

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Reformation Day

October 25, 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.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END – *It's Time to Stay Steadfast*

Jesus told his followers, "You will be hated by everyone because of me" (Matthew 10:22). So, the time between Christ's first and second coming is going to be perilous for believers. A good example: Martin Luther. All that priest wanted was to share the pure gospel with the world. For trying to do just that, both political and religious leaders wanted to end his life. The Festival of the Reformation emphasizes our unfailing reliance on the Word of God. We give unflinching testimony to that Word even in the face of persecution. Today we pray that the Lord would keep us steadfast in the faith.

The Order of Service is appropriate for day. 500 years ago, Martin Luther composed and arranged a new Deutche Messe – a German Order for Worship. The version we will follow today incorporates hymns and concepts for public worship from that service.

This weekend is Taste of Ministry Weekend for Seniors at Luther Prep. We welcome **Santiago De Santiago Garcia and Lorence Galloway** who will be participating in reading the Scriptures today. God's blessings on their continued studies.

Reminder: Next Saturday Daylight Savings ends. Set your clocks back 1 hour.

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.

Celebration of the Lutheran Reformation

October 25, 2026

Handbells **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

Hymn **My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**
Congregation v1,4; Choir v2-3

Invocation

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

Dialogue

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
One thing I ask of the LORD, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see
if there are any who understand, any who seek God.
All have turned aside, all have become corrupt;
there is no one who does good, not even one.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the LORD does not count against them.

I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths;
LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

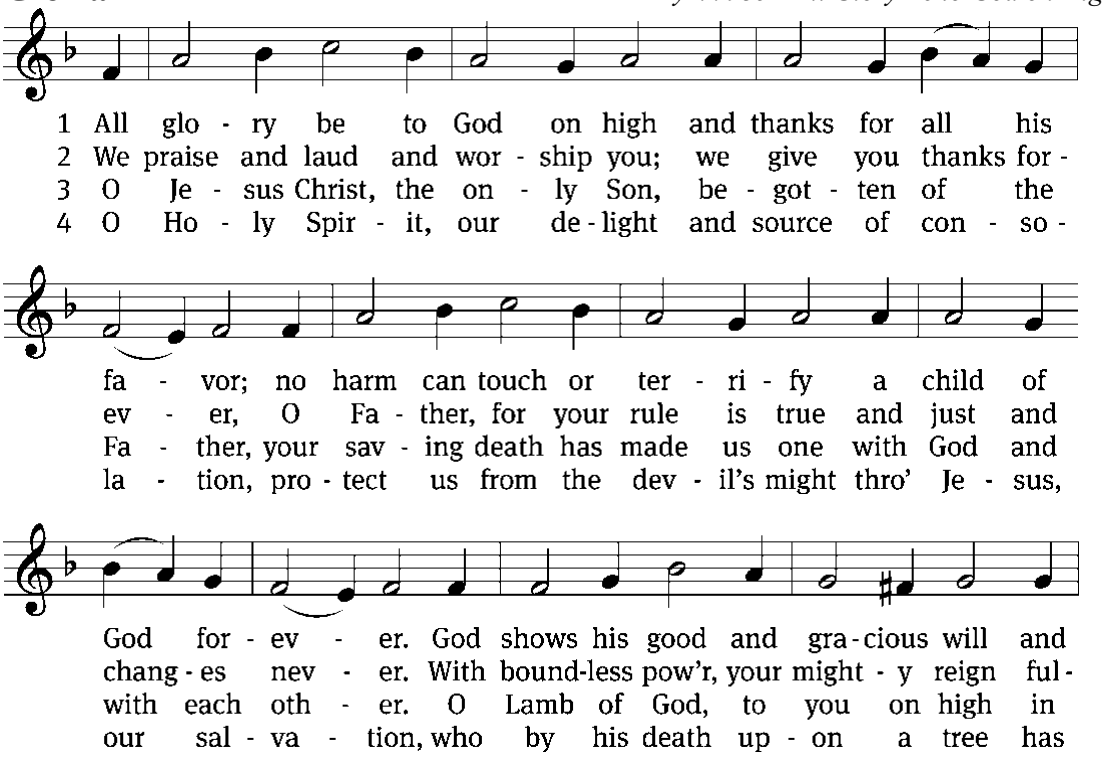
Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.

