

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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.

WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT

Christians Seek Spiritual Wealth

What do you consider your life's top priorities? Many people start with family and friends. Financial security and health follow closely. Reputation and recreation make the cut. How about faith? Is it the top priority? What if other priorities must be sacrificed to keep faith the top priority?

The Bible helps Christians keep worldly wealth in perspective. It can buy the things of this world, things that rust and decay, but there is something more valuable. True wealth is spiritual wealth. It can be found only in God and his eternal blessings for us in Christ.

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 680 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

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.

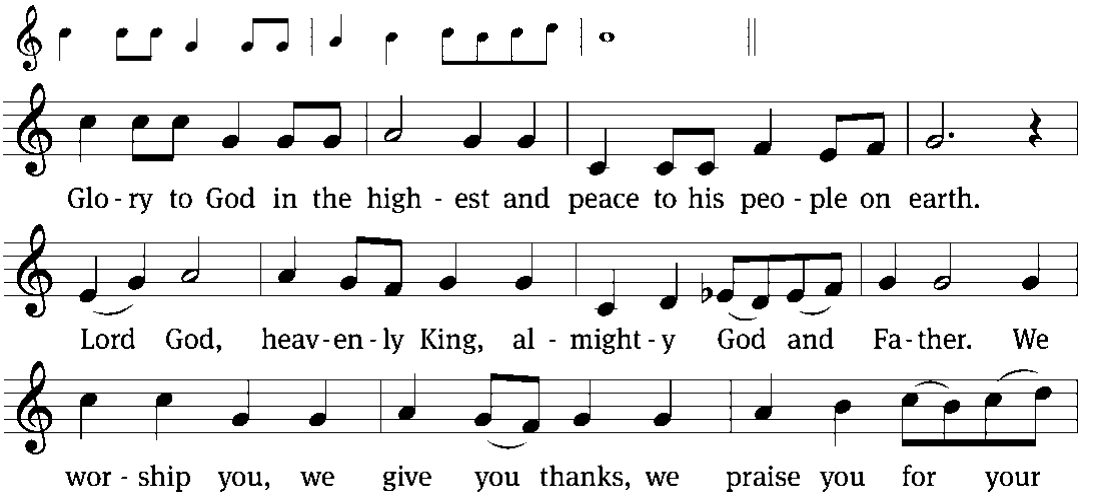
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

