

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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.

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS

The Son of Man is God

Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" It's the most important question in the world, and it is a question every human being must answer. The expected answer may be dead wrong. Some in Jesus' day thought he was John the Baptist. Some thought he was the prophet Elijah who had come back from the dead. Today plenty of people believe that Jesus existed. They think that Jesus was a wise teacher or a role model for love. Both answers are expected. Both miss the main point.

Jesus is a real human being, the Son of Man. He is also Lord and Savior, the Son of the living God. This unexpected truth is the core of saving faith.

NEXT SUNDAY – Church Picnic at Lion's Park.
One Service only at 10am.

We will have our regular worship on Saturday at 5:30pm

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 856:1-3 Built on the Rock

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.

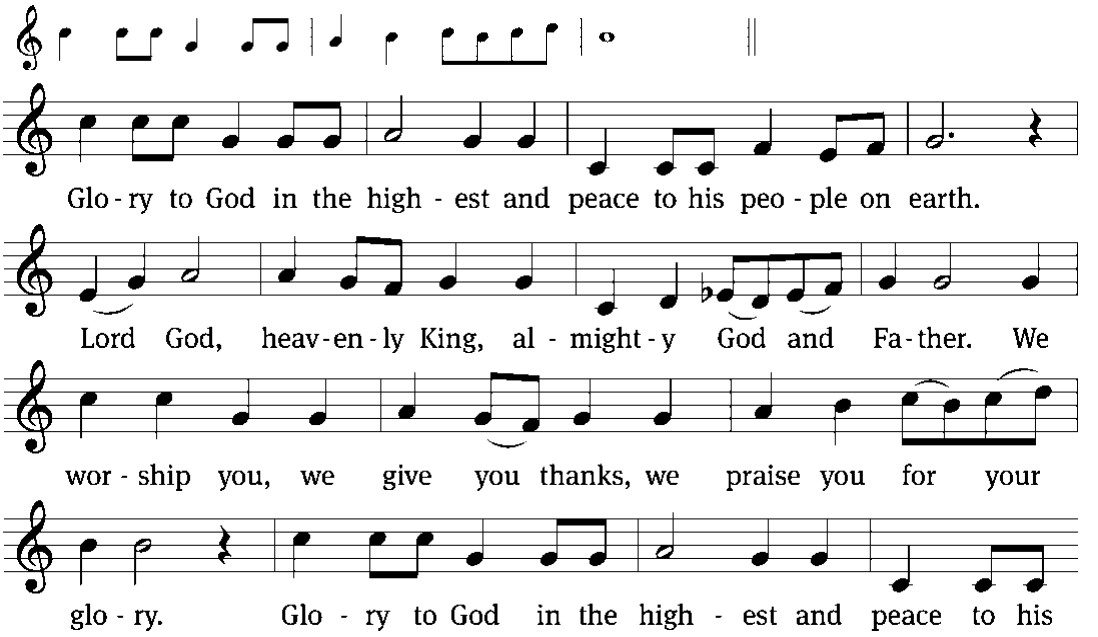
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