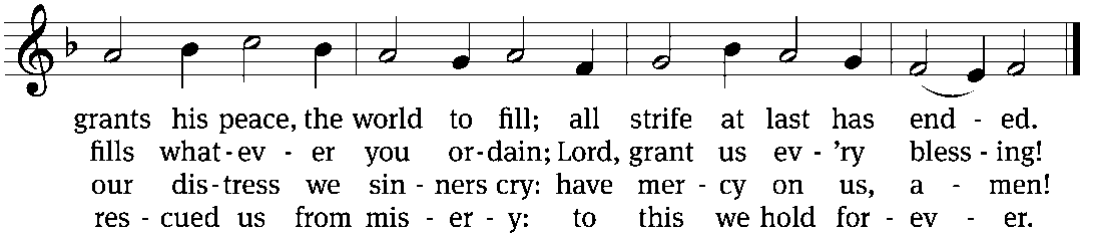
For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime.

I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

Gloria

Hymn 935 - All Glory Be to God on High





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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; 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 *(Sermon Text)* Daniel 6:10-12,16-23

Even though it potentially meant death by lion, Daniel demonstrated steadfast faith and prayed to the Lord.

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his
upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got
down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.
11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. 12 So
they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a
decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being
except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

16So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

17A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. 18Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

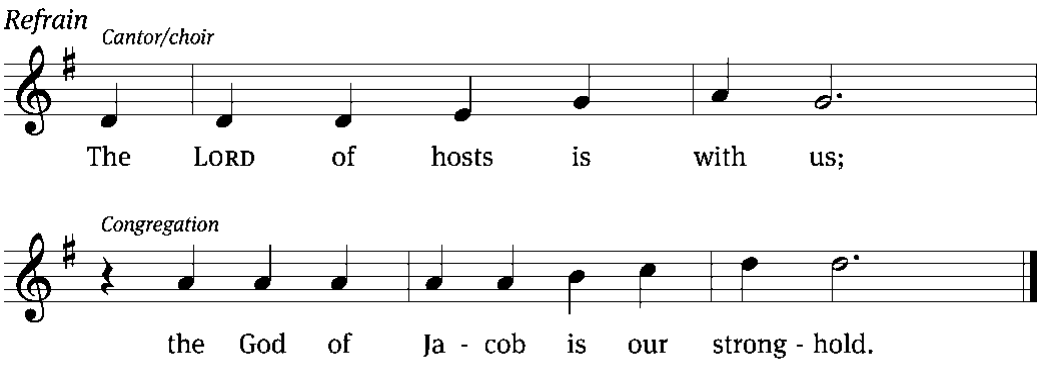
19At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. 20When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

21Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! 22My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

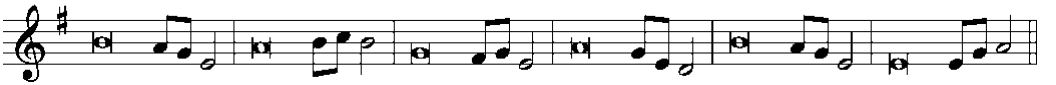
23The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46B — God Is Our Refuge and Strength



Tone



God is our ref- / uge and strength,
an ever-present help in / trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea,
though its waters / roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their / surging. *Refrain*

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- / y of God,
the holy place where the Most / High dwells.
God is within her, she / will not fall;
God will help her at / break of day.
Nations are in uproar, / kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the / earth melts. *Refrain*

Come and see what the / LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought / on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the ends / of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the / shields with fire.
He says, "Be still, and know that / I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth." *Refrain*

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Second Reading ***Romans 3:19-28***

God justifies those who have been given the gift of steadfast faith in Jesus.