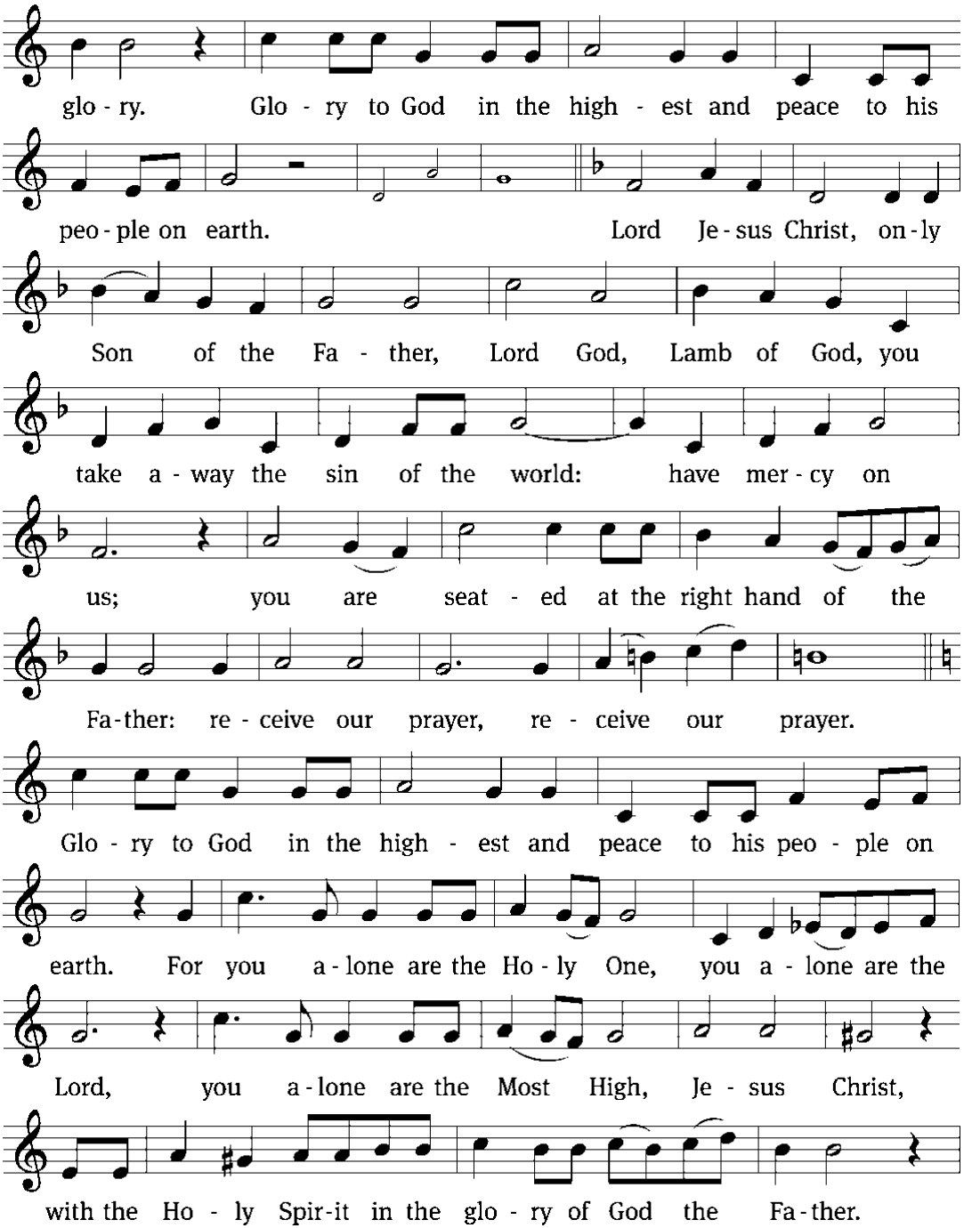
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

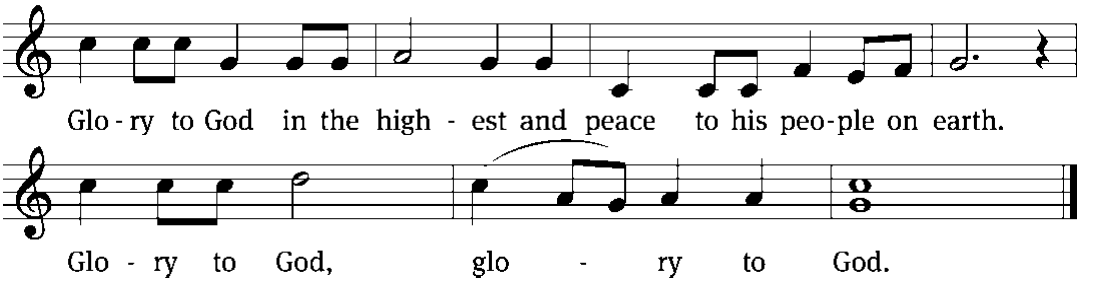
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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.



Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Holy Baptism

*During our 10:30am service this week, we will have the **Baptism** for **Benny Kyle Bence**, the son of Kyle and Caitlin Bence. God's rich blessings to Benny!*

First Reading *(Sermon Text)* ***1 Kings 3:5-12***

When the Lord offered Solomon anything he wanted, Solomon chose spiritual wealth.