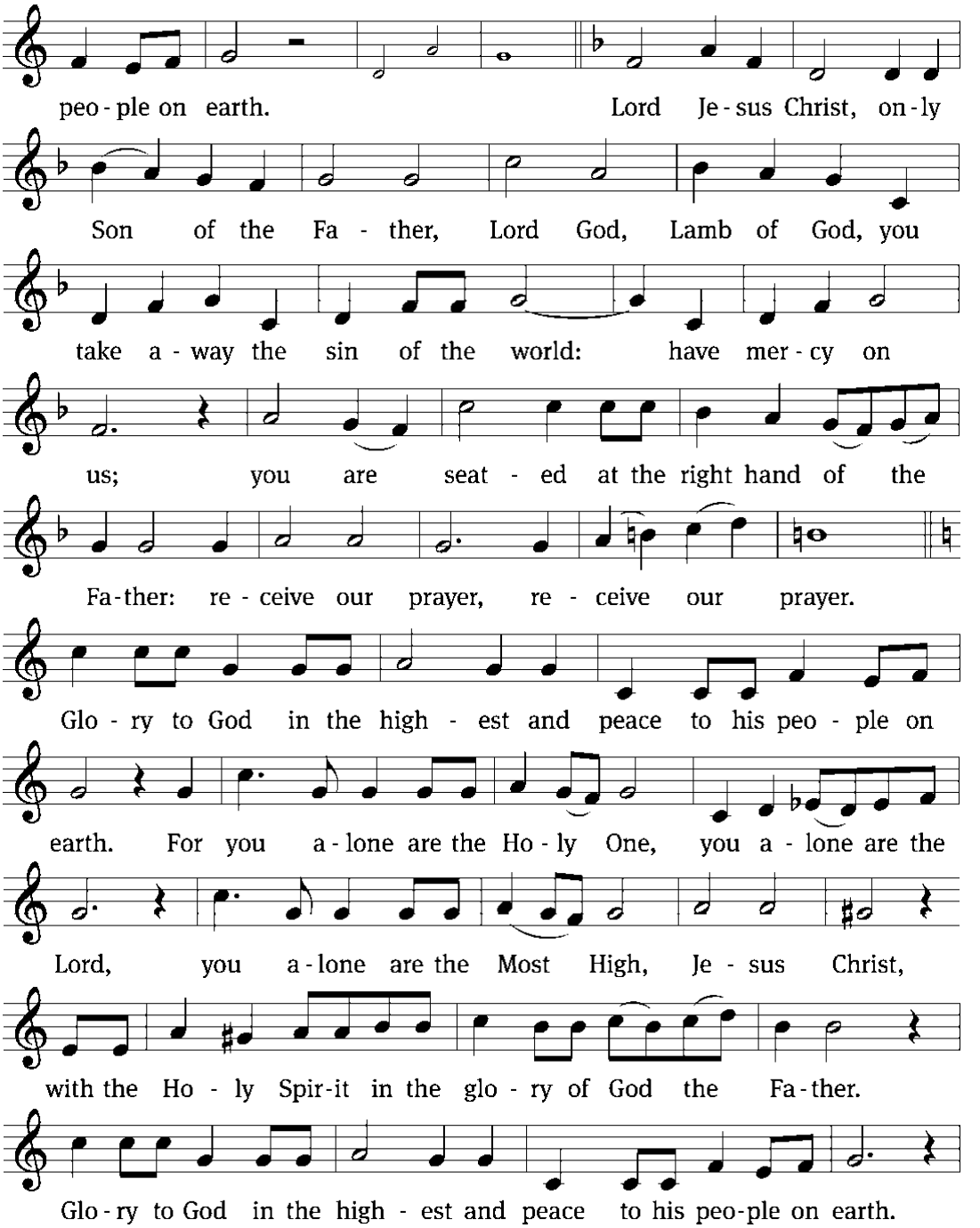
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

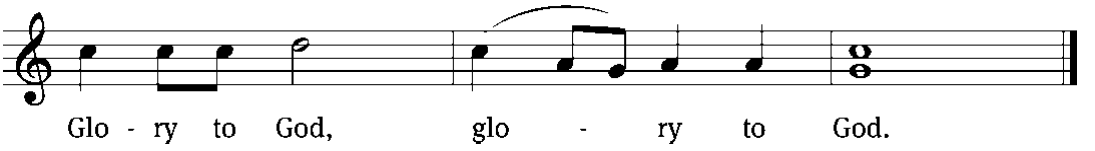
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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

Glory to God in the Highest




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.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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

Today we are privileged to share God's gift of Holy Baptism with three families! During our 8am service, ***Krystal Honeycutt and her children, Hollynn and Bryton****, during our 10:30am service,* ***Crew Robert Buske*** *the son of Seth and Ashley Buske; and after our 10:30am service,* ***Nicole Ulrich.***

First Reading — *Exodus 34:5-9*

God proclaimed to Moses what he is like. The Church's job is to proclaim to the world who Christ is and what he is like.