[19]Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. [20]Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

[21]But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. [22]This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, [23]for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24]and all are justified freely by his grace through

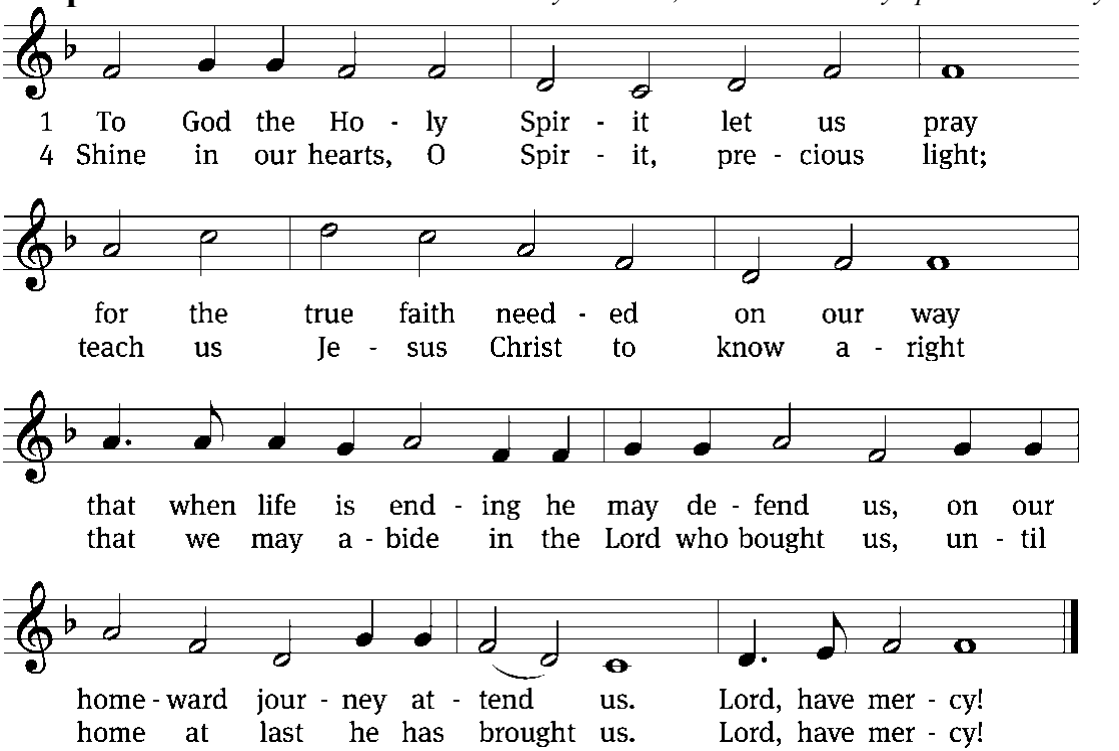
the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. [25]God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— [26]he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

[27]Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. [28]For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Hymn 596:1,4 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray



Text: tr. Worship Supplement, 1969, alt.; (st. 1): German, c. 13th cent.; (st. 4): Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter
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Gospel *Matthew 10:16-23*

The Lord keeps us steadfast and faithful through times of persecution.

16"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes
and as innocent as doves. 17Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local
councils and be flogged in the synagogues. 18On my account you will be brought before
governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. 19But when they arrest you,
do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to
say, 20for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.
21"Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against
their parents and have them put to death. 22You will be hated by everyone because of me,
but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 23When you are persecuted in one
place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of
Israel before the Son of Man comes.

