

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 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

THE FOUND ARE LEFT; THE LOST ARE FOUND

"He's lost." We use that term not only to refer to someone who is bewildered about where they are but also to refer to someone who is in a helpless, hopeless state. Mankind's natural state is one of complete spiritual helplessness, a profound lostness. It manifests itself in countless ways.

- The one who simply wants God to leave him alone: lost.
- The one who feels she can handle life on her own: lost.
- The one who thinks he has the right to repent of his sins on his own timetable and terms: lost.
- The one who thinks God owes her in some way: lost.

Wandering around physically lost can lead to winding up in bad places. Jesus' wounding words this week teach that wandering around spiritually lost puts you in the worst place of all. Fortunately, Jesus does not leave us in our lostness. He relentlessly seeks us. He involves the rest of the Christian community in seeking the lost and rejoicing over the found.

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
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

THE SERVICE: SETTING THREE

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

Hymn 706 **Come unto Me, Ye Weary**

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.

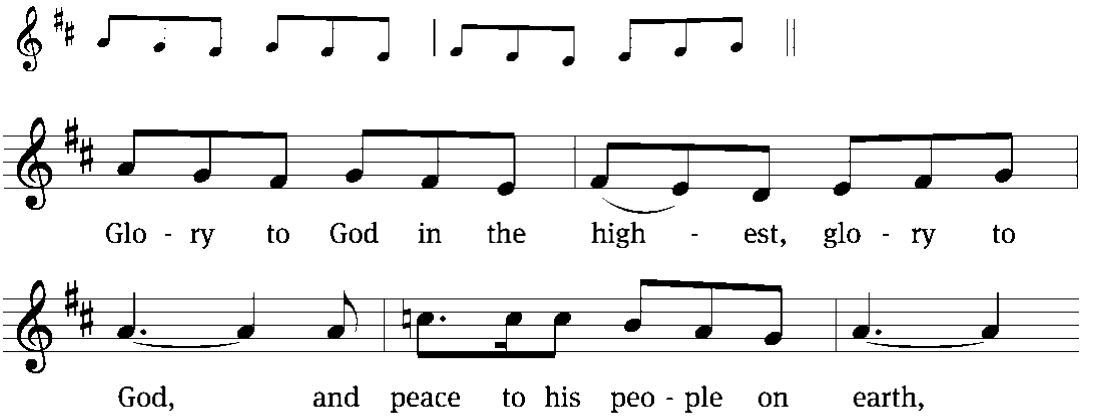
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