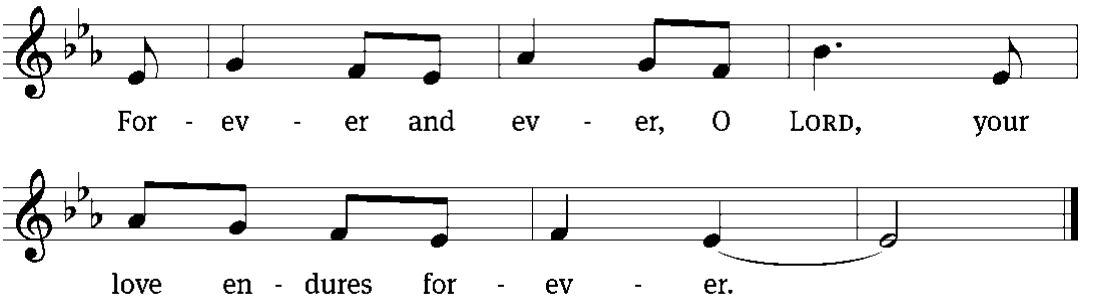
5 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed
his name, the LORD. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the
LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and
faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and
sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their
children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

[8]Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. [9]"Lord," he said, "if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."

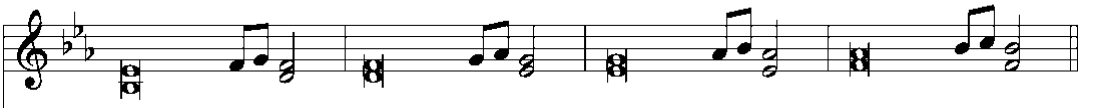
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138C — Forever and Ever, O LORD

Refrain



Tone



I will / praise you, LORD,
with / all my heart;
I will bow down toward your holy temple and will / praise your name
for your unfailing love and your / faithfulness.

When I called, you / answered me;
you greatly em- / boldened me.
Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the / lowly;
though lofty, he sees them / from afar. *Refrain*

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you pre- / serve my life;
with your right hand you / save me.
The LORD will vindi- / cate me;
your love, LORD, endures for- / ever.

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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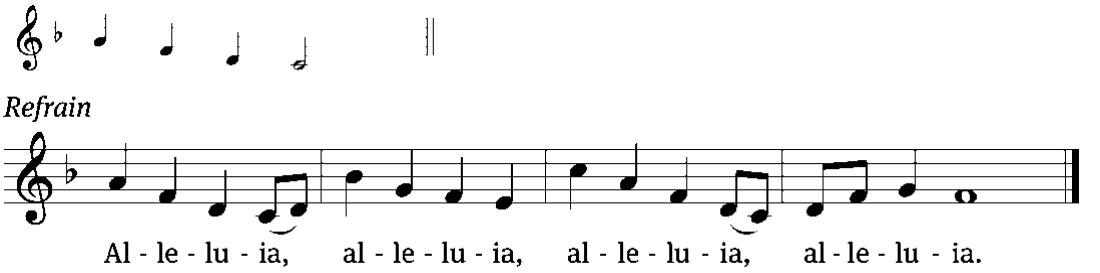
Second Reading *Romans 10:5-13*

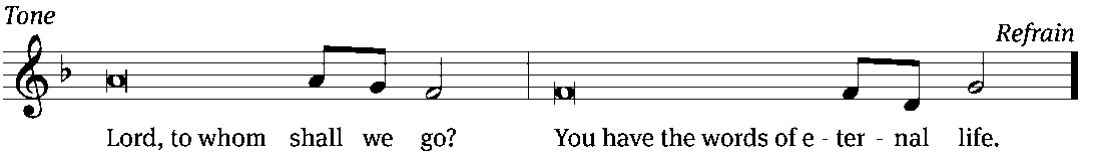
Those who believe that Jesus is both Lord and Savior will be saved.