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

Anthem **Our Hope Alone Is You**

Choir

Hymn 863 **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

Sermon ***Stand Steadfast and Faithful in the Face of Dens and Decrees***

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 Lord's Prayer

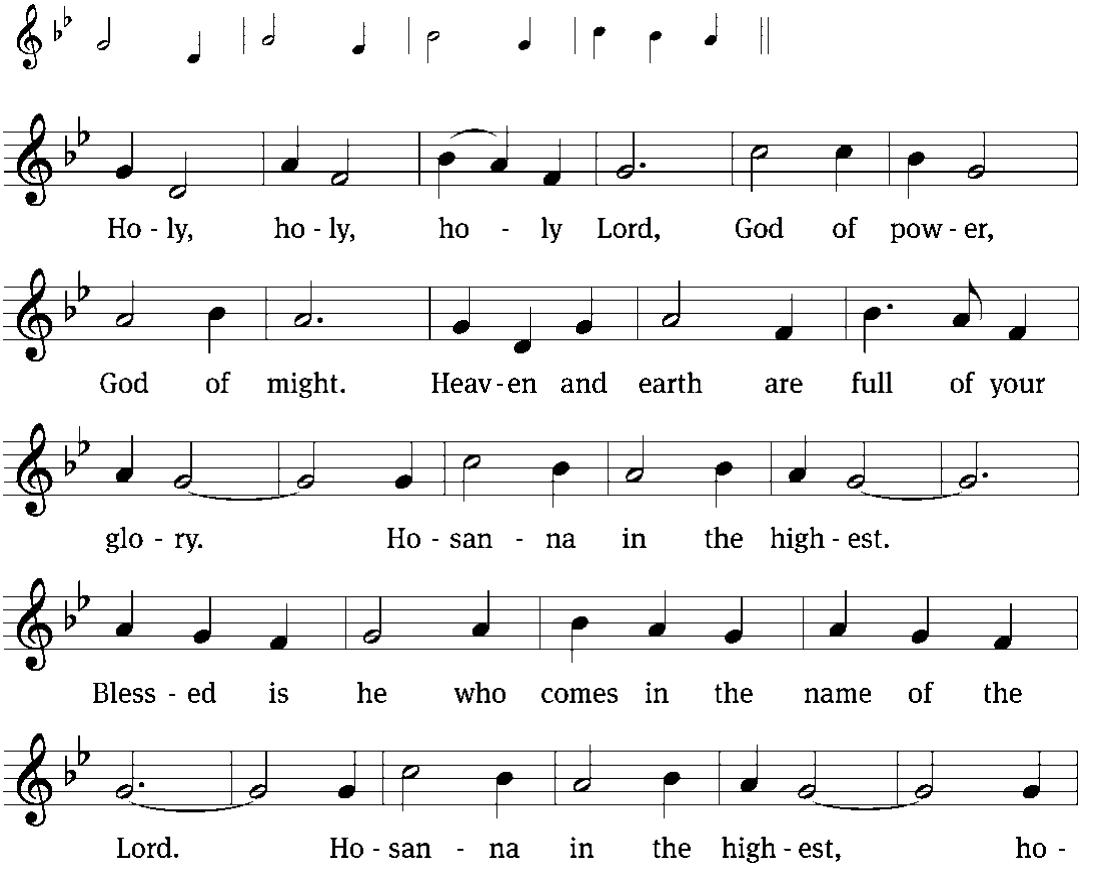
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours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

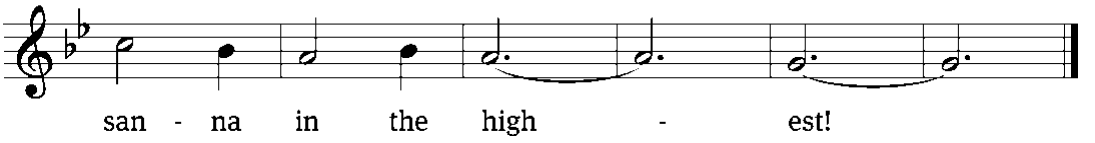
The Sacrament

Exhortation

Our Lord Jesus has given us a Holy Supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper, we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the followship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. Let us celebrate and receive this Sacrament in Christ's name and according to his command.