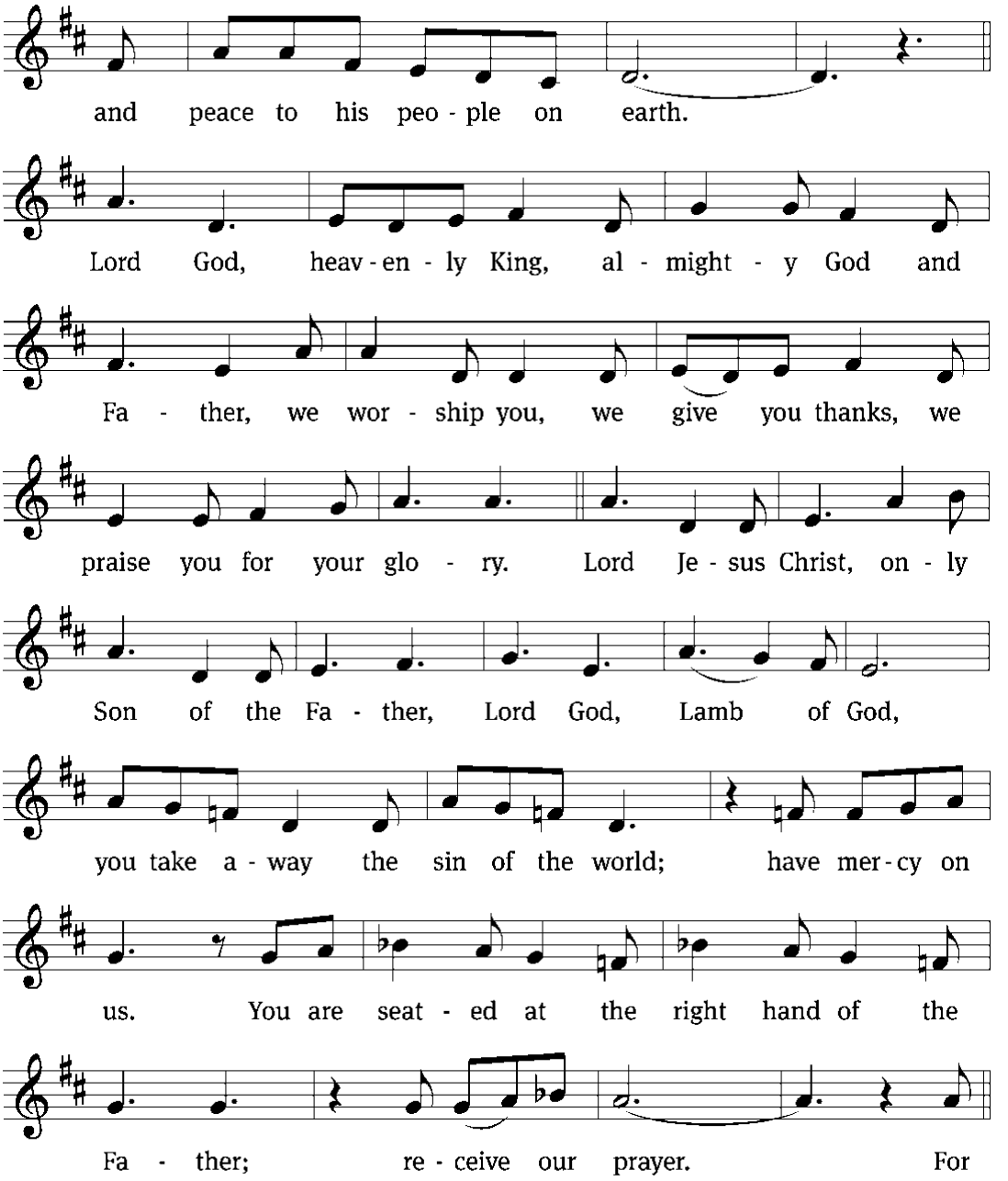
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

