

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

WELS

Christ's Love, Our Calling.

Welcome to St. Matthew's!

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship today! It is our prayer that God would fill you with His grace and peace as we worship our Lord and Savior Jesus. If you have questions about St. Matthew's or would like to speak to one of the pastors, please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information on the back cover.

WOUNDS THAT HEAL

THOSE WHO EXALT THEMSELVES WILL BE HUMBLED

Everyone knows that humility is a positive trait and pride is a negative one. So, why bother talking about what we already know? Because in spite of that knowledge, we still helplessly fall into the trap of pride. We all desire acclaim, recognition, and praise.

Jesus' sharp words this week teach us that seeking exaltation in futile and fleeing ways will only result in receiving the opposite. Those who attempt to exalt themselves will eventually be humbled by God. In contrast, Jesus promises that those who leave their exaltation to God will receive honor and glory far greater than any that can be awarded in this life. Our exaltation does not need to be our responsibility, because Jesus has already made it his.

For Your Convenience

- ◊ Restrooms are located down the hallway on the left.
- ◊ A Parents' room is available in the back of the sanctuary for those with small children.
- ◊ A Mother's room, located in the parents' room, offers privacy for nursing mothers.
- ◊ Large Print Service Folders are available from an usher upon request.
- ◊ Please silence your cell phones before worship.
- ◊ View services on Charter 985 on Thursdays at 12PM and 7PM or Sundays at 10AM. You can also visit https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st+matthews+oconomowoc
- ◊ St. Matthew's is on Instagram. You can follow us @St.MatthewsOconomowoc.

The Order of Worship for
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

THE SERVICE: SETTING THREE

You may follow along starting on page 188 in the hymnal.

Hymn 737 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

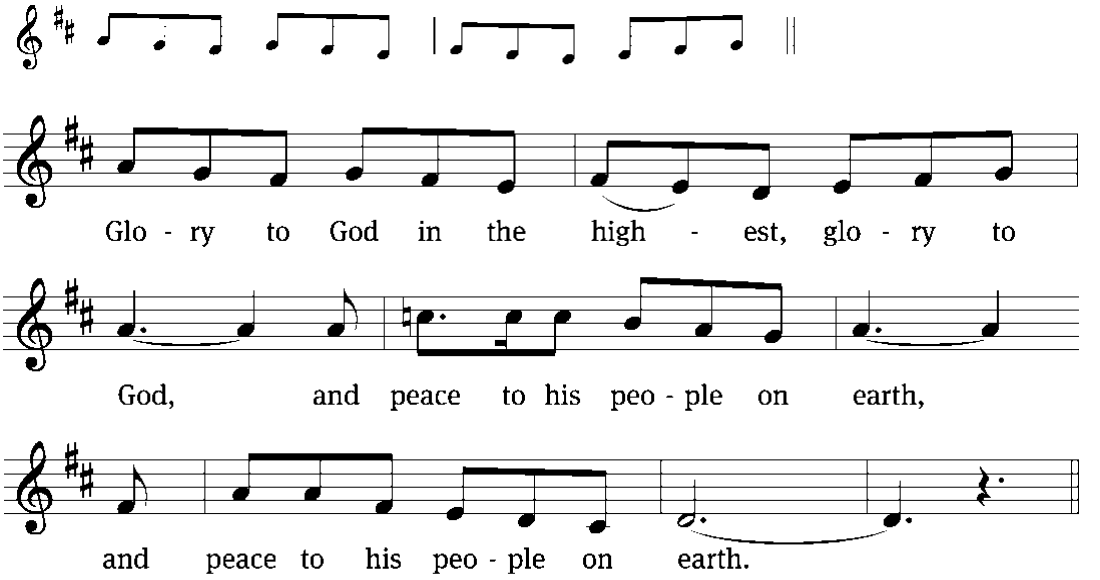
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

