

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

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.

EASTER IN JULY
Easter Makes all the Difference - All Year 'Round

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to wonder whether anything he said was true. Thomas had been taught and trained by Christ himself. He heard Jesus predict his death and resurrection. Even after hearing the eyewitness testimony of friends, Thomas still had doubts about the resurrection of Jesus. But he lives, and it makes a difference. Today I have great comfort as someone with doubts about Christ's promises in my life. Jesus engages me with continuing assurances in Word and sacrament. I have proof. I have peace.

We welcome **Seminarian Matthew Hillmer** and thank him for sharing God's Word with us this weekend. Matthew will begin his second year at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI this fall.

For Your Convenience

- ◊ A Hearing Loop system is available; switch your device to the "T" (telecoil) program to connect. Further instructions are available in the Church Office.
- ◊ 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.

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THE SERVICE: SETTING FOUR

Hymn 438 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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

Absolution

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

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

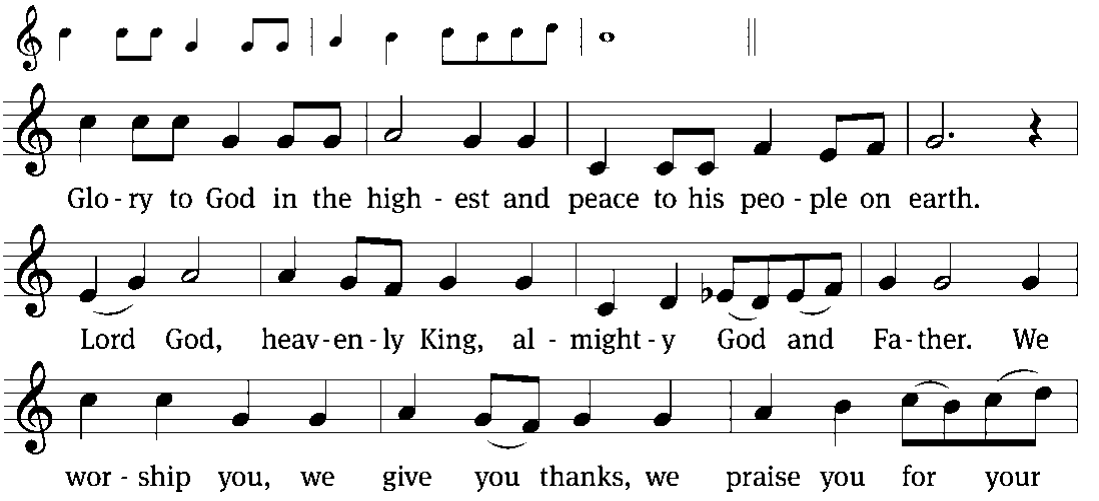
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