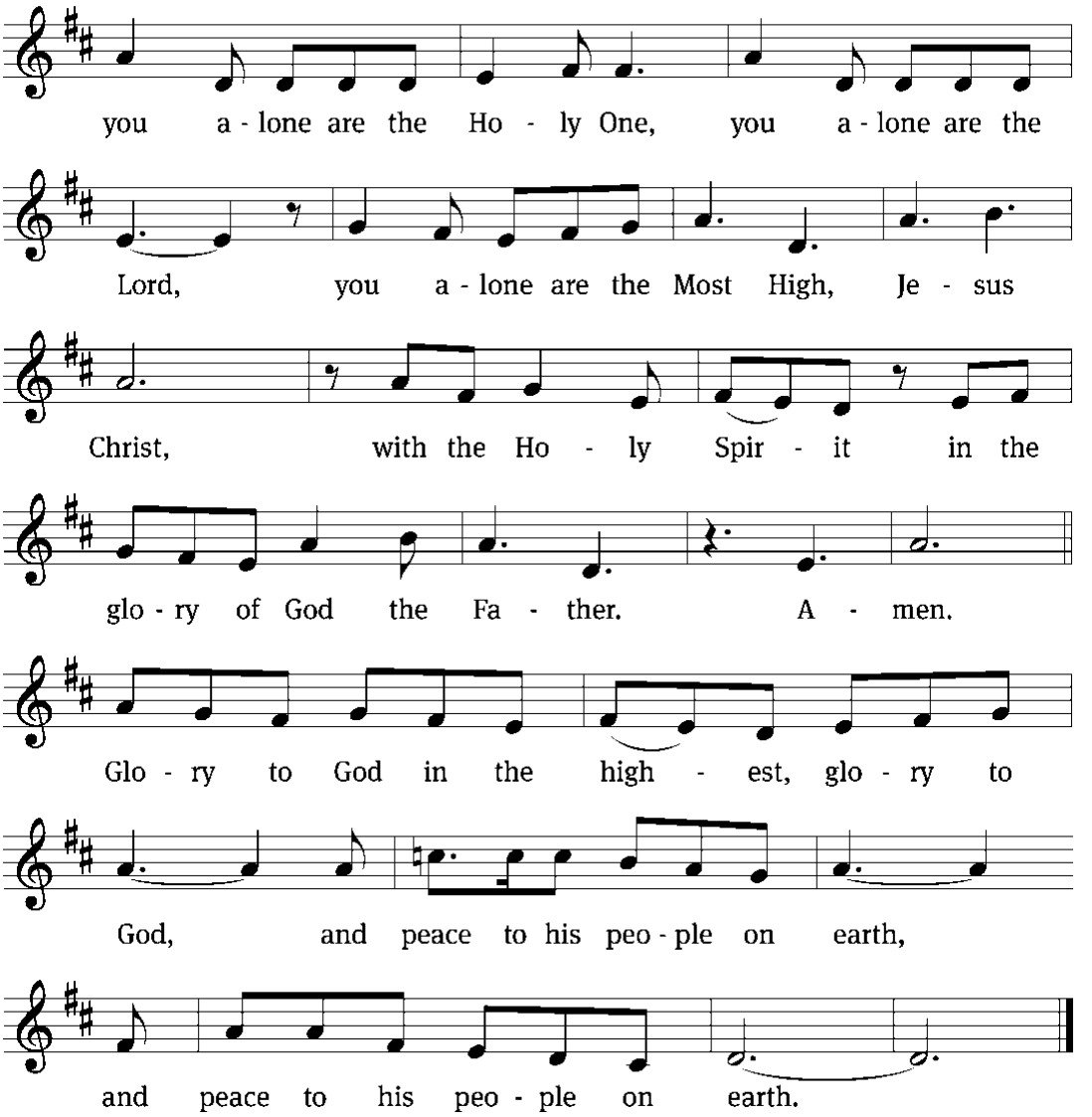
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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

Glory to God in the Highest




and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
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



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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; 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 *Hosea 3:1-5*

The LORD called the prophet Hosea to seek his adulterous wife and love her again. This served as an object lesson, showing our God is a God who seeks and redeems those who are lost.

[1]The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."

[2]So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. [3]Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you."

[4]For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. [5]Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51D — God, Be Merciful to Me

1 God, be merciful to me,
on your grace I rest my plea;
your compassions overflow,
blot out my transgressions now;
wash me, make me pure within,
cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

2 My transgressions I confess,
grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against your grace
and provoked you to your face;
I confess your judgment just,
speechless, in your mercy trust.

3 I am evil, born in sin;
you desire all truth within.
You alone my Savior are,
teach your wisdom to my heart;
make me pure, your grace bestow,
wash me whiter than the snow.

4 Broken, humbled to the dust
by your wrath and judgment just,
let my contrite heart rejoice
and in gladness hear your voice;
from my sins, O hide your face,
blot them out in boundless grace.

5 Gracious God, my heart renew,
make my spirit right and true;
let me not abandoned be,
let your Spirit dwell in me;
your salvation's joy impart,
steadfast make my willing heart.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt.
Text: Public domain