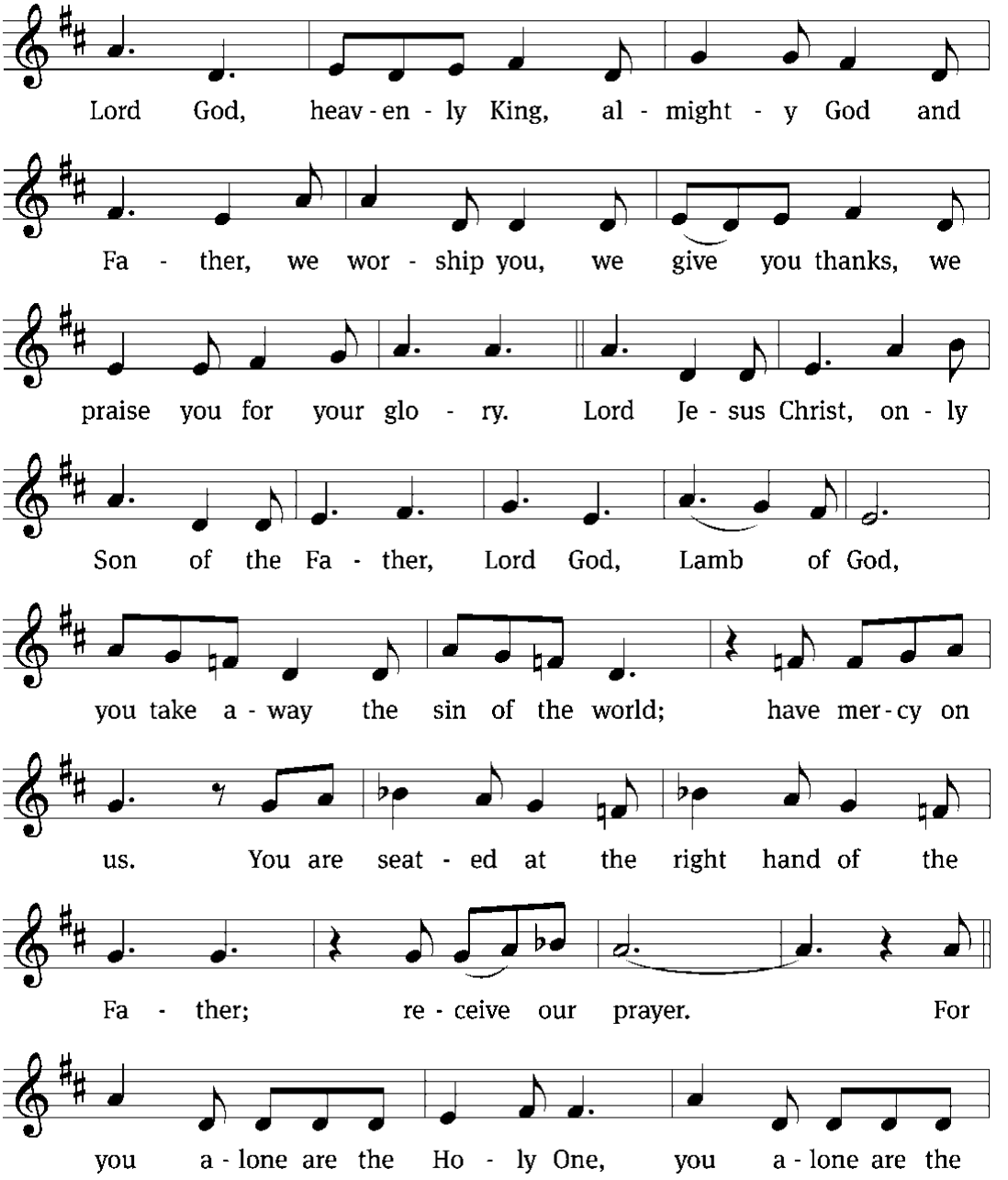
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