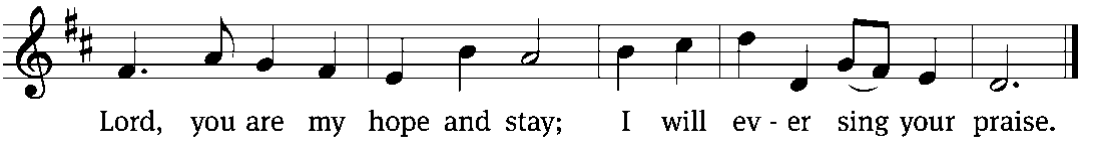
5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said,
"Ask for whatever you want me to give you."
6 Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David,
because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this
great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.
7 "Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David.
But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your servant is

here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.
9So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between
right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"
10The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. 11So God said to him, "Since
you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the
death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, 12I will do what you
have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been
anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

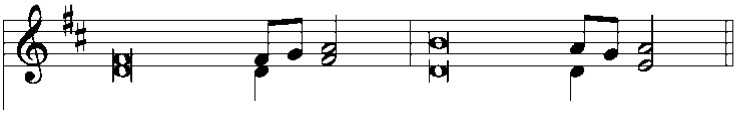
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63C — Lord, You Are My Hope and Stay

Refrain



Tone



You, God, / are my God,
earnestly I / seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being / longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no / water.
I have seen you in the sanctu- / ary
and beheld your power and your / glory. *Refrain*

Because your love is bet- / ter than life,
my lips will glori- / fy you.
I will praise you as long / as I live,
and in your name I will lift / up my hands.

Because you / are my help,
I sing in the shadow / of your wings.
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 Timothy 6:17-21*

Paul warns against arrogance and false hope, sins that commonly go with worldly wealth.

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their
hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us
with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds,
and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for
themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life
that is truly life.

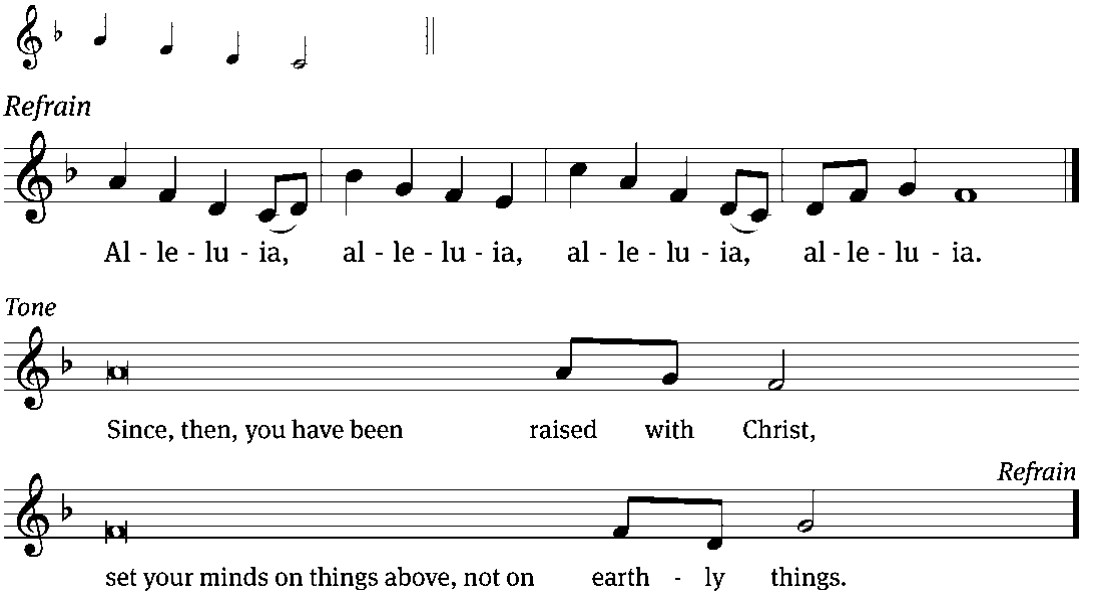
20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter
and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which some have professed
and in so doing have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 3:1,2



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Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

A series of parables about the value of spiritual wealth.