[5]Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does
these things will live by them." [6]But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in
your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) [7]"or 'Who will
descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [8]But what does it say?
"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message
concerning faith that we proclaim: [9]If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and
believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10]For it is with
your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess
your faith and are saved. [11]As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be
put to shame." [12]For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is
Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, [13]for, "Everyone who calls on the name
of the Lord will be saved."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *John 6:68*





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Gospel (Sermon Text) ***Matthew 16:13-20***

The truth upon which God builds his Church is Jesus, the Son of the living God.

13When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do
people say the Son of Man is?"
14They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah
or one of the prophets."
15"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
16Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
17Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you
by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18And I tell you that you are Peter, and on
this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19I will give
you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20Then he ordered his
disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Hymn 563 **My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

Sermon **Who Do You Say Jesus Is?**

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

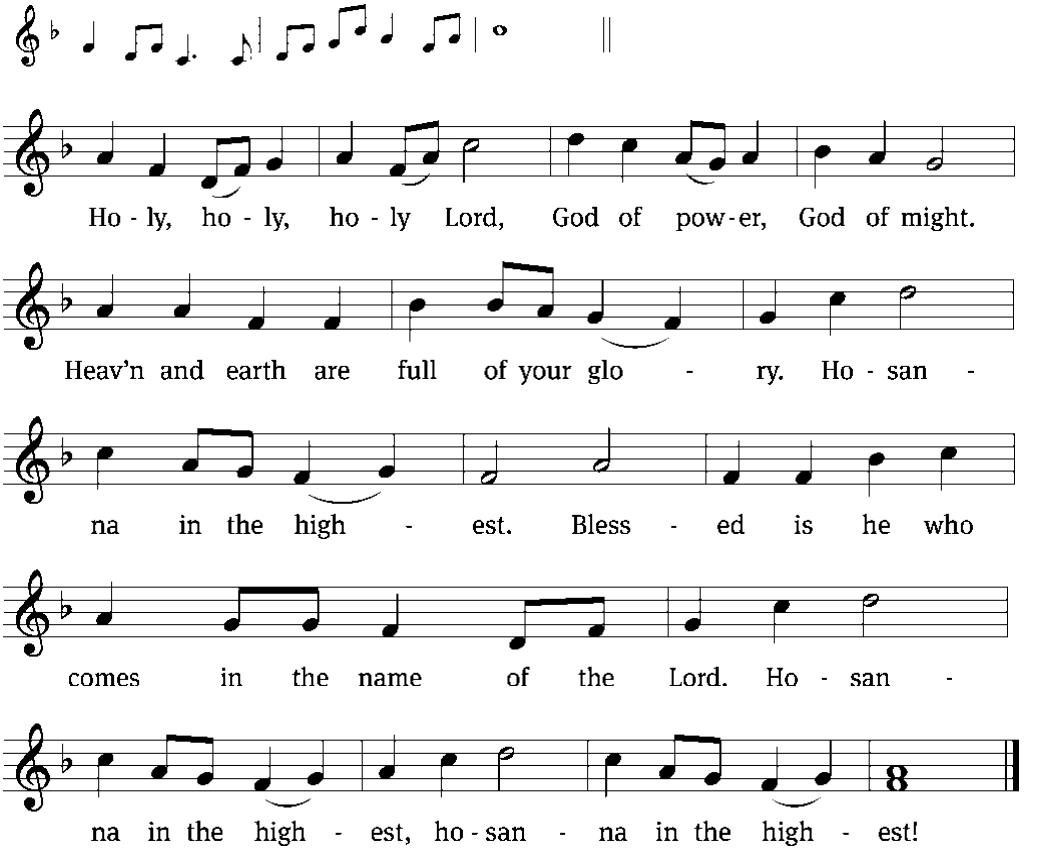
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