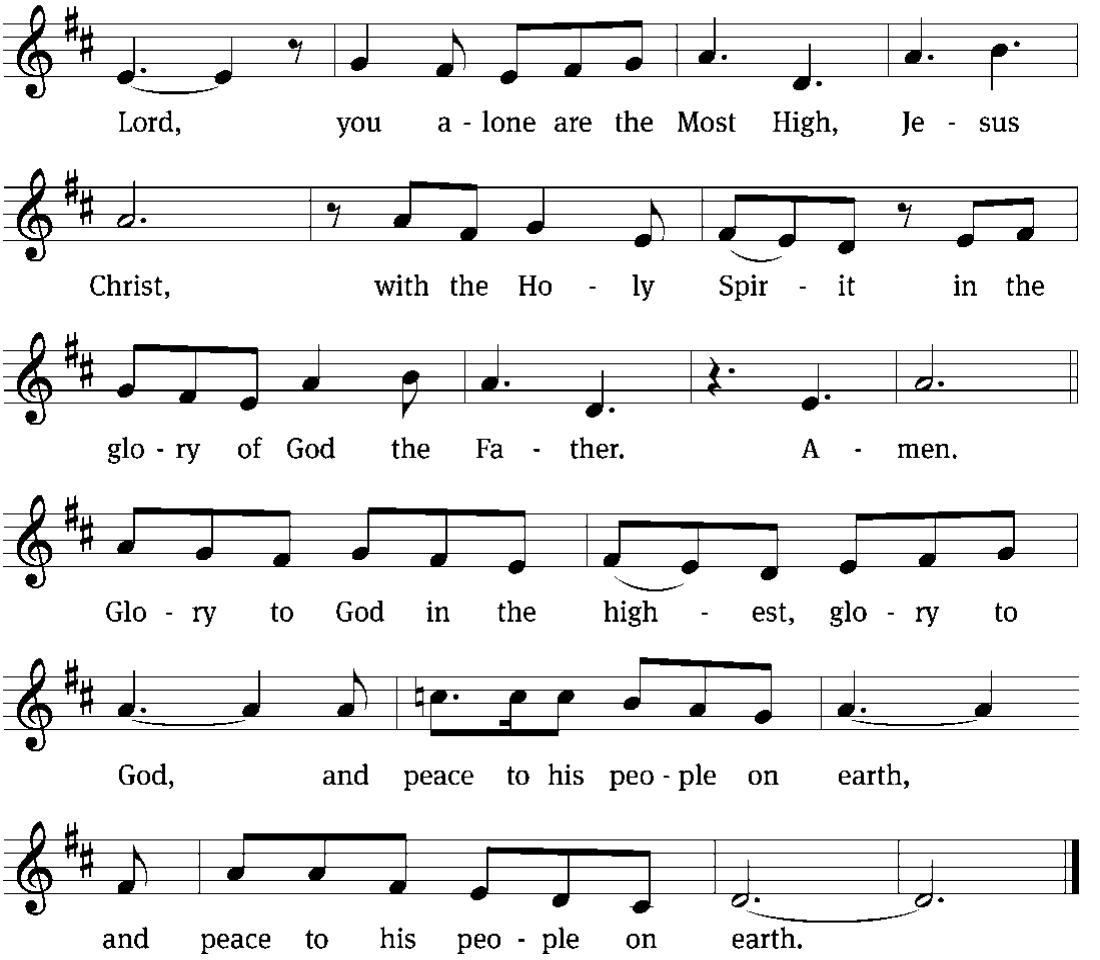
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest




Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and
Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly
Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the
Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the



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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading — *Proverbs 25:6,7a*

Solomon provides common sense about humility and pride.

6 Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence,
and do not claim a place among his great men;

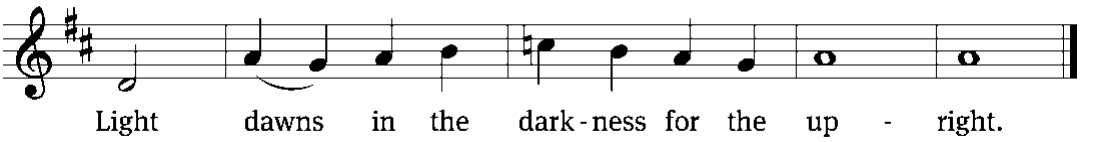
7 it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here,"
than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

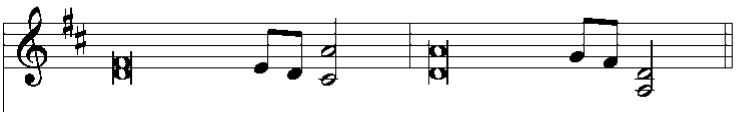
Psalm 112A — Light Dawns in the Darkness

Versus sung by Lucas Krogmann & Isaiah Lenz

Refrain



Tone



Blessed are those who / fear the LORD,
who find great delight in / his commands.
Wealth and riches are in their / houses,
and their righteousness endures for- / ever. *Refrain*

Surely the righteous will never be / shaken;
they will be remembered for- / ever.
Their hearts are secure, they will / have no fear;
in the end they will look in triumph / on their foes.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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Second Reading *James 2:1-13*

James teaches that showing favoritism to those we think can provide us with upward mobility shows a lack of mercy and puts us at risk of God's judgment.