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he
hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.
45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he
found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.
47 "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and
caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then
they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. 49 This is
how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from
the righteous 50 and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.
51 "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.
"Yes," they replied.

[52]He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

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

Hymn 717 — What Is the World to Me

Sermon — What Do You Want?

Pastor Philip Bigelow

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

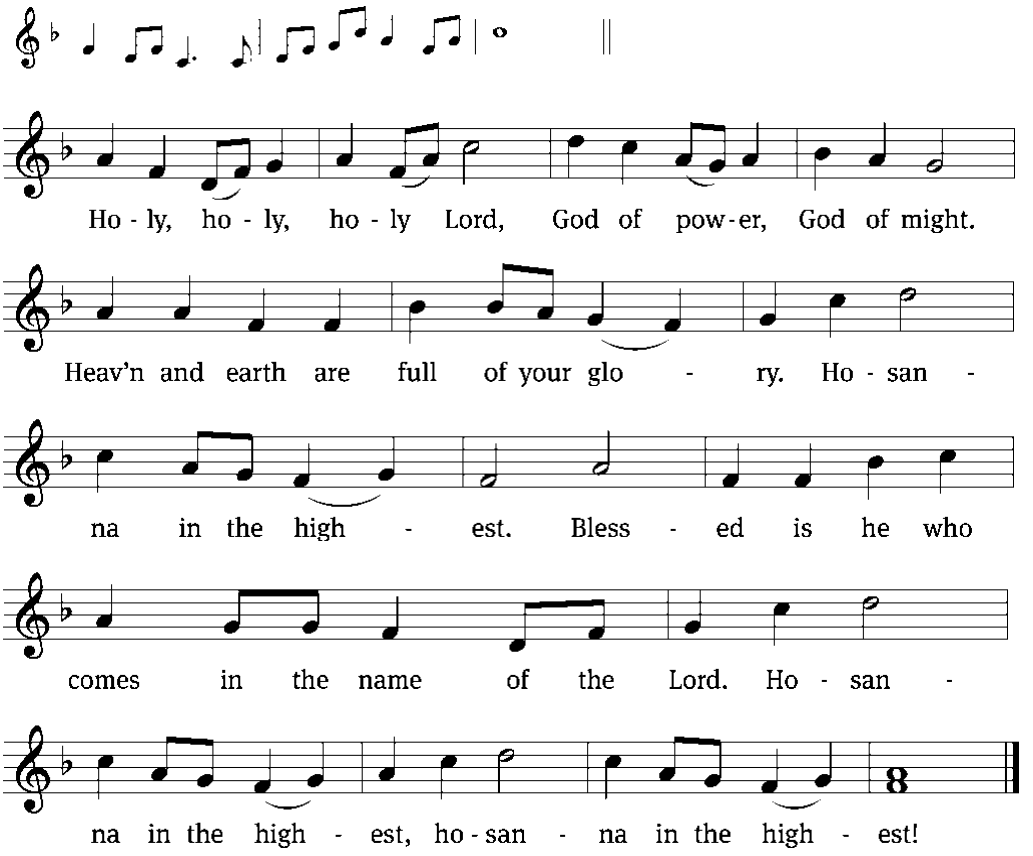
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