Holy, Holy, Holy





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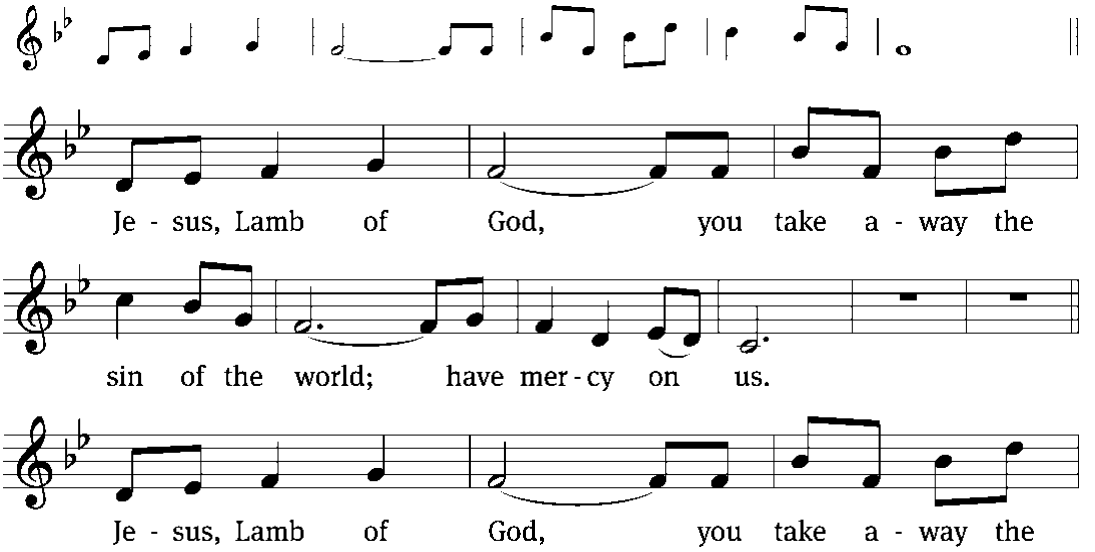
Words of Institution

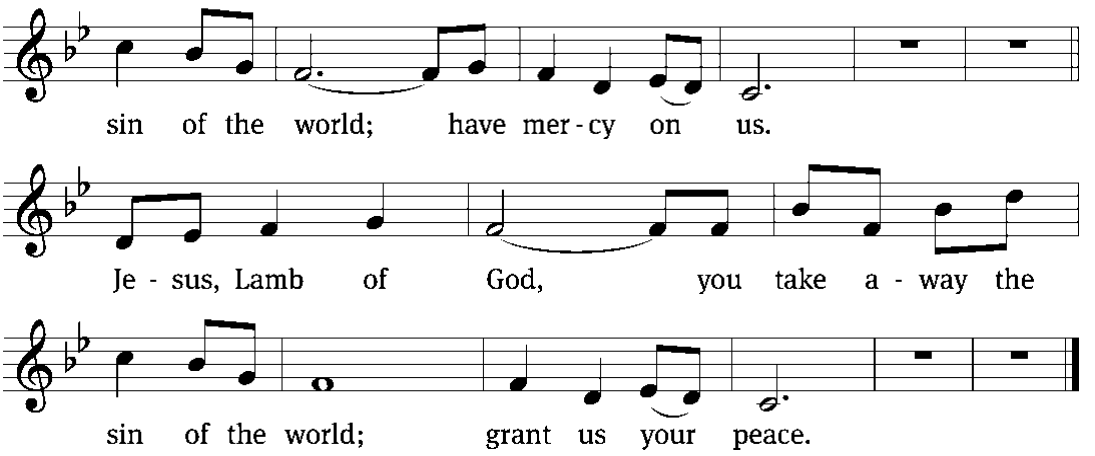
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.

Jesus, 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 855 — The Church's One Foundation

Distribution Hymn