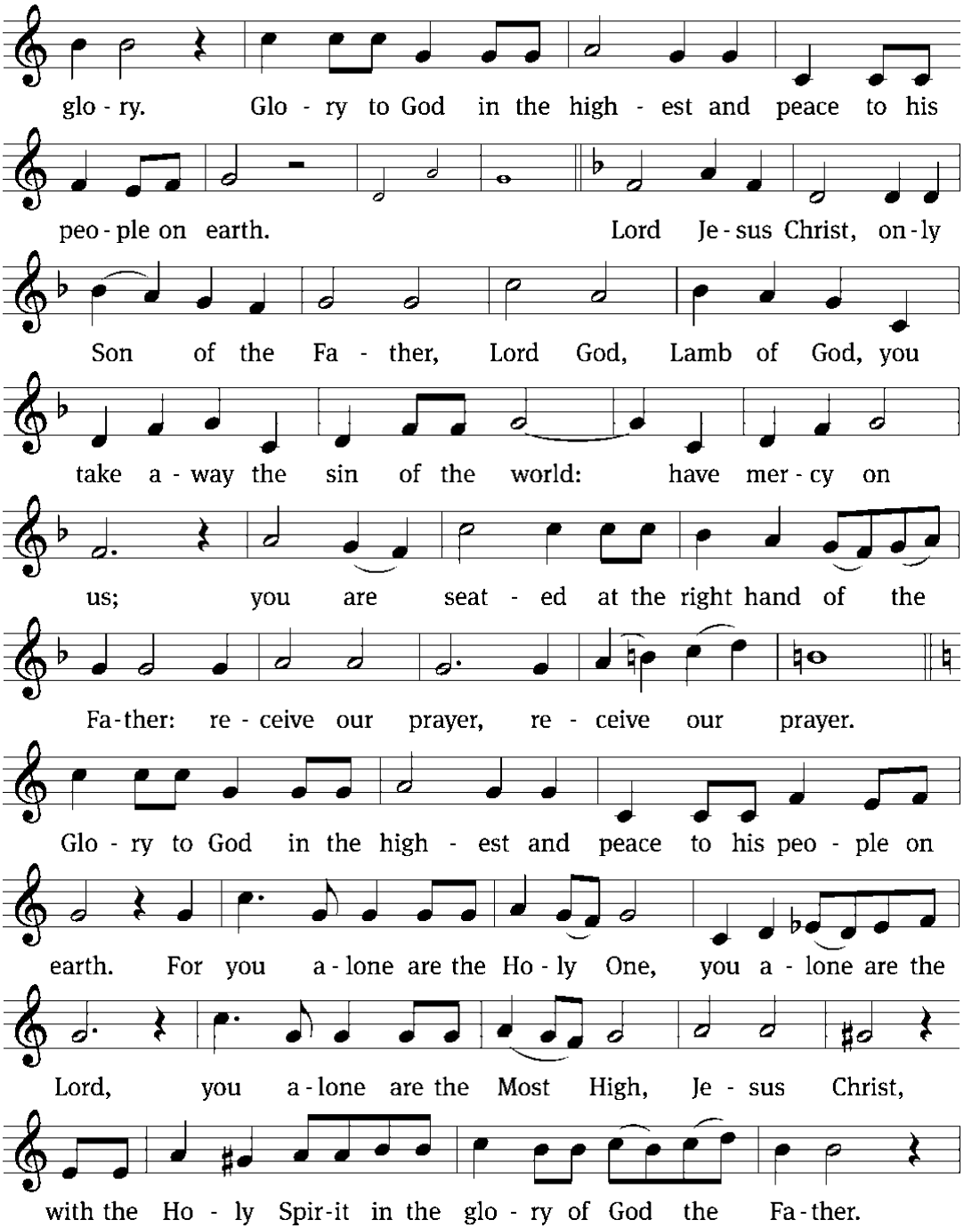
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

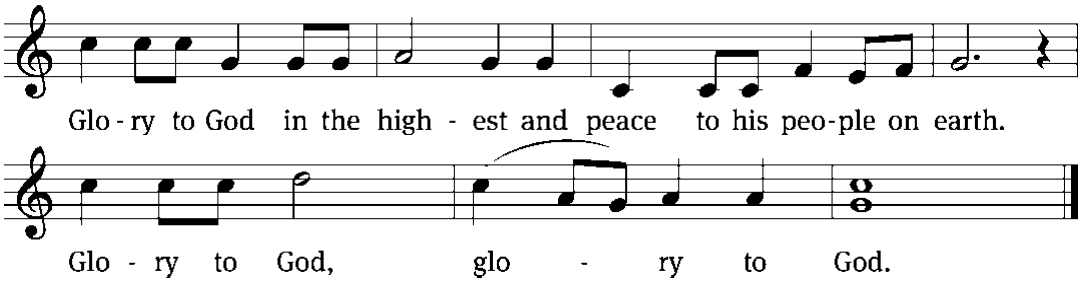
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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

Glory to God in the Highest




glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. 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, re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on
earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading *Acts 2:14a, 22-32*

The living Lord appeared to many eyewitnesses so they could testify to the truth of Jesus' resurrection.

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to
you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you
yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and
foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him
to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death,
because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him:

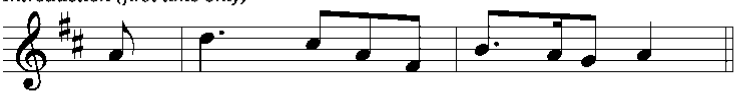
" 'I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
26Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,
27because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.
28You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

29"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

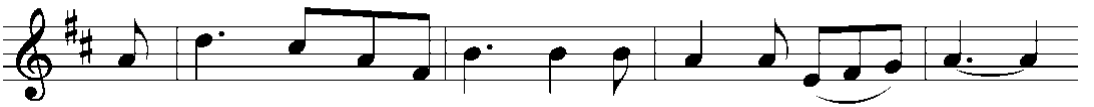
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