[1]My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. [2]Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. [3]If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," [4]have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

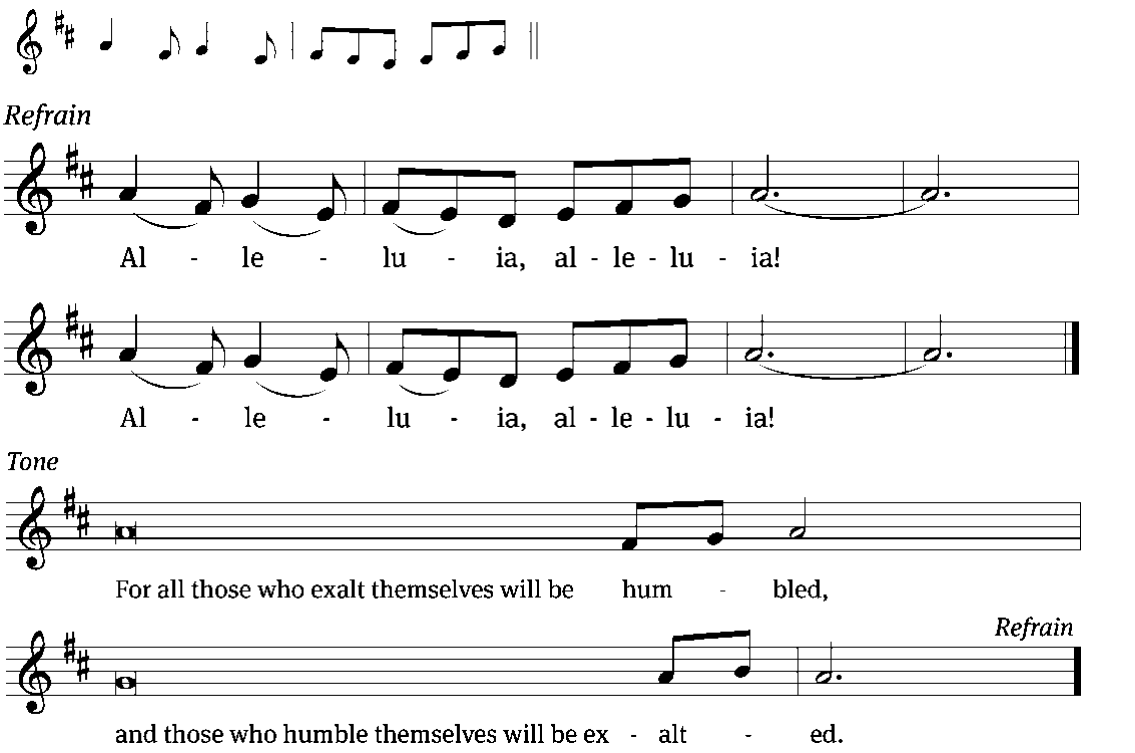
[5]Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? [6]But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? [7]Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

[8]If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. [9]But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. [10]For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. [11]For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. [12]Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, [13]because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 14:11



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Gospel *(Sermon Text)* Luke 14:1,7-14

Jesus teaches some ways to demonstrate humility and promises that those who humble themselves will be exalted.

[1]One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

[7]When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: [8]"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. [9]If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. [10]But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. [11]For

all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

[12]Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. [13]But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, [14]and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

Hymn of the Day 729 — Son of God, Eternal Savior

Sermon — "Friend, Move Up to a Better Place"

Pastor Philip Bigelow

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Connection Cards & Offerings

We are delighted you have joined us for worship today and we would love to stay connected with you. To help us do so, please fill out the Connection Card in the seat back. You may place it in the offering plate as the offering is gathered or hand it to one of the ushers. You also have the ability to record your worship or give a gift using the appropriate QR code below. Those who have downloaded the St. Matthew's App can check-in and give offerings directly through the app. You may also text GIVE to 833-921-6451.