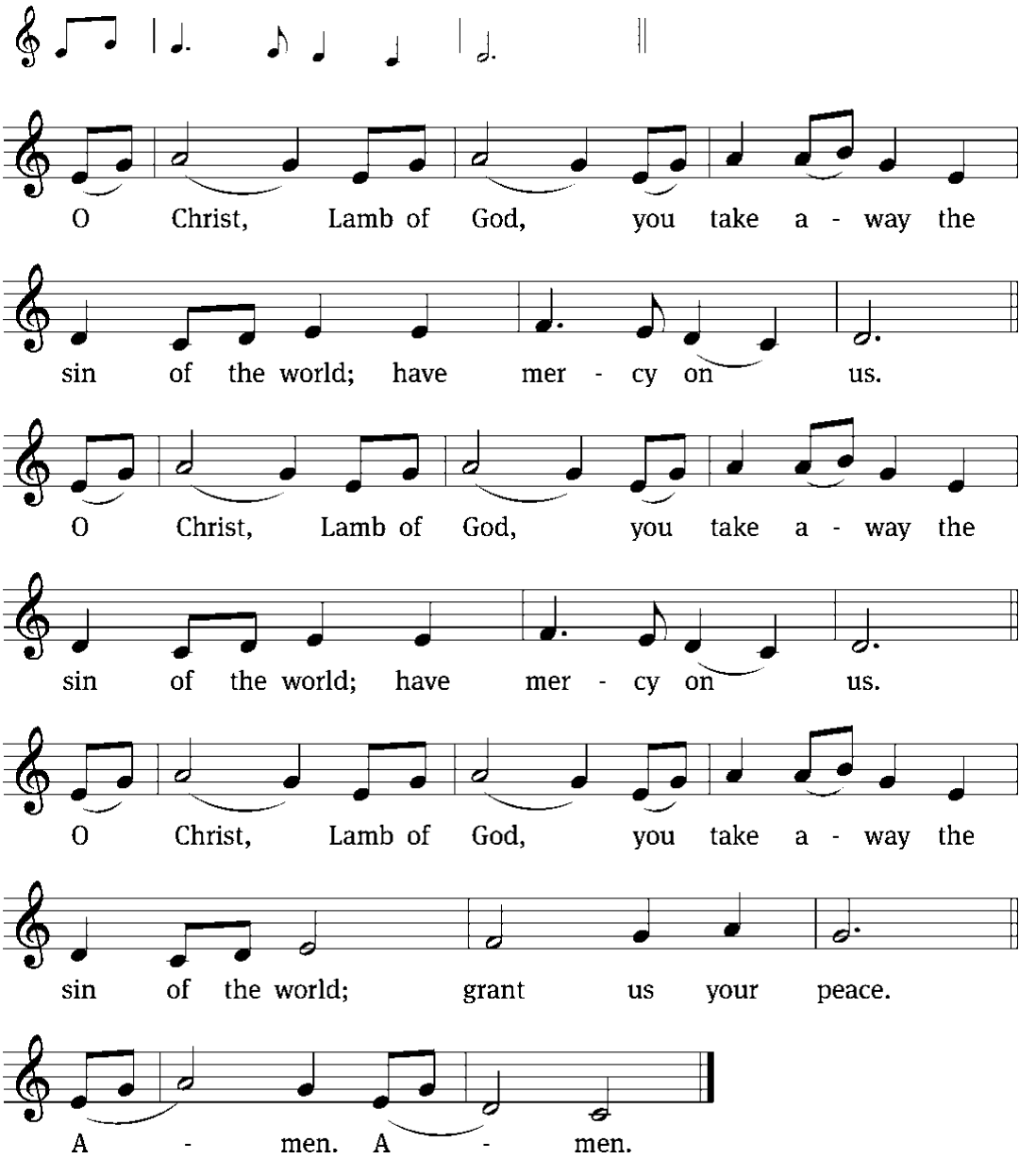
Words of Institution

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 510 — In Christ Alone

Distribution Hymn 861 — Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

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 519 **There Is a Redeemer**