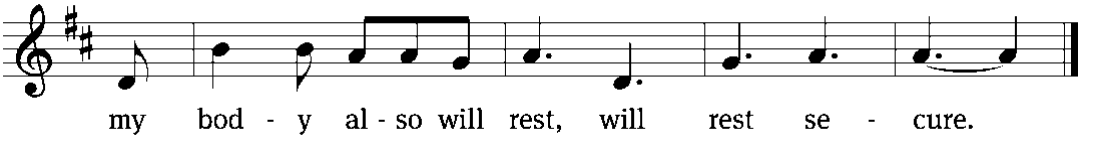
Psalm 16A — My Heart, Therefore, Is Glad

Introduction (first time only)

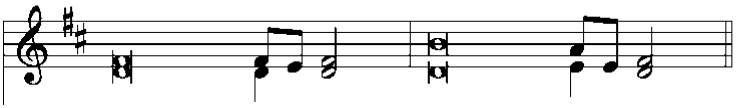


Refrain





Tone



LORD, you alone are my portion / and my cup;
you make my / lot secure.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant / places;
surely I have a delightful in- / heritance.
I keep my eyes always / on the LORD.
With him at my right hand, I will not be / shaken. *Refrain*

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue re- / joices;
my body also will / rest secure,
because you will not abandon me to the realm / of the dead,
nor will you let your Holy One / see decay.
You make known to me the / path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at / your right hand.
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 — *1 Peter 1:3-9*

St. Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the hope we have.

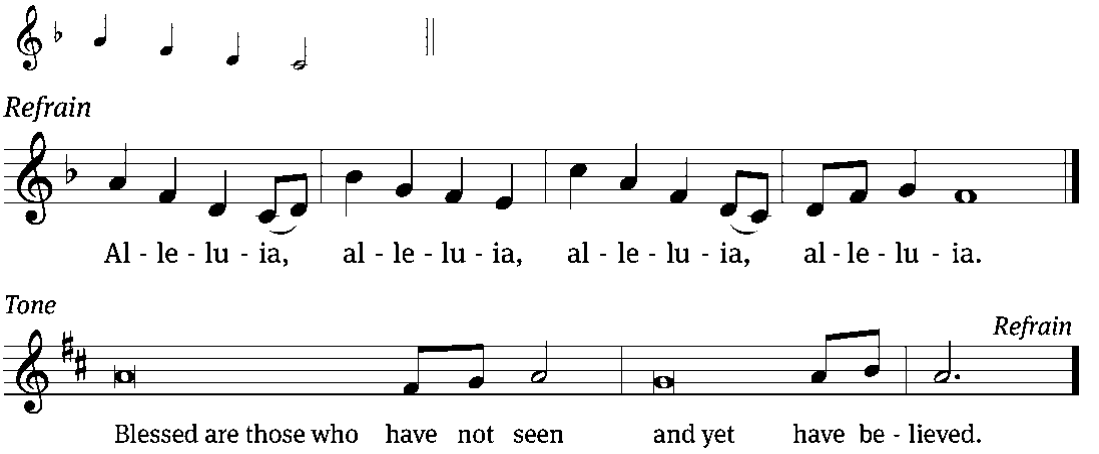
[3]Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4]and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, [5]who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. [6]In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. [7]These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold,

which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. [8]Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, [9]for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29



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Gospel (Sermon Text) *John 20:19-31*

Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas.

19On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with
the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and
said, "Peace be with you!" 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and side.
The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending
you." 22And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you
forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not
forgiven."

24Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the
disciples when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the
Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger
where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.
Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be
with you!" 27Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out
your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are
those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not
recorded in this book. 31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the
Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

Hymn 467 With High Delight Let Us Unite

Sermon Jesus Erases and Replaces

Fear to Peace
Doubt to Proof
Seminarian Matthew Hillmer

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 and 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