Guest Form



St. Matthew's App



Give Online



Prayer of the Church

The Sacrament

Preface

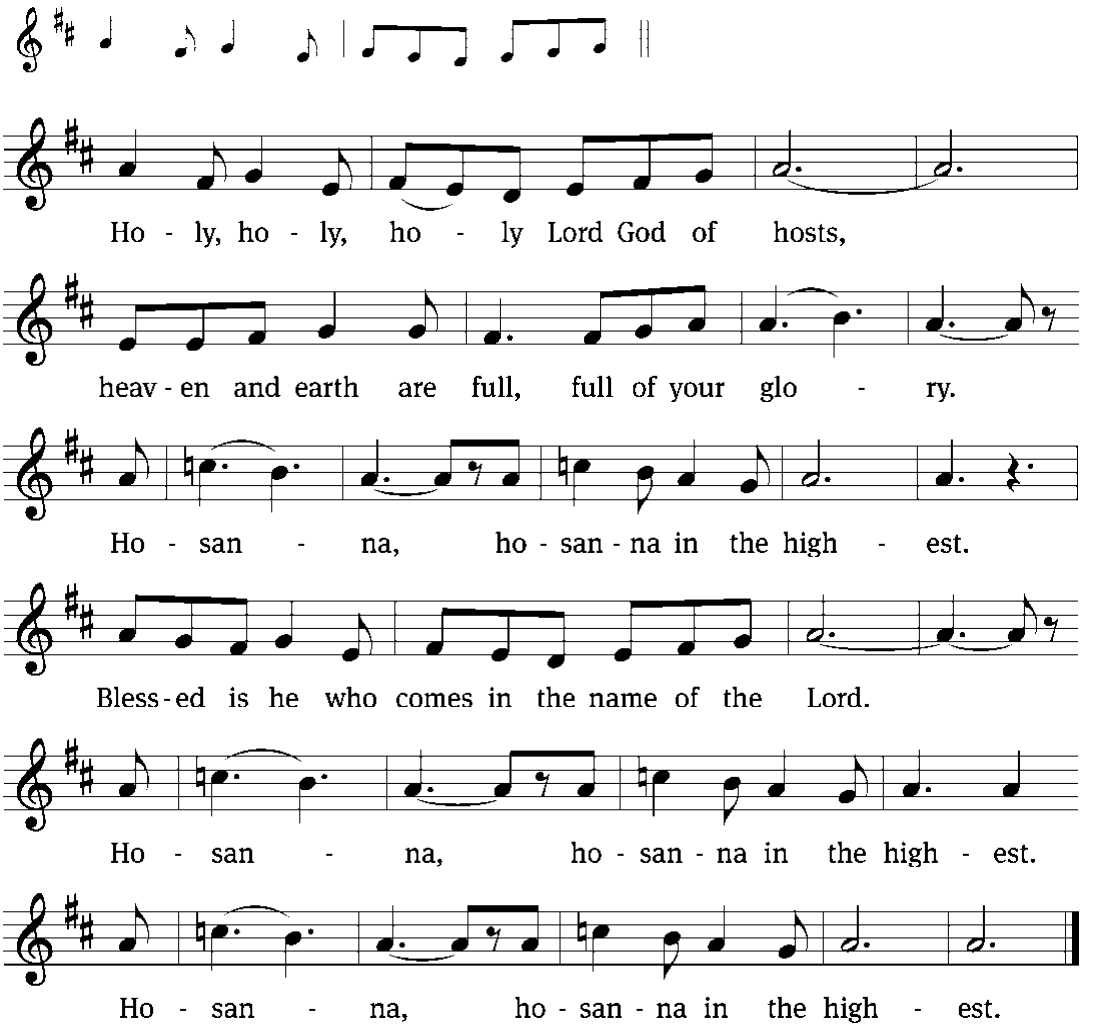
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