In Our Prayers: May our gracious Lord continue to watch over **Tim Thiele** and **Tim Torgerson** who have come through surgeries this week. May our Lord richly bless all teachers and students and staff who are returning to school in the next days and weeks.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend – August 29 & 30**
Ushers	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Jim Fulmer **Late –** Toby Brandenstein	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Picnic –** Jason Cox **Picnic –** Todd Helwig
Greeters	**Early** –Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late** – Brenda Broege-Nagel	**Picnic –** Dave & Betty Reul, Joe & Jill Sharp, Eric & Beth Ziel
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Gary & Karen Haertel **Late** – Bob & Dorlene Schroeder	**Saturday** – Jon & Kessia Boche **Early –** Tim & Carolyn Thiele **Late** – Rudy & Chris Dovnik
Organist	Melody Ryan	Becky Aldinger
Special Music		
Flowers		
Projection	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Evan Bergh **Late** – Matthias Uttech	**Saturday** – Krista / Sam D'Amore
Sound	**Saturday** – Vickie Wilson **Early –** Julia Watson **Late** – Heather Bigelow	**Saturday** – Vickie Wilson
Livestream	Nathan Bergh	Mike Bouche (Saturday)

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 5:00 pm	Shorehaven Service Non School Catechism Meeting
Thursday	8:00 am 7:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Voter's Meeting
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	10:00 am	Church Picnic – ONE SERVICE ONLY

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."

Women in the Word New Bible Study:
Join us starting **Thursday, September 3 at 8:30 in the Gathering Space** for a new study **Equipped: The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles.** The devil works every day to turn us away from our faith. Sometimes it's not in grand, blatant temptations, but in small ones we encounter every day. The devil works through exhaustion, temptation, worry, frustration, and many other ways that are all daily occurrences. God gives us the strength and equips us to stand against the devil's schemes. We will take an in depth look at Ephesians 6 and discover how God equips us to battle against the devil.

Sunday Morning Bible Class New Bible Study:
Join us as we begin a new Bible study on **Sunday, Sept. 13 between services** in the Commons titled **God's Faithfulness**. A promise is only as good as the person making it and the ability to keep it. Eternity depends on God's promises made to us in his Word and his faithfulness in keeping those promises. We are lost for eternity without them. We'll take a look at God's promises throughout Scripture and his faithfulness to them both in the lives of those in the Bible and our lives.

Sunday School and Teen Study Resuming Soon!
Sunday School for children in PreK through 6th grade will resume on Sunday, September 13. Sunday School will once again study various Bible stories, using the Christ Light curriculum. Teen study will resume the same day and is for students in 7th through 12th grade. Teens will study Lutheran Worship, taking a look at our services from beginning to end and answer the question, "Why do we do that in worship?"

New Bible Information Class Starting
We are starting a new Bible Information Class "**Your Questions? God's Answers!"** on **Monday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Church Conference room. The class will run about 10 weeks. Should I come? If you are interested in exploring membership at St. Matthew's, *this class is designed for you!* If you have questions about God and the Bible and want to learn more, *this class is designed for you!* Contact Pastor Bigelow to register and we'll see you there!

Highlights and Announcements

Mediations Available
Meditations is an inspiring, personal devotional booklet offering daily Scripture based studies of God's Word. *Meditations* booklets can be found on the information table.

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.

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.

SHAPED TO SERVE – Discover How God Has Gifted You to Serve
Have you ever wondered how God has uniquely gifted you to serve? Use the QR Code to watch the video to find out! Then join our **Shaped to Serve Workshops** to discover your spiritual gifts, explore meaningful ways 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 | Small Chapel
Can't make September? A second workshop series will be offered **NOV. 8, 15 & 22. Sign up today at smls.org/events!** Question? Contact Eric Ziel or click **SHAPED Workshops** to learn more.

St. Matthew's Blood Drive - September 19
Give the gift of life! Join us for a blood drive on *Saturday September 19, 2026, from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM in the School Entry*. Your donation can make a life-saving difference—schedule your appointment today!

