

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

August 7, 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.”

CHORALE PRELUDE: *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*

J. G. Walther

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.

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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: *The God of Abraham Praise* ELW 831, stanzas 1, 2, 4 & 8

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*sung twice*)

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). It consists of three systems of music. The first system has two lines of lyrics. The second system has two lines of lyrics, with the second line starting with a double bar line. The third system has two lines of lyrics, with the second line starting with a double bar line. The music is a simple, rhythmic melody with a steady bass line.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

ELW 737

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

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Make us mindful of your presence and equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Especially we lift up Ukraine and all people experiencing the horror of war. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you. Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. 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, Merciful God, to which the congregation may respond, receive our prayer.*)

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **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

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. **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.

Lift up your hearts.

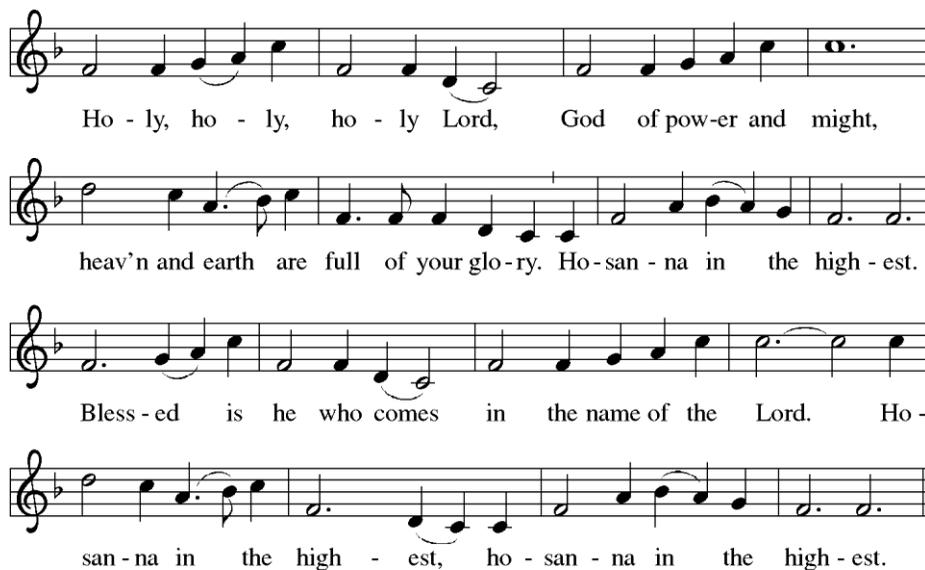
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

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-er 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, 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

In Christ’s presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

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: *Taste and See*

ELW 493

The congregation is encouraged to sing the refrain:

**Taste and see, taste and see, the goodness of the Lord;
Oh, taste and see, taste and see, the goodness of the Lord.**

To facilitate ease of participation while worshipers are receiving holy communion, the cantor will sing the verses.

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

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **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.**

HYMN: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

ELW 543

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

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, lemonade and refreshments.

MANY THANKS THIS MORNING TO OUR:

Usher: Kevin Reichler

Lector & Assisting Minister: Jane Hanson

Live Stream: George Spoering

Altar Guild: Carol Reider & Ellen Ericson

Staff:

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

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Sunday: 9:00 Outdoor Communion Service with guest preacher
Rev. Dr. Lisa Dahill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN, please join Anne Fenn and Debbie Steinberg on **Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm** at Debbie's house in Old Saybrook. We will explore the theme of **CELEBRATION** and enjoy being together again!

Carpools will be arranged to get all to **29 Knollwood Drive**. Food and drink (morning coffee, lunch, and snacks) will be provided, as well as all supplies and materials. A free will offering can be made on the day to help with expenses, with any extra donated to Women of the ELCA.

Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board outside the Church office, or call the office at (860) 673-3301 and ask Diane to add your name to the list. **Sign up soon, as the total for the get-together will be limited to 25. Currently there are 6 spots remaining!** Contact Debbie for more info by text, phone, or email – (860) 463-9212/deborahsteinberg@mac.com.

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.*