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

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those

under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

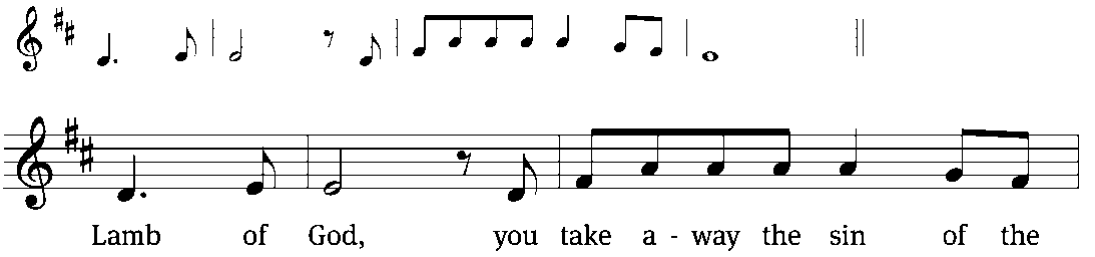
Words of Institution

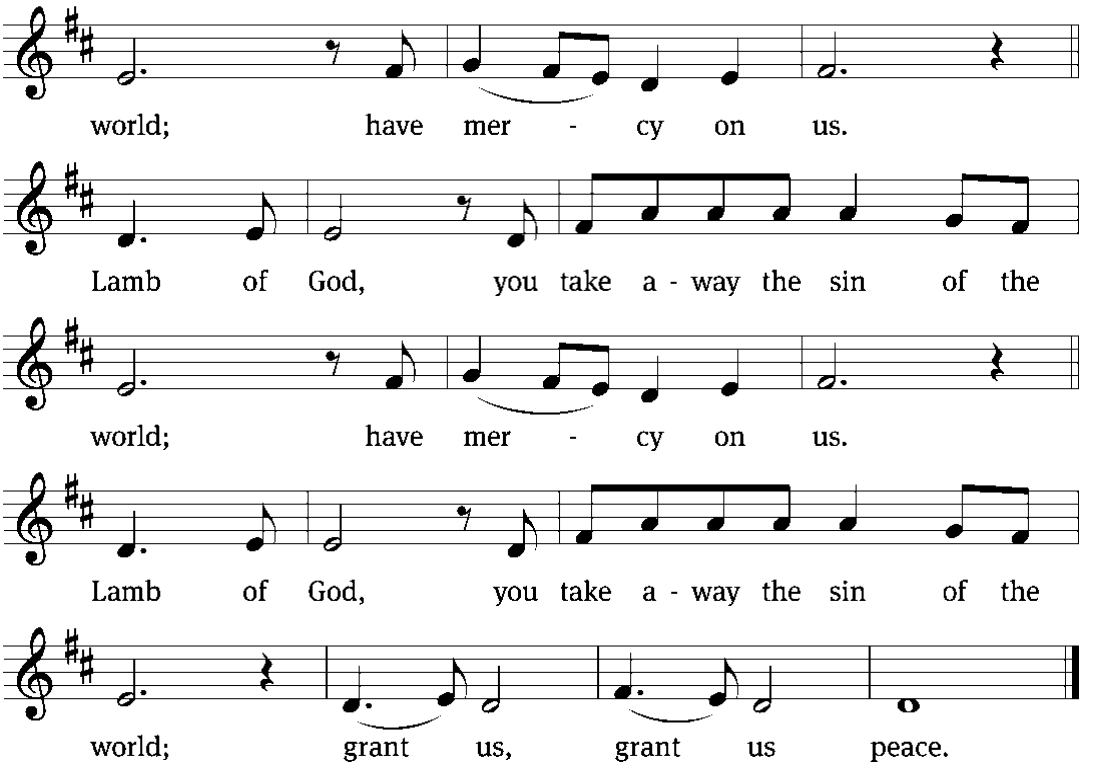
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Lamb of God





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We celebrate the Lord's Supper today. In his Word, God makes it clear that Holy Communion is to be shared by people who proclaim a common faith (1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Without judging anyone's hearts, we invite those who share in our confession by their membership in our congregation or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and who are properly prepared (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) to receive the Sacrament. See page 295 in the front of Christian Worship for a guide for preparation. Guests, please speak with one of the pastors about instruction in our Christian faith and this Sacrament so you will be ready to partake of this wonderful meal in full unity with us after that instruction. Thank you for respecting the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Distribution – Communion distribution procedures will be announced by the Pastor. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Cups of non-alcoholic wine (light in color) are in the center of each tray.