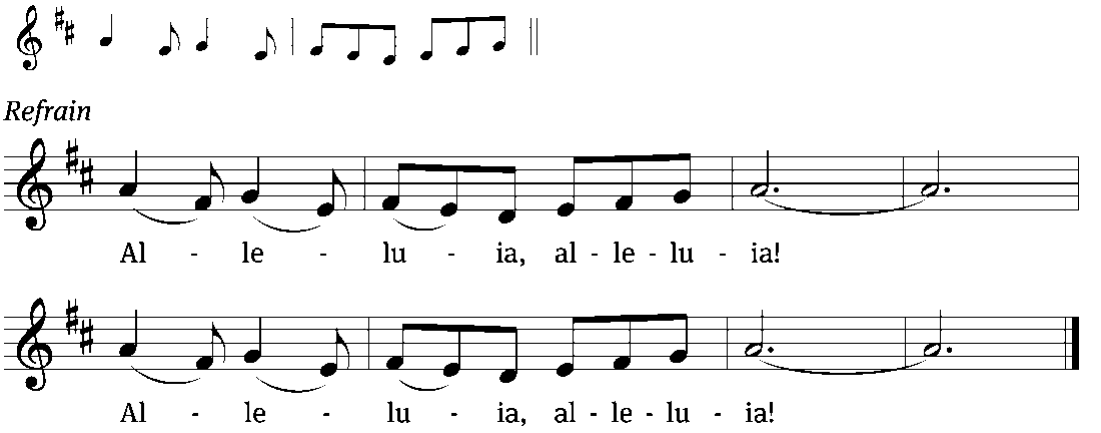
Second Reading *2 Corinthians 2:5-11*

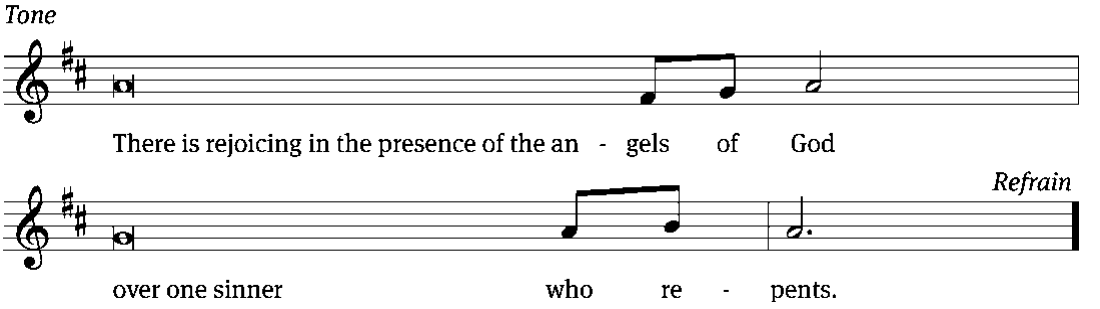
A member of the church in Corinth had been lost in sin, but through loving church discipline, had been moved to repent. Paul encourages the members to joyfully welcome him back.

[5]If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of
you to some extent—not to put it too severely. [6]The punishment inflicted on him by the
majority is sufficient. [7]Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will
not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. [8]I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for
him. [9]Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in
everything. [10]Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was
anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, [11]in order that
Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 15:10





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Gospel *(Sermon Text)* Luke 15:1-10

Through two parables, Jesus rebukes those who consider themselves already found and not in need of repentance.

[1]Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. [2]But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

[3]Then Jesus told them this parable: [4]"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? [5]And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders [6]and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' [7]I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

[8]"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? [9]And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' [10]In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

Hymn of the Day 550 Lamb of God

Led by Rejoice!

Sermon — "Rejoice! The Lost have been Found"

Pastor Steven Hillmer

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

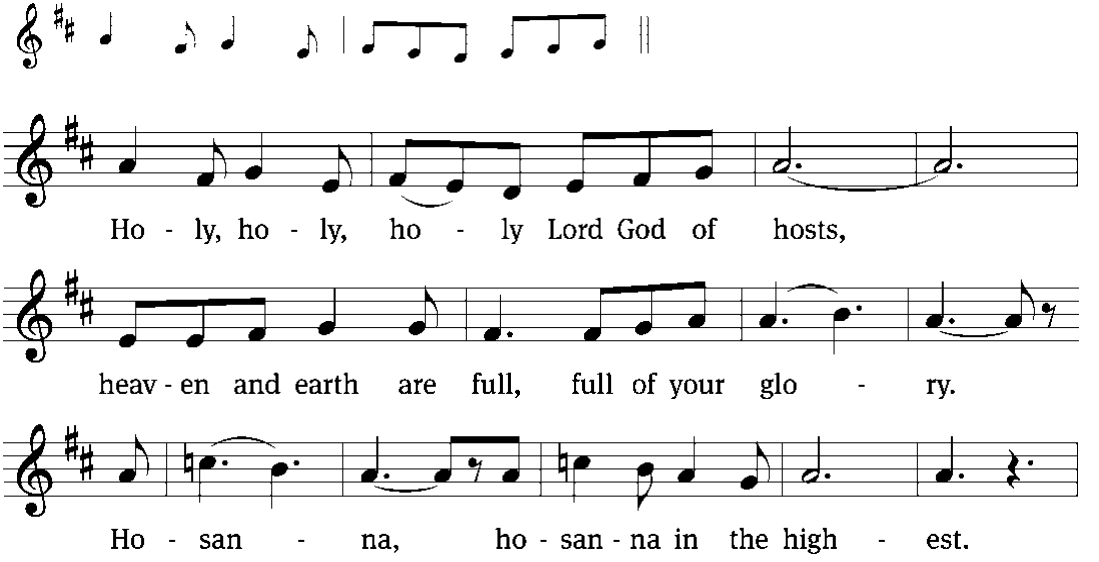
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

