



Third Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion

January 22, 2023 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: *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*

Johann Gottfried Walther

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things. †
Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.
I invite you to kneel or remain standing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on † Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN: *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word*

ELW 520

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.

GLORIA



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,
Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

A reading from First Corinthians:

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* ELW 310 (v. 4)

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult*

ELW 696

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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Call your people throughout the world to follow you. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships and interfaith organizations, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

In Christ your kingdom comes near and calls all to a new life. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God,
receive 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, receive our prayer.*)

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.
Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY: *Eternal Light*

Stephen Tappe

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

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,

and make us messengers of your mercy and love

for all in need of your healing and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

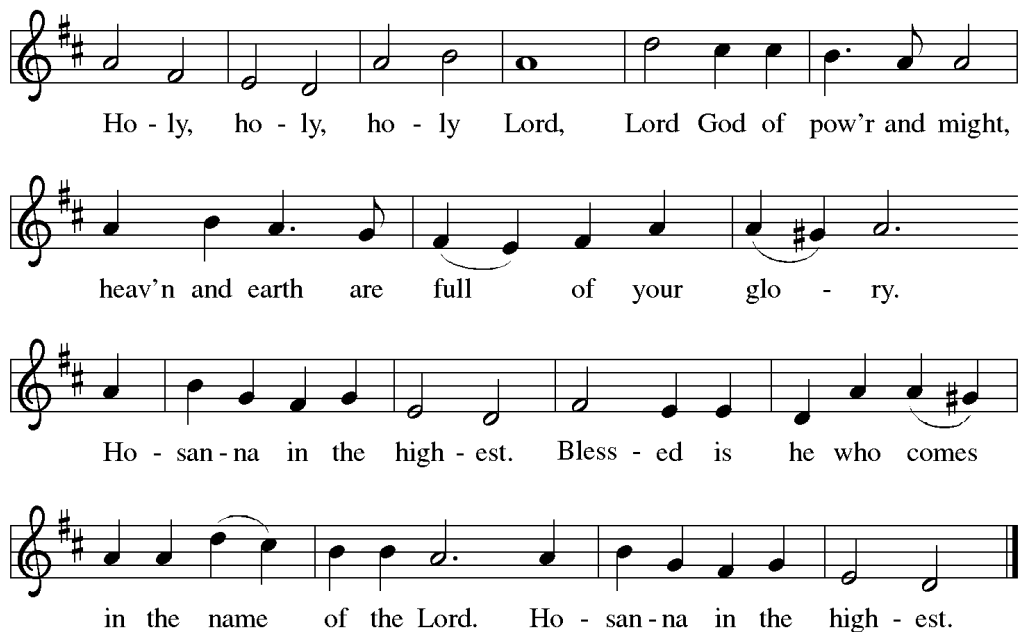
Lift up your hearts.

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.



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 One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, 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

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

At this time, 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 bins will be available at the side of the altar rail and as you exit the church.

THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics printed below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and so on. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Music: J. Bugenhagen, *Christliche Ordnung*, 1528

COMMUNION HYMN: *Will You Come and Follow Me*

ELW 798

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

Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

ELW 314

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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This morning, altar flowers were given in memory of Kamamma Panthagani.

MANY THANKS THIS MORNING TO OUR:

Ushers: Kevin Reichler

Lector: George Reider

Assisting Minister: Jane Hanson

Live Stream: George Spoering

Altar Guild: Anita Mielert & Kathy Alsgaard

Staff:

The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok, 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: 9:00 am Sanctuary Communion Service
10:20 am **SMLC ANNUAL MEETING**
10:20 am Sunday School
5:00 pm Confirmation

Monday: 7:00 pm Confirmation

Wednesday: 9:30 am Weight Watchers (Hall of the Evangelists)
5:00 pm Centering Prayer
5:15 pm Weight Watchers (Hall of the Evangelists)
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Sunday: 9:00am Sanctuary Communion Service
10:20am Adult Forum & Sunday School
5:00pm Confirmation Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us after service for St. Matthew's Annual Meeting. Copies of the Agenda will be distributed.

CHRISTMAS GIFT (THANK YOU!)

This season, St. Matthew's congregation provided an unbelievable \$3,355.00 Christmas Gift for the staff. We all want to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated so generously. It truly is a blessing to work for such an incredible congregation.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The shipment of offering envelopes has been delayed. Their hope is to get them out in January, but are warning customers that it may not be until mid to late-February. If you ordered offering envelopes, you will receive an email when they arrive in the office. If you have any questions, you may call or email the office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2023 Altar Flower sign-up sheet has arrived and is hanging outside the sanctuary. The price remains the same, \$40, and you may start signing up for any date throughout the year.

USHERS NEEDED

St. Matthew is looking to add more Ushers to the roster. Any members (men, women, and/or youth) who are interested may reach out to the office, Pastor Brian, or Kevin Reichler for more information.

SMLC CHOIR

The St. Matthew Choir meets to rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us. If you want to take part but cannot commit to every rehearsal and service, please reach out to Sarah Schiener to explore the ways in which you can be involved.

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.***