Distribution Hymn 798 — I Lay My Sins on Jesus

Distribution Hymn 665 — What Is This Bread

Personal Prayer after communion: *Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.*

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Prayer

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 928 May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
Over the next 2 weeks, our Sunday Adult Bible Class hour will share two special highlights from this past summer: 1) The WELS Synod Convention where both Pastor Bigelow and Bob Schroeder were delegates. 2) Youth Mission Trip to WA highlights. Following that we will examine the topic of the Mission of the Church, we a brief overview of our own Mission Statement.

Sunday School and Teen Study Starting Soon
Sunday School and Teen Bible Study will resume next Sunday, September 7. Sunday School is for children in PreK-6th grade. Teen Bible Study is open to 7th-12th grade. All are welcome so please invite your children's friends to join us as well! Sunday School will be working through the Christ Light curriculum, supplementing what is being taught in St. Matthew's school. We thank Dan Taubenheim and Mariah Kneser for lead teaching again. Teen Bible Study will be looking at apologetics which will equip our teens to defend the Christian faith as taught in the Bible. Pastor Voss will be leading the Teen Bible Study.

Thursday "Women in the Word" Bible Class
Our first series will look at "How to Study the Bible". For many the Bible can seem intimidating. Where do I start? How do I start? How do I approach it? How can I understand what it is saying? If this describes you or you have ever asked those questions this study is for you! We will look at what God promises us when we read his Word and equip you with the necessary tools for reading the Bible. If you have studied the Bible for years this is a great refresher and will provide some new insights into studying Scripture. Join us on Thursday mornings starting on September 4th at 8:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space.

Men's Bible Breakfast – 2nd Saturdays of the Month
Calling all fellows to come for a great breakfast and a study of God's Word. Breakfast starts at 7:30am on the second Saturday of each month. Pastor Bigelow is leading a topic called, "Connecting Sinai to Calvary."

Grounded in God
SHINE Women's Ministry would like to invite all St. Matthew's women and friends to join us for Coffee and Devotion, "Grounded in God". Join us in the Gathering Space at Church starting September 9th. We'll meet at 7:45 a.m., conveniently after school drop-off. Children are welcome!

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** September 6 & 7
Ushers	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Jim Fulmer **Late –** Toby Brandenstein	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Jason Cox **Late –** Todd Helwig
Greeters	**Early** – Jim & Mary Mueller **Late** – Mike & Joy Lenz	**Early** – Jim & Bev Fulmer **Late** – Mike & Joy Lenz
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Jim & Karen Spiegelberg **Early –** Tim & Sandy Torgerson **Late –** Brian & Kari Winkelman	**Saturday** – Kyle Bence **Early –** Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late –** Rudy & Chris Dovnik
Flowers	Rob & Beth Knoelke – Granddaughter's Baptism	Rudy & Chris Dovnik – 40th Anniversary; Lewis & Robin Mueller – 50th Anniversary
Organist	Pastor Jon Kehren	Char Bouche
Special Music	Lucas Krogmann / Isaiah Lenz	Grades 4-5
Projection	**Saturday** – Krista/Sam D'Amore **Early –** Lily Winkelman **Late –** Harper Gerczak	**Saturday** – Molly Kalma **Early –** Kylee Glorioso **Late –** Harper Gerczak
Sound	**Saturday** – Lucas Krogmann **Early –** Steve Vasatko **Late –** Charlie Bagdassian	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Juliea Watson **Late** – Jacob Kopplin
Livestream	Mike Bouche	Mike Bouche

This Week at St. Matthew's		
Saturday	5:30 pm	Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Monday	5:30 pm	Church & School Offices Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Board of Outreach
Wednesday	10:00 am 1:30 pm 6:30 pm	Shorehaven Service Senior Fellowship Board of Stewardship
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Rejoice! Board of Trustees Men's Chorus
Friday	6:00 pm	Brooks/Schuh Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday	2:00 pm 5:30 pm	Brooks/Schuh Wedding Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Highlights and Announcements

Community Update: Mayor Magnus at St. Matthew's
You're invited on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 6:30 PM to hear from Mayor Robert Magnus and Alderman Karen Spiegelberg as they share exciting updates about the Northeast Regional Park project next to our campus. Come learn more, ask questions, and enjoy fellowship with neighbors over light refreshments following the presentation.

