

The Feast of Saint Matthew & Rally Day Holy Communion September 25, 2022 9:00 a.m.

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 “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. During Holy Communion we will invite all who desire to come forward to kneel at the altar rail. Please bring your communion kit with you at that time.

The **hymns** are printed in the red book available in the pew rack. “ELW” refers to the book’s title, “Evangelical Lutheran Worship.”

PRELUDE: *Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele*

Johannes Brahms

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. I invite you to kneel or remain standing.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: *By All Your Saints (Stanza: 1, 20, Last)*

ELW420

1

By all your saints still striving, for all your saints at rest,
your holy name, O Jesus, forevermore be blessed!
For you arose victorious that they might wear the crown
and share the light of glory reflected from your throne.

20

For Matthew, Lord, whose gospel your human life declared,
who, worldly gain forsaking, your path of suff'ring shared.
From wealth that dulls and chains us, oh, raise our eyes anew,
that we, whate'er our calling, may rise and follow you.

Last

Give praise to God Almighty, and worship God the Son,
and sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One,
till all the ransomed number fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow'r, and glory ascribe to God alone.

GREETING

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

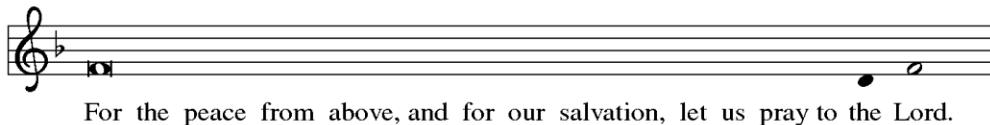
And also with you.

KYRIE

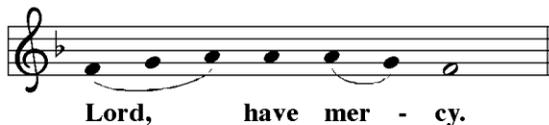
Setting Three



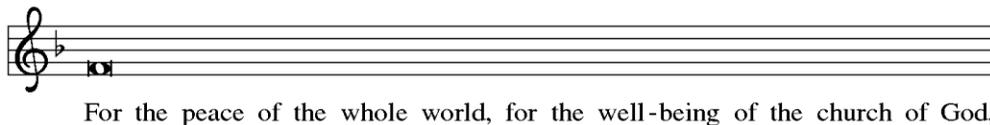
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



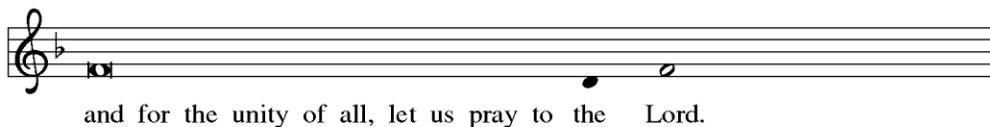
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



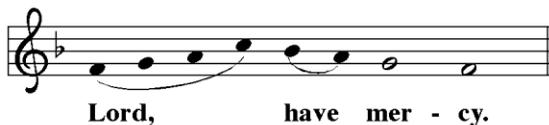
Lord, have mer - cy.



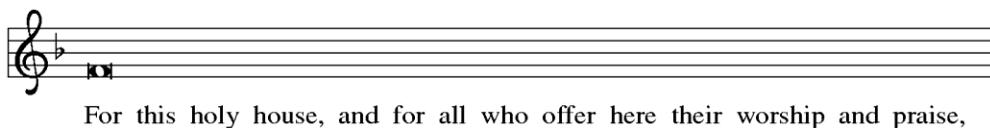
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



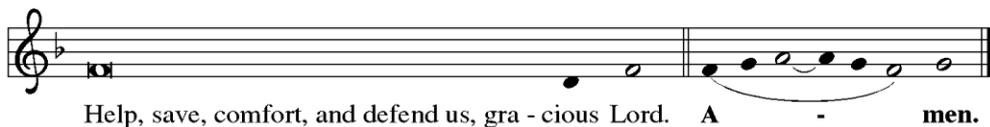
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Let us pray,
Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised tax collector to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Ephesians 2:4-10

The author of this letter is eager to show God's love for sinners. God reaches into the deathly snare of sin and death in order to draw us out into life with Christ. This act is nothing less than the gift of God's mercy.

A reading from Ephesians.

⁴God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Brian

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Setting Three



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: Matthew 9:9-13

Regarded as a traitor to his people and an oppressor of the poor, this tax collector follows Jesus and then offers him hospitality. In the sharing of a meal Jesus reveals his mission: to serve God's mercy.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *For by Grace You Have Been Saved*

ELW 598

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

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. I invite you to kneel or remain standing.

A brief silence.

Good and Gracious God, we pray for the church worldwide. For bishops, pastors, and deacons. For those who are discerning their calling. Bless and encourage all who respond to your call to ministry. Inspire each of us to teach the world about your love and grace. God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

Beautiful Creator, we pray for the earth. For grasslands and marshes, urban parks and greenbelts. For all wild and domestic animals. For places damaged by earthquake, hurricane, tornado, or hail. Protect fragile environments from harm by human greed or carelessness. God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

God of Justice, we pray for those who govern and for all in positions of authority. Prevent them from abusing their power for personal gain, and inspire them to work for the common good. Bring an end to hatred, violence, and injustice. God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Healer, we pray for those who are despised because of their vocations. For victims of theft, scams, or intimidation. For those who struggle for acceptance within their community. For those who grieve, and for the sick. Console all who are in distress. God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

