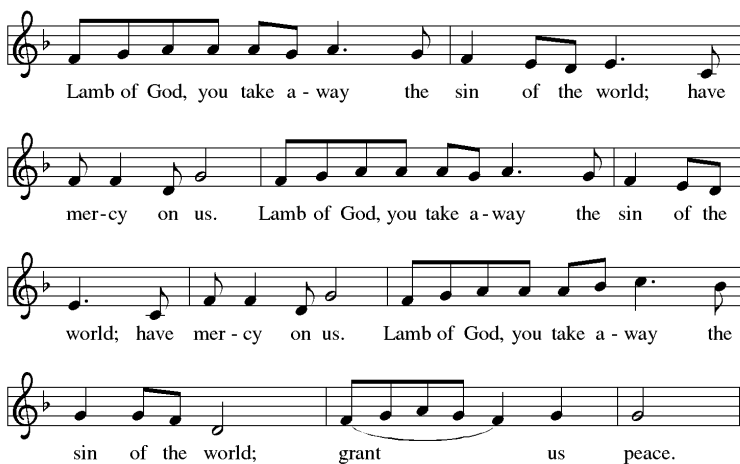
Come, taste and see.

THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

AGNUS DEI



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 HYMN: *Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW 471

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 thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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,
Above you to watch over, and within you ✠ to give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ELW 693

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Today's Altar flowers are given by Hal and Ann Eberhard in memory of loved ones.

Please join us in the Hall of the Evangelists after today's service for coffee hour and the intergenerational Operation Christmas Child event!

MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers: Kevin Reichler, Tom Leonard, & Doreen O'Leary

Acolyte: Mia Mehler

Lector: George Reider

Assisting Minister & Communion Assistant: Will Abbott

Live Stream: Ben Wright

Altar Guild: Mj Bennett-Sandell & Ellen Ericson

STAFF

A special thanks to Pastor Bill White for helping us lead worship this morning!

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok – pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org

Director of Music: Sarah Schiener-Redenz – music@stmatthewavon.org

Director of Christian Education: Ryan Heckman – education@stmatthewavon.org

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

Sexton: Roy Zurell – contact the office

VISIT US ONLINE

Website: www.stmatthewavon.org

YouTube: @StMatthewAvon

Facebook: facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch

Instagram: @stmatthewlutheranavon

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	10:15 am: Adult Forum	10:15 am: Operation Christmas Child (Intergenerational Event)	5:00 pm: Confirmation Class	
Tuesday	6:00 pm Interfaith Soup Supper		7:00 pm: Interfaith Service	
Wednesday	9:30 am & 5:15 pm: Weight Watchers		7:00 pm O.A.	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	Thanksgiving Day! OFFICE CLOSED			
Sunday	9:00 a.m.: Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion No Sunday School. Confirmation or Adult Forum (Thanksgiving Weekend)			

TODAY'S ADULT FORUM

Join us right after service for a heartwarming event—Operation Christmas Child! Let's come together, build gift boxes for 8-10 year olds worldwide, and spread the joy of giving. Bring your family and friends, and let's make a difference this holiday season!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POINSETTIA SEASON!

Get into the festive spirit and help us adorn our Christmas Eve services with the beauty of poinsettias! Starting today, we are opening sign-ups for those interested in purchasing these lovely plants for \$20 each. Your contributions will enhance the holiday ambiance. Don't miss this chance to participate in our holiday traditions; the sign-up deadline is December 12th, so secure your poinsettias and let the Christmas spirit bloom!

INTERFAITH SERVICE & SOUP SUPPER: Hosted by St. Matthew

Join us for a heartwarming evening of unity and community spirit!

Date: November 21, 2023

Soup Supper: 6:00 pm

Interfaith Service: 7:00 pm

Let's come together as one community—Jewish, Muslim, Christian—to celebrate our shared values of love and understanding. Before the service, we'll share a Soup Supper at 6:00 pm. We invite you to bring your favorite soup and bread to add a dash of flavor to our gathering. The more diverse, the better!

To help us plan, please sign up for the Soup Supper by emailing the office. We're excited to connect, break bread, and build bridges with you! Your presence will make this event truly special. We can't wait to share this evening with everyone. See you there!

COFFEE HOUR

Nov. - Dec. Sign-Up

The sign-up sheet for the next two months of Coffee Hour has been posted in the Gathering Space. If you wish to help out with this delicious ministry, please considering signing-up on Sunday!

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.