Preschool Power Hour Begins Sept. 9!
Come join us for Preschool Power Hour! This unique preschool program involves children ages 0-4 and their caregivers in a variety of learning activities. During each one-hour class the children enjoy a Bible lesson, music, large motor experiences, art exploration and centers time.

For children 18 months–4 years (infant siblings welcome free).
When: Wednesdays, 9–10 AM | **Fall:** Sept. 9- Nov. 4
Location: First Steps Childcare, Flex Room | **Cost:** $20/child for all 9 classes
REGISTER: https://smls.org/preschool-power-hour/
Miss a class? No problem! You're welcome to join us at any time during the session.
Questions? Contact Beth Plitzuweit

Sunday Child Care Volunteers
We are looking for volunteers to help with Sunday morning child care. Child care is for ages 0-3 while the parents attend Bible Class (9:15 - 10:15 a.m.). Child care is held in the 3K classroom and is led by two adults or one adult and one teenager. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Beth Plitzuweit.

Attention Music Lovers!
A new season of Handbell Choir is being prepared for the coming weeks. Please consider joining this special activity for praising God and edifying our worship services. Rehearsals are generally at **8 p.m. on Thursday evenings.** Contact Linda Smith or Jennifer in the office for more information.

Blue Butterfly Work Night: August 26
Please join us for our monthly Blue Butterfly Work Night on **August 26 from 5:30–7:00 PM**. Please contact Bev Fulmer by calling or text at 262-569-1969 to let her know you're coming.

Voter's Meeting
St. Matthew's members are invited to attend the Voters' Meeting on **Thursday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the Small Chapel.

ACTS Kickoff Event!
Calling all teens in 7th grade through high school! Join us on **Saturday, August 29, from 1:00–4:00 p.m.** for an afternoon of paddleboarding, kayaking, and swimming on Fowler Lake. We'll meet at the Spiegelbergs' home (559 Greenland Ave., Oconomowoc, WI 53066), begin with a short devotion, and then head out on the water. No gear is needed, we've got you covered. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Sign up online at **smsl.org/events**. Contact Joy Lenz or Heather Bigelow.

Senior Fellowship
Our Senior Fellowship group will meet on **Wednesday, September 2 and Wednesday, September 16** in the Gathering Area of the church. Please enter through the main church doors. We meet at **1:30 p.m.** and begin with an opening devotion, followed by cards and other games until 4:00 p.m. Come enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and time together with fellow Christians!
Questions? Contact **Dan Feuerstahler at 920-245-3006**.

Lutheran Boy Pioneers Registration is Open!
Boys in **grades 1–8** are invited to join Lutheran Boy Pioneers! Enjoy rockets, camping, fishing, cooking, crafts, the Pine Car Derby, and more while growing in faith through devotions and service. **Kick-Off:** September 8 at 6:30 p.m. at school. (New families are encouraged to have a parent attend.) **Register using the QR Code.**

Lutheran Girl Pioneers Registration is Open!
Registration for the 2026–2027 Lutheran Girl Pioneers program is now open for girls in **grades 1–8!** Girls grow in faith, character, and confidence through monthly meetings featuring hands-on activities, outdoor adventures, service projects, and devotions centered on God's Word. **Kick-Off:** September 8 at 6:30 p.m. at school. **Register using the QR Code—registration is open now and closes September 9!**

Men's Retreat: "Courage Under Fire"
Are you brave? Life can put us under fire. Where do we find the courage and strength to stand firm as godly men? Join us at the **3rd Annual Milwaukee Men of His Word Conference** on **Saturday, October 17** at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel. Hear from keynote speaker Pastor Michael Zarling, author of *Resisting the Dragon's Beast*, and worship with His Way Band.
To register go to https://mohwmke.zohobackstage.com/2026 and use code **COURAGE** for $10 off, expires AUG 31st.

Acknowledgments
Setting Four 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.

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SUNDAY: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Christian Education For All
SUNDAY 9:15 AM

Phone :

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School:	262.912.6364
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