God of Beloved Community, we pray for this congregation of St. Matthew. We pray for Sarah Schiener: we thank you for her gifts and ask that you bless her ministry as our Director of Music. We pray also that you guide and bless our ministries of Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Forum. Bless all who seek to learn about you and experience your presence. We pray for the gift of children in this place, that we may be blessed by their presence, and they may be blessed in learning of your love and grace. God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

God of All, on this St. Mathew Day we celebrate our life as a congregation, and we remember Matthew and all who have gone before us in the faith. Bring us, together with them, to the joy of the resurrection and to the fulfillment of your promise of unending life with you. God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

God of Wisdom, in your goodness you continue to raise up faithful shepherds to serve your Church. Direct the members of our call committee as they seek to discern, on our behalf, a new leader to guide us in our mission in this place, that we may move forward together in mission. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; 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

All rise for the singing of the Doxology, 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

Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **Amen.**

Following the Lord's Prayer, we invite you to come forward with your communion kit and kneel at the altar rail or to remain in your seat to commune there. Trash cans will be available at the side of the altar rail and as you exit the church.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

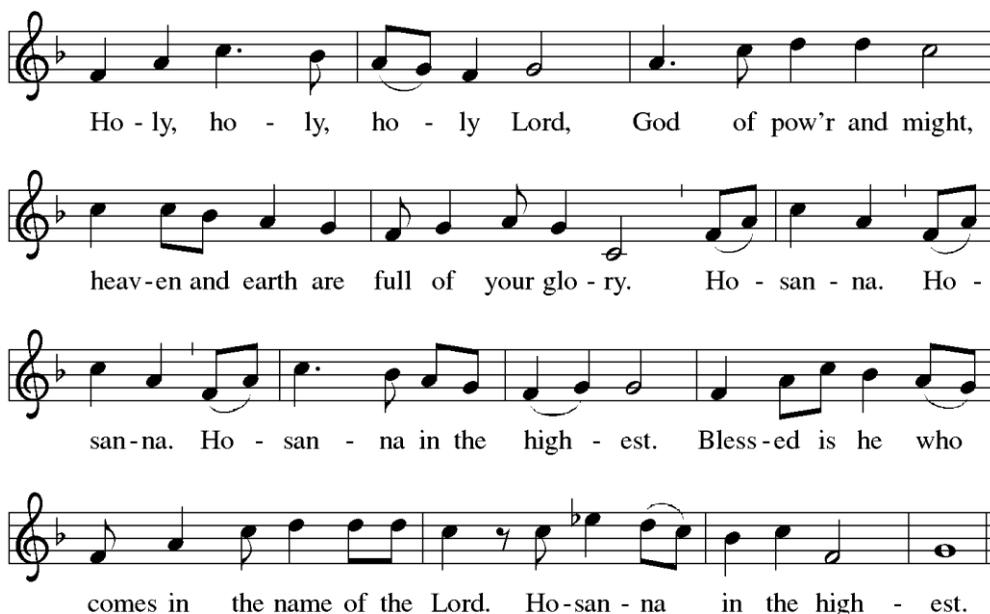
We lift them to the Lord.

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, 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

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

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

At this time all who desire to come forward may do so at the direction of the ushers.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Now We Join in Celebration*

ELW 462

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

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

ELW 807

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License **SB135347**. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

This morning, altar flowers are given for Beverly & Roy Zurell's 49th Wedding Anniversary.

For those who would like to linger a bit and enjoy fellowship, please join us after the service in the Gathering Space for coffee, tea, and refreshments.

MANY THANKS THIS MORNING TO OUR:

Ushers: Ernie Jaschinski & Bob Hoffman

Lector: Ben Wright

Assisting Minister: Jane Hanson

Live Stream: George Spoering

Altar Guild: Ellen Ericson & Mj Bennett-Sandell

Staff:

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

Sarah Schiener, Director of Music - contact the Church office (860) 673-3301

Paul Martin, Church Administrator - office@stmatthewavon.org

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

Visit us on our website: www.stmatthewavon.org

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday: 10:15am Sunday School & Adult Forum
5:00pm Confirmation Class

Monday: 7:00pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday: 9:30am WW Meeting - Hall of the Evangelists
5:00pm Centering Prayer
5:15pm WW Meeting - Hall of the Evangelists

Sunday: 9:00am Sanctuary Communion Service
10:15am Adult Forum & Sunday School
10:15am Grief Support Group
11:15am Blessing of the Animals
5:00pm Confirmation Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are excited to welcome Sarah Schiener as our new Director of Music. Please join us in giving Sarah a gracious St. Matthew welcome and pray for her in her music ministry with us.

Sunday School and Adult Forum begin TODAY at 10:15am.

With the Transition Team finishing its work and the MSP approved by the Synod in mid-September, the Call Committee will now begin working with the Synod to identify and interview potential candidates for the Senior Pastor position. The congregation will be updated through Constant Contact, bulletin announcements or in-person updates at services at least every two weeks as the Call Committee does its work. The Congregation can help in the process by keeping the committee in their prayers.

Join us Sunday October 2 at 11:15 on the church front lawn for a blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis Day! After morning worship, go home and return with your pets, or their picture, for a short blessing at 11:15. Invite your friends and their pets too!

St. Matthew is holding a gathering for those in need of grief support or who may be interested in helping provide support from their own experiences. Grief can be present from the loss of a loved one, in the wake of a divorce or other life-altering situations. If you feel the need for support or are interested in helping in this worthy mission, please join us after worship on the five Sundays in October from 10:15 – 11:15 (or longer if needed) in the Conference Room. For more information, please contact Ellen Ericson, 860-305-4996 or the church office at 860-673-3301.

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.***