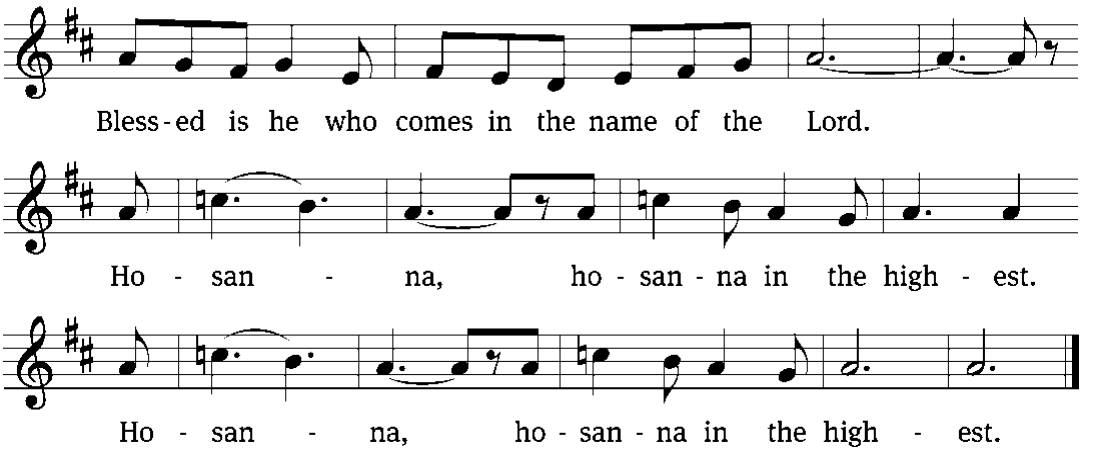
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

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.