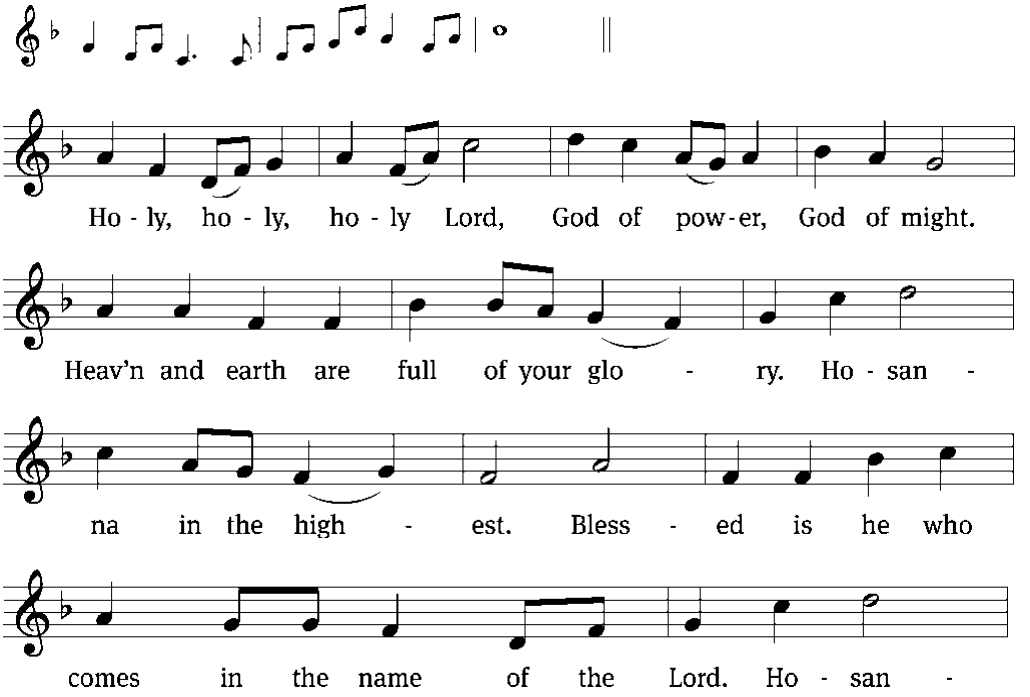
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

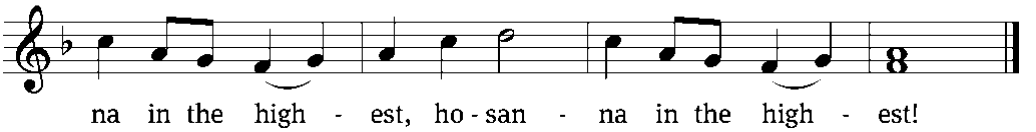
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

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, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.
Amen.

The 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.

