

Christ the King Sunday

Holy Communion

9:00 a.m., November 24, 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: *Processional in D*

Theodore Dubois

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: *Beautiful Savior*

ELW 838

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

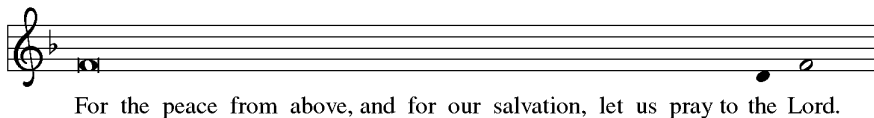
And also with you.

KYRIE

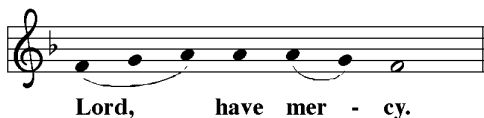
ELW Setting 3



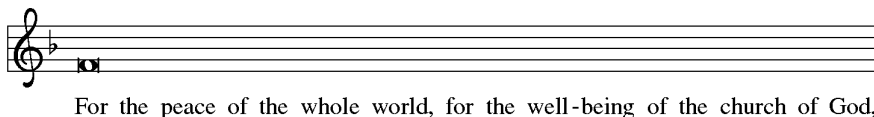
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



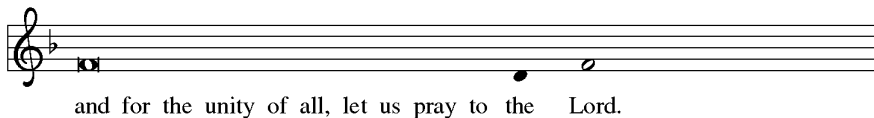
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



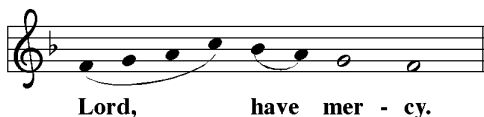
Lord, have mer - cy.



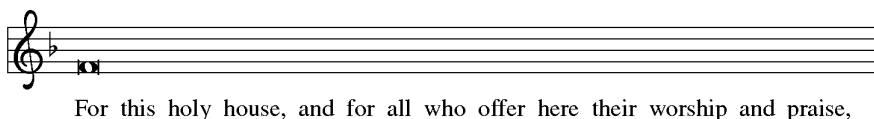
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



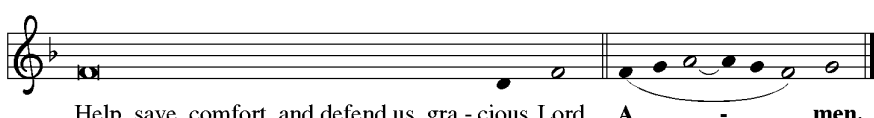
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of 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: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

A reading from the Book of Daniel:

⁹ As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
 and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
 and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
 and its wheels were burning fire.
¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
 and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
 and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
 and the books were opened.
¹³ As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
 coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
 and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Rev. Ryan

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: John 18:33-38

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

ELW 324

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

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, sitting or standing.

A brief silence

God of Truth, embolden your church throughout the world to speak the truth of your gospel. Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up leaders who teach and serve your people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wondrous Creator, nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, that creation may resound with joy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign of the Universe, grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf. Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate One, draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower the work of GHIAA, the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, as they advocate for change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of Grace, we come to you in appreciation and thanksgiving for all you have given us. This holiday season, instill in us a deep sense of gratitude. Bless the Avon Interfaith Thanksgiving service this week, and be with all who gather with family and friends to celebrate the holiday. We pray especially for those who experience loneliness during the holiday season, those without food or shelter, and those for whom the holidays are difficult. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lord of Life, in your eternal presence the saints sing your praise. Bless all who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Especially we pray for the family of Dan Tuve. Comfort all who mourn with your promise that he now dwells in your everlasting light. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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, using the QR code in the bulletin, or mailed directly to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!

OFFERTORY: *Glory, Love, and Praise and Honor*

arranged by Austin C. Lovelace

Glory, love, and praise and honor,
For our food, now bestowed,
Render we the Donor.
Bounteous God, we now confess Thee:
God who thus blesses us,
Meet it is to bless Thee.

Thankful for our ev'ry blessing,
Let us sing Christ the Spring,
Never, never ceasing.
Source of all our gifts and graces,
Christ we own; Christ alone
Calls for all our praises.

He dispels our sin and sadness,
Life imparts, cheers our hearts,
Fills with food and gladness.
Who himself for all has given,
Us he feeds, us he leads
To a feast in heaven.

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: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

ELW 490

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: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

ELW 855

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 by the Eberhards in honor of loved ones.

A second bouquet of Altar Flowers are given in celebration of Robin Lindquist's 75th birthday, from her loving family!

MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

Altar Guild: Carol Reider & Deb Brodeur

Acolyte: Logan Sidoruk

Assisting Minister: Robin Lindquist

Lector: Kathy Alsgaard

Ushers: Kevin Reichler

Live Stream: John Pearson

Coffee Hour: Robin Pietrick & Elaine Menezes

STAFF

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

Associate Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Heckman – revryan@stmatthewavon.org

Director of Music: Sarah Schiener-Redenz – music@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.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch Instagram: @stmatthewlutheranavon

THE WEEK AHEAD

<i>Office Closed Next Week</i>			
Sunday	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:20am: Sunday School & Adult Forum	10:30am: Confirmation Class
Tuesday	10am: A.A. (Open to All)		
Wednesday	9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W	7pm: O.A.	
Thursday	2pm: Centering Prayer		
Saturday	11am: Dan Tuve Memorial Service		
Sunday	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT FORUM

Today's Adult Forum will be led by Pastor William Carter who will present on his book *But Mary Kept All These Things: Advent Devotions Rooted in the Christmas Gospel*. We hope you'll join us in the Carter Gathering Space for this forum as we anticipate the season of Advent which begins next week.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Sunday School and Confirmation will meet today in the Hall of the Evangelists for a special Advent wreath making project. Join us after worship for this special event as we prepare for the season of Advent!

AVON INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This Tuesday, November 26, Avon's interfaith Thanksgiving will be held at St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church. A soup supper will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by service at 7:00 p.m. Please join us as we come together as a town for this inspiring interfaith worship event!

WORSHIP WITH TRINITY EPISCOPAL COLLINSVILLE

Pastor Brian will be preaching and presiding at a worship service with our friends at Trinity Episcopal in Collinsville on Saturday December 7th at 4:00 p.m. There will be a pizza dinner to follow. We hope you'll join us for this Saturday evening Advent worship service.

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 \$21.50 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 8th, so secure your poinsettias and let the Christmas spirit bloom!

You may sign-up by using the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space, or emailing the office. Please try to write your dedications as clearly as possible, so they can easily be typed into the bulletin. The checks can be made out to St. Matthew Lutheran Church with "Poinsettia" written in the memo line.

SMLC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 1-3 pm

On Nov. 12th around 17 women gathered for the third women's fellowship. There is always food, candlelight, socializing, praying, and this time we were treated to a demonstration by Robin Pietrick - as she showed us how to create a really cool Thanksgiving centerpiece.

Our next gathering on Tuesday, December 17th (1-3pm), will be a totally fun Christmas party! Those who enjoy baking Christmas cookies will bring some to share, we'll listen to Christmas music, maybe sing a few carols, and play a few Christmas games. This promises to be a really fun time! We would love to see many SMLC women at this next event! If you have any questions, reach out to Anne Fenn at journeywriting8@gmail.com.

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

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.