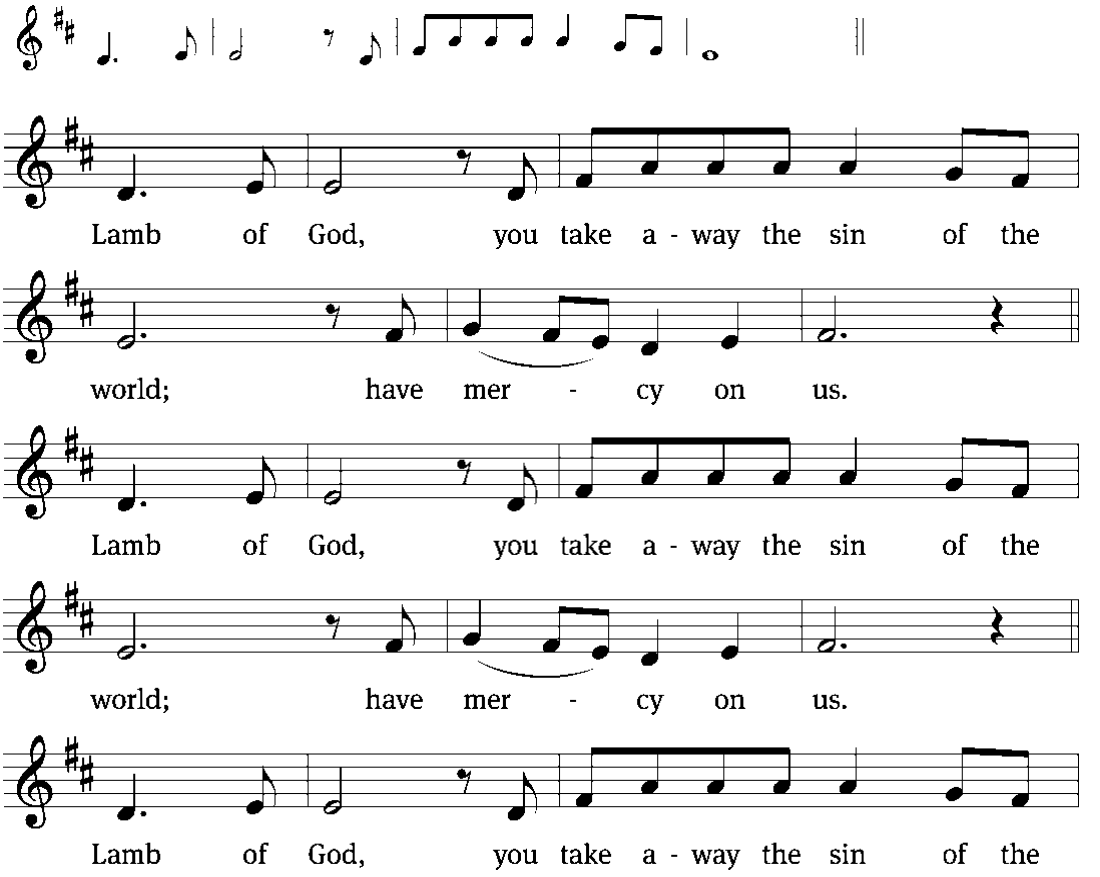
Words of Institution

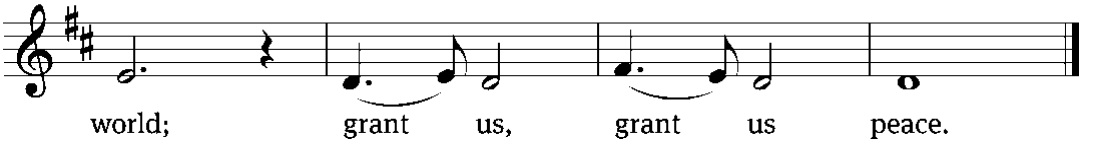
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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 813 — He Will Hold Me Fast

Rejoice!

Distribution Hymn 654 — Jesus Sinners Does Receive

Distribution Hymn 814 — Just as I Am, without One Plea

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 558:1,9 Salvation unto Us Has Come

In Our Prayers: My God's healing and blessing rest upon **Joyce Feuerstahler** who is recovering from injuries due to a fall; **Bonnie Garm's daughter, Bobbie Jo** as she recovers from hip surgery. God's comfort be with the family of **Jeff Ryan, whose mother, Betty Ryan,** was called home to heaven this past Thursday.

Acknowledgments
Setting Three from Christian Worship
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Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
This Sunday our Sunday Adult Bible Class will examine the lives of Jonah, Elijah and Stephen as it relates to the Mission of the Church. This will give us a perfect opportunity to review our own personal Mission Statement, as well as that of St. Matthew's.

Sunday School and Teen Study @ 9:15am
Sunday School is for children in PreK-6th grade. PreK-K meet in the Flex Room. Grades 1-6 meet in the Sunday School rooms. Teen Bible Study is open to 7th-12th grade and meets in the Teen Room. All are welcome so please invite your children's friends to join us as well! Sunday School is currently making its way through the early part of the Old Testament. Teen Bible Study will be looking at apologetics which will equip our teens to defend the Christian faith as taught in the Bible.

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 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 at 7:45 a.m., conveniently after school drop-off. Children are welcome!