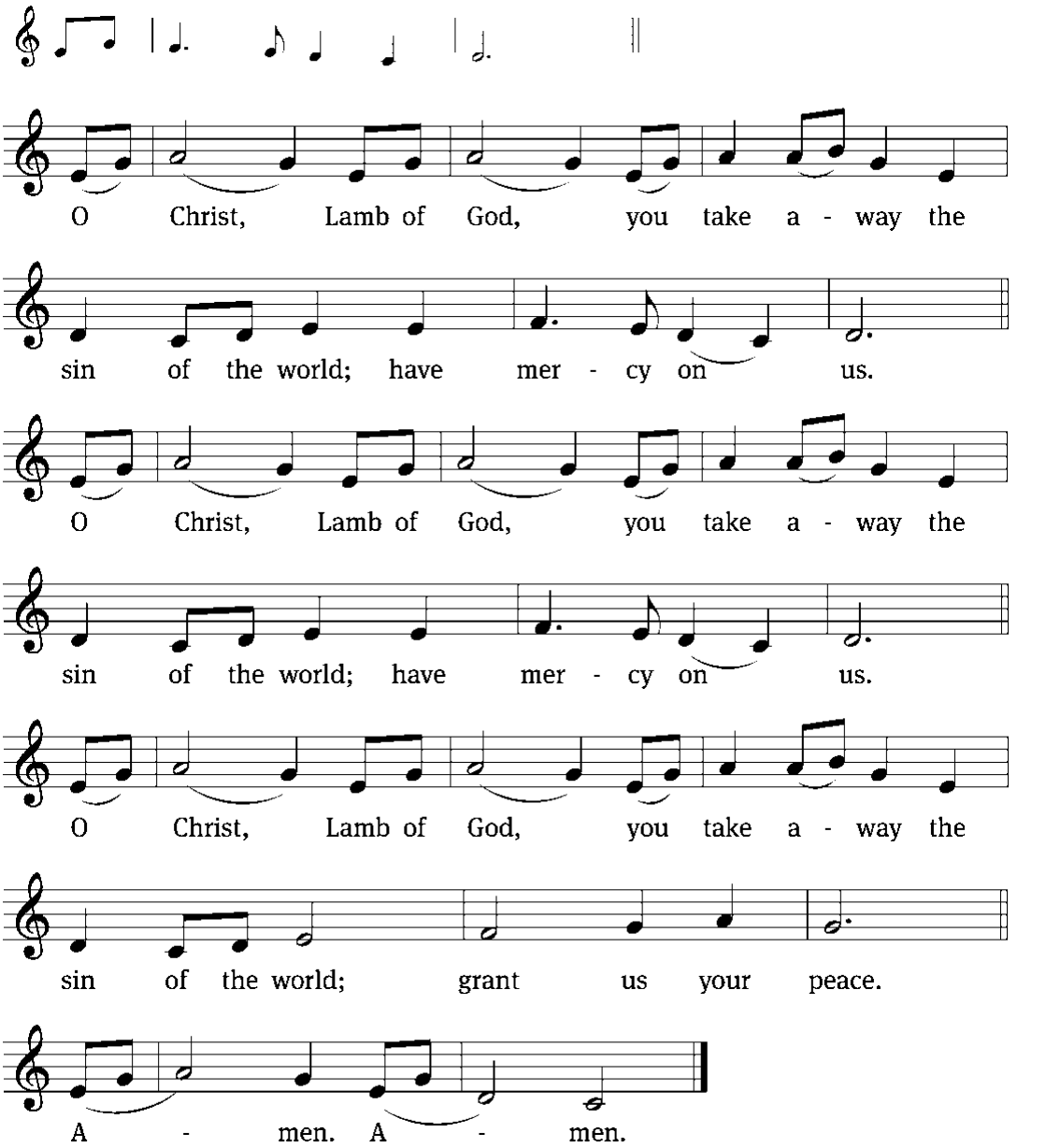
Words of Institution

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.

O Christ, 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 456 O Sons and Daughters of the King

Distribution Hymn 675 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

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.*

Thanksgiving

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

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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 441:1,2,5,8 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

In Our Prayers: We rejoice with **John and Elsie Lemke** who are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary. May God bless **Zach Nelson and Stephanie Maahs** who were united in marriage on July 10. We rejoice with **Isaiah and Maddy Schlomer** who were blessed with a baby girl, **Sadie Rae Schlomer** on Thursday.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend – July 18 & 19**
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Jim Fulmer **Late –** Eric Ziel	**Saturday** – Andy Andress **Early –** Jason Cox **Late –** Todd Helwig
Greeters	**Early** –Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late** – Andy & Carrie Rosenau	**Early** – John & Jill Fields **Late** – Mike & Joy Lenz
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Kyle Bence **Early –** Gary & Karen Haertel **Late** – Jon & Ginny Kehren	**Saturday** – Jon & Kessia Boche **Early –** Tim & Sandy Torgerson **Late** – Rudy & Chris Dovnik
Organist	Char Bouche	Diane Erdman
Special Music		
Flowers	John & Elsie Lemke – 60th Anniversary	
Projection	**Saturday** – Grace Heins **Early –** Kylee Glorioso **Late** – Nolan Bagdassian	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Dan Metzger **Late –** Josh Charais
Sound	**Saturday** – Kathy Goggins **Early –** Joel Aldinger **Late** – Charlie Bagdassian	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Steve Vasatko **Late –** Jacob Kopplin
Livestream	Nathan Bergh	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; Child Care
Wednesday	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Shorehaven Service Women's Bible Study
Thursday	7:00 pm	Church Council
Saturday	9:00 am 5:30 pm	SHINE – Exercise Class Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Child Care

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study – *The Ten Commandments*
Join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m. between services as we study the Ten Commandments and their relevance for our faith and daily lives. Students entering 5th grade and older are welcome to join the class. All are welcome!

Summer Childcare Available During Adult Bible Study
Sunday School and Teen Study are on summer break. Childcare is available for infants through 4th grade and will meet in the 3K classroom, located in the farthest wing of the school building. Children in 5th grade and older are welcome to join the Adult Bible Study.

Men's Bible Breakfast – 2nd Saturdays of the Month
Calling all men 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 the topic, "Connecting Sinai to Calvary."