Boy Pioneers
All St. Matthew's boys 1st grade and up are invited to join Lutheran Boy Pioneers. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm. Our first meeting is on Tuesday, Sept. 9. Lutheran Boy Pioneers focuses on practical skills, leadership and fun outdoor activities centered around our Faith in Christ.
Questions? Email us at jbfeutz@gmail.com Please register at https://bit.ly/41VsnVJ

Girl Pioneers
All St. Matthew's girls in grades 1–8 are invited to join! We meet on the **second and fourth Tuesdays** of each month from **6:30–8:00 PM**, beginning **Tuesday, September 9**. Lutheran Girl Pioneers helps girls grow in faith, leadership, and friendship through Christ-centered activities and meaningful service projects.
Register at https://bit.ly/LGPregistration | Questions? Email us at girlpioneers@smls.org

Senior Fellowship
Our Senior Fellowship group will be meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of September 3rd and 17th We meet in the Gathering Area of the church. Please enter through the main church doors. Our meetings start at 1:30 p.m. Following an opening devotion, we play cards and other games until about 4:00 p.m. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship with fellow Christians. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Feuerstahler at 920-245-3006.

Church Library
During the first two weeks of September Northwestern Publishing House will be displaying some of their products for St. Matthew's members to browse and purchase. You will be able to view many of their Christian books and resources with products for all ages. The book fair will take place before and after worship services on September 6-7 and September 13-14. Look for the book fair to be set up in the Gathering Space near our church library. (The display will also be open for school families on September 8-9 from 7:30am-8:15am and again from 3:00pm-3:45 pm.)

And while you are perusing the NPH products, check out our St. Matthew's library right next door too! Our library has devotional items, Bible study resources, Christian novels, and many books for kids. The library is always open and easy to use. Just follow the brief instructions provided to borrow materials anytime! In September the display in front of the church library will also feature NPH products that we own and you may borrow. Take a look!

Handbell Choir Beginning
For all those interested in joining the Handbell Choir, we will begin practices on Thursday, September 4 at 7pm. For more information contact Linda Smith at dsll@comcast.net

OWLS
The Rock River Area OWLS will meet Tuesday, September 16 at 1:30 pm at St. Mark's, 215 N 6th St., Watertown. St. Mark's is served by Pastors James Backus, Michael Jensen, Karl Walther, and Peter Wells; and Staff Minister David Hochmuth. Pastor Karl Walther from St. Mark's will tell us how they are celebrating their 170th Anniversary. OWLS meetings are handicapped accessible, last about two hours, with refreshments and time to socialize with others. Seniors who are retired and/or 55+ years old are invited and guests are always welcome!

REGISTER TODAY for the Everyone Outreach workshop!
St. Matthew's is participating in an exciting new program called *Everyone Outreach*. The program will help us build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is encouraged and equipped to reach the lost in our community. **Everyone Outreach kicks off with a workshop on Saturday, October 4th from 8:00-1:30 (lunch included).** The interactive workshop will help us discover some of our hidden thought habits that may keep us from being active in outreach. Then, we will learn ways to change those thought habits so that, as a result, our outreach actions change as well. Each participant will leave the workshop with sustainable ways to personally help build our congregation's outreach culture.
To register for the workshop go to https://bit.ly/SMEOWorkshop
For questions visit everyoneoutreach.com or contact Pastor Bigelow or Tom Thiele. We encourage all members to attend—greater participation increases the chance of a successful culture shift!

Acknowledgments
Setting Three from Christian Worship
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OUR MISSION *COMPELLED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST,*

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School seek to reach out to our families, community and world, using Law and Gospel to make disciples, growing and nurturing them in their Christian faith and life.

PHILIP BIGELOW
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MARK VOSS
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AMBER TERRY
First Steps Director
aterry@smls.org

St. Matthew's CHURCH AND SCHOOL

First Steps CHILD CARE CENTER

WORSHIP SERVICES SATURDAY: 5:30 PM | SUNDAY: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Christian Education For All
SUNDAY 9:15 AM

Phone :

Church:	262.912.6060
School:	262.912.6364
First Steps:	262.912.6338

Welcome Visitors:
Please fill out the connection card in pew or scan

SCAN ME

Location :
1650 Brown St, Oconomowoc

Social Media:
@StMatthewsOconomowoc

Website : SMLS.ORG