Wednesday Women's Bible Study: *Living a Chocolate Life*
Join us **Wednesdays, Sept 24, Oct 8 & 22, Nov 5 at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Space** for this chocolate-themed study! Savor God's abundant grace, explore life's bittersweet moments, and discover how the Holy Spirit fills us with faith in Christ—the only true source of lasting satisfaction.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** September 20 & 21
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Chad Lauersdorf	**Saturday** – Andy Andress **Early –** Eric Wegner **Late –** Eric Ziel
Greeters	**Early** – Harry & Marlene Redfield **Late** – Mary Beth Williams	**Early** – Dave & Betty Reul **Late** – Tim & Sandy Torgerson
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Gary & Karen Haertel **Late –** Kyle & Robin Koltz	**Saturday** – Dwight & Janet Sandvold **Early –** Tom & Beth Plitzuweit **Late –** Brian & Kari Winkelman
Flowers		
Organist	Becky Aldinger	Lucas Krogmann
Special Music	Rejoice!	Grades 2-3
Projection	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Ethan Bergh **Late –** Kendra Lauersdorf	**Saturday** – Dan Shaw **Early –** Ava Hillmann **Late –** Matthias Uttech
Sound	**Saturday** – Vickie Bence **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Rik Krahn	**Saturday** – Vickie Bence **Early –** Scott Heins **Late** – Charlie Bagdassian
Livestream	Nathan Bergh	Andy Hillman

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; Sunday School; Teen Study
Tuesday	7:45 am	Grounded in God Bible Study
Wednesday	10:00 am 1:30 pm 5:00 pm	Shorehaven Service Senior Ministry Non-School Catechism
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Rejoice! Church Council Meeting Handbell Choir Men's Chorus
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 6:30 pm	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Teen Study Laudate Dominum Rehearsal

Highlights and Announcements

NPH Book Fair – This Weekend!
Northwestern Publishing House is bringing a book fair to St. Matthew's! Browse and purchase a wide selection of Christian books and resources for all ages before and after worship on **13–14** in the Gathering Space near our church library. **PAYMENT:** All books displayed will be offered at a 20% discount. Payments may be made by cash or check (payable to St. Matthew's). A QR code will also be provided at the fair for those who wish to pay online with a credit card. Books purchased online will be shipped directly to your home, while books purchased with cash or check will be delivered to St. Matthew's for distribution.

LWMS Fall Rally Offering | Sept 6–7 & 13–14
The LWMS Fall Rally on **October 18 will be at Immanuel, Farmington**. Our congregation will join others in the Rock River Circuit in supporting two special mission projects. Offerings will be collected the **first two weekends of September** to support **WELS Campus Ministry** (helping students stay connected to God's Word while at college) and the **International Missionary Wives Conference** (strengthening and encouraging missionary wives). Gifts may be placed in the offering box near the entryway or given online.

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; guests are always welcome!

Shorehaven Helpers
We need volunteers to help gather residents at Shorehaven for WELS/ELS chapel services. Currently we have enough regular volunteers but need more people who can substitute when a regular volunteer is unavailable. For the months of January through April, there will be a need on a more regular basis as some of our regular volunteers are away on travels. Services are at 10:00am each Wednesday morning. Volunteers can gather in the volunteer office on 2nd floor around 9:30am. Services are finished around 10:30am and residents are returned to their rooms. At most it's about a 2-hour commitment. Please contact Debby Kuklinski (414-520-6642) for more information.

Blue Butterfly Work Nights
We're excited to offer a monthly Blue Butterfly Work Night for our members! Join us on September 15, October 13, and November 10 (skipping December) from 4–7 PM. Please contact Bev Fullmer by call or text at 262-569-1969 to let her know you're coming.

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
Pastor
pbigelow@smls.org

STEVEN HILLMER
Pastor
shillmer@smls.org

MARK VOSS
Pastor
mvoss@smls.org

TOM PLITZUWEIT
Principal
tplitzuweit@smls.org

JULIE NEHR
School Admin Assistant
jnehr@smls.org

JENNIFER MANSSEN
Church Office Manager
jmanssen@smls.org

GEORGE ZAFEROS
Business Administrator
gzaferos@smls.org

CONNIE ABRAM
Communication Manager
cabram@smls.org

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