***"Bible by the Fire"* - Bible Study on Friday evenings: July 31 and Aug. 21—at 6:00 PM.**
We'll gather around bonfires for Scripture, fellowship, and conversation in a welcoming, relaxed setting. This summer, we'll be studying the book of Habakkuk. Please bring along a Bible. Whether you're new or have attended before, you are invited to come as you are. Feel free to bring a beverage and a snack to share. **For more details and the latest updates, *visit SMLS.org/Events.***

Women's Wednesday Bible Study – in July
We invite all women to join our Bible Study in July entitled, ***"Rejoice in the Lord – a study of the Book of Philippians."*** We'll meet in the Gathering Space at 6pm.

Acknowledgments
Setting Four from Christian Worship
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Highlights and Announcements

Dockhounds Fellowship Night – Round 2!
Join us on **Friday,** July 24, at 6:35 PM as the Lake Country DockHounds take on the Chicago Dogs! We've reserved three cabanas for our group, making it a great opportunity to enjoy baseball, fellowship, and time with friends. Space is limited, and tickets must be purchased by **July 13**. Cost: $30 per person, includes your game ticket and two drinks. Sign up today at SMLS.org/events

REMINDER: We're Looking for a Few More VBS Teen Volunteers!
Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and we're looking for a few more teens to serve as Cabin Leaders July 20–24 from 8:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m. This is a super fun week and we would love for you to be a part of it. If you are interested in helping or have any questions please email Beth Plitzuweit.

VBS Donations
We are looking for craft, food and gift card donations for our upcoming Vacation Bible School. If you would like to donate please use the Sign Up Genius link https://bit.ly/SMVBSdonate All donated items can be **dropped off at First Steps**. Craft items should be dropped off by Friday, July 10**.** Food Donations can be dropped off the week of July 13. Please contact Beth Plitzuweit (bplitzuweit@smls.org) with any questions. Thank you!

Help Needed!
Help serve behind the scenes! We are need of help across all three of our A/V teams—livestream, soundboard, and projection. Students in 7th grade and up are welcome to join the projection team! If you're interested in learning more about soundboard, livestream, or assisting with projection, please contact the church office at jmanssen@smls.org. All volunteers will receive training and will serve alongside an experienced team member for their first two services.

Early Childhood Summer Events
Early childhood families are invited to join us at Imagination Station on the following Fridays - July 10, 17 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. We will have play time at the park, a Bible lesson, songs and a craft. Then join us at St. Matthew's for Water Day on Wednesday, July 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. There will be water sensory tables, slip and slide, sprinklers, water balloons, popsicles and more! These are FREE events and you do not need to pre-register. For more information please contact Beth Plitzuweit (bplitzuweit@smls.org).

OWLS
The Rock River Area OWLS will be meeting at Aero Park, 984 Boomer St., Watertown on Tuesday July 21 at 12 noon for our annual picnic. Please bring your own place settings, silverware, beverage, and a dish to pass. Coffee and meat for sandwiches will be provided. Everyone is invited and guests are always welcome. Aero Park is handicapped accessible. Also, the Vietnam Memorial Wall is available for viewing.

NEW! Shape Up with SHINE – First Class Free!
All women are invited to join the SHINE Activities Team for **Shape Up with SHINE** on Saturday, July 18 at 9:00 AM. Led by St. Matthew's member and personal trainer Dwight Sandvold, this new fitness and fellowship opportunity features gentle movement, light strength training, and stretching, with modifications available for all fitness levels. Come give it a try—your first class is free! Bring a family member or friend, and visit **SMLS.org/Events** for details or to sign up.

Save the Date – Church Picnic, Aug 30TH!
Join us at Okauchee Fireman's Park on Sunday, August 30th for our Annual Church Picnic! Worship begins at **10:00 a.m.**with music led by the St. Matthew's Brass Band, followed by lunch and fellowship.
Please RSVP by AUGUST 21 to help us prepare for food**.** Sign up at smls.org/events.
Please note: There will be a Saturday worship service, but only one Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. at the park.

Youth Confirmation Classes
Confirmation classes for our public school and homeschool students begin for those in 6th grade. Initial information was sent out to parents whom we know have children entering 6th-8th grade. If you didn't receive information and have a rising 6th-8th grader in public school or homeschool, please contact Pastor Voss at mvoss@smls.org with the name(s) or your child(ren) and with your contact info. Thanks! Tentatively, we're looking at having an informational meeting for parents and students on **Wednesday, August 26 at 5 pm** in the school commons.

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

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

First Steps
CHILD CARE CENTER

SCHOOL OFFICE
schooloffice@smls.org

CHURCH OFFICE
churchoffice@smls.org

FIRST STEPS
firststepsoffice@smls.org

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