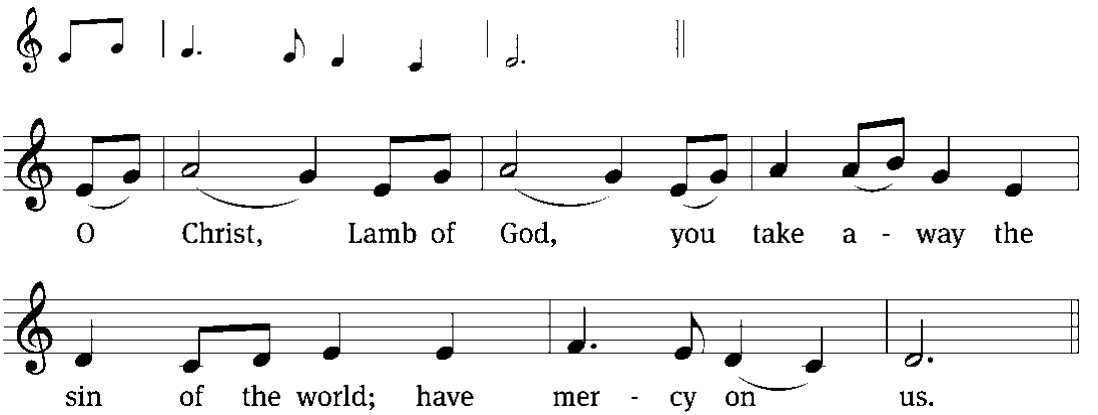
Words of Institution

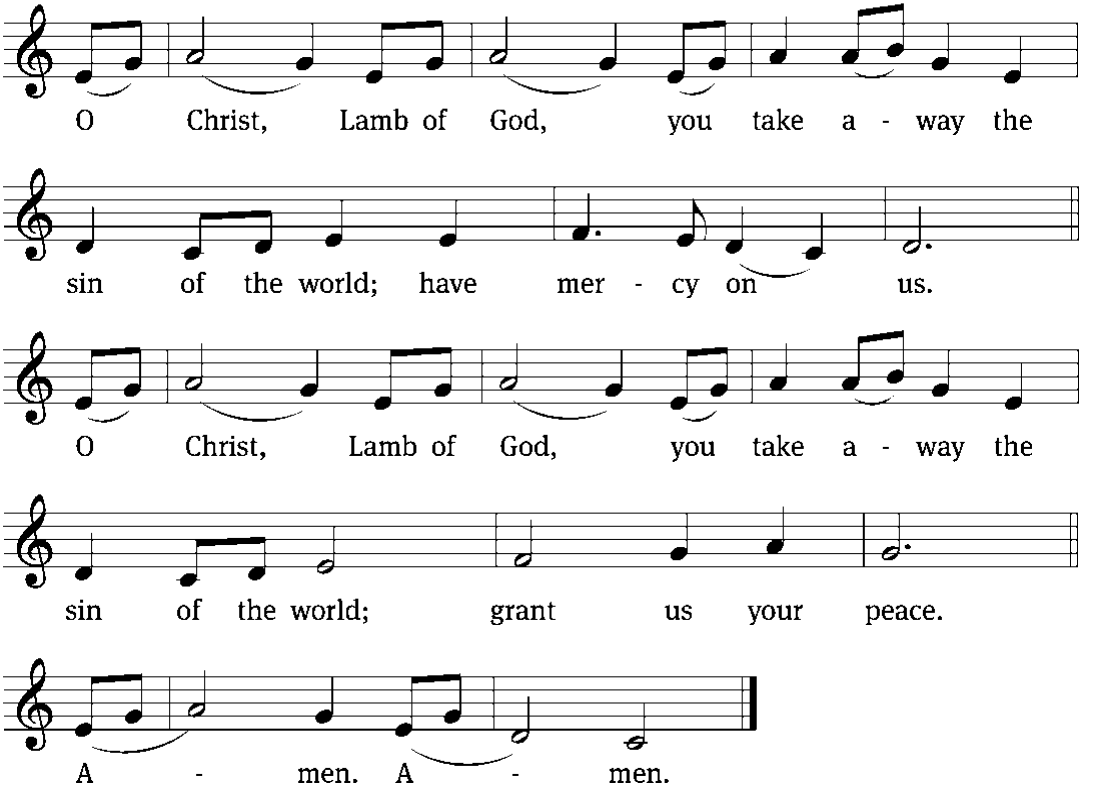
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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 662 — Draw Near

Distribution Hymn 677 — The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

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 859 Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure

In Our Prayers: We rejoice with **Jim and Bev Fulmer** who are celebrating their 45th and **Eric and Beth Ziel** who are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversaries. May God be with **Nathan Bergh** who will have hip surgery this week. We rejoice with **Kyle & Caitlin Bence** as their son, **Benny**, is baptized today.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend – August 1 & 2**
Ushers	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Andy Rosenau	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Eric Wegner **Late –** Eric Ziel
Greeters	**Early** –Tim & Carolyn Thiele **Late** – Brenda Broege-Nagel	**Early** – Joe & Jill Sharp **Late** – Andy & Carrie Rosenau
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Tom & Beth Plitzuweit **Late** – Kyle & Robin Koltz	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late** – Brian & Kari Winkelman
Organist	Pastor Jon Kehren	Joy Elowski
Special Music		
Flowers	Eric & Beth Ziel – 40th Wedding Anniversary	
Projection	**Saturday** – Andrew Bessert **Early –** Dan Metzger **Late** – Toby Brandenstein	**Saturday** – Molly Kalma **Early –** Jon/Henry Peterson **Late –** Eli Bigelow
Sound	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Julia Watson **Late** – Kathy Goggins	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Heather Bigelow
Livestream	John Schuh	Tim Taubenheim

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
Saturday	5:30 pm	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

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.

20/30s Bonfire & Bible Study — Next Gathering July 31!
Mark your calendars! Our next 20/30s Bonfire & Bible Study is coming up **Friday, July 31, at 6:00 PM.** Join us this summer for a time of Bible study, fellowship around the bonfire, and connection with other young adults as we continue our study of Habakkuk. *Newcomers are always welcome!*
More details and updates: smls.org/events

Teacher Installation – Sunday, August 16
Please join us on **Sunday, August 16**, during **both worship services** as we celebrate the installation of four teachers who have accepted a Call to serve in ministry at St. Matthew's: **Jon Ziesemer** – 8th Grade Teacher, **Jason Rupnow** – 6th Grade Teacher, **Alyssa Schroeder** – 4th Grade Teacher, and **Anna Prost** – Lead Toddler Teacher at First Steps. A reception will be held between services. Please join us as we welcome and encourage these teachers in their ministry.

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.

Youth Rally Highlights
Sixteen teenagers from St. Matthew's joined about 2,000 others from across the country and Canada for the WELS International Youth Rally at Bowling Green University in Ohio, July 14-17. They joined together for worship, Bible study, breakouts about topics on teens' minds today, and encouragement and growth in their faith. Look for a recap and highlight video soon!

Thank You!
Thank you to everyone that donated and volunteered for VBS last week! We had 160 children that learned God's Word, grew in their faith in Jesus, and had lots of fun throughout the week.

Shaped to Serve – September Sessions
Have you ever wondered how God has uniquely gifted you to serve? Join our **Shaped to Serve Workshops** to discover your spiritual gifts, connect with meaningful opportunities to serve at St. Matthew's, and enjoy fellowship, coffee, and a free Go, Serve, Love T-shirt.
SEPT 13, 20 & 27: Three 1-hour sessions between worship services in the Small Chapel.
Can't make September? A second workshop series will be offered **NOV 8, 15 & 22**.
Sign up today at smls.org/events!
Questions? Contact Eric Ziel or click **SHAPED Workshops** to learn more.

Men's Retreat
Our 18th annual Men's Retreat, organized by men from Twin Cities area WELS churches, will take place at Camp Croix on **September 18-20, 2026.** This year's theme is "Here I Stand: Lutherans find their voice in Christian apologetics" There are reasons that Lutherans have been quiet in the area of Christian apologetics. But there are even bigger reasons for us to break the silence, given what we uniquely see and understand about arguing for Christ in this skeptical world. Together, we will explore the What and the How of Christian apologetics so as to grow in confidence for our own sake, for the sake of those who do not know Jesus, and for the sake of the most vulnerable among us. This presentation will be led by Martin Luther College Prof. Mark Paustian. Sign up now, while there's still room, at mensretreat.org!
Questions regarding Camp Croix? Call Keith at 218-341-2119.
Questions regarding the retreat? Call Clay at 651-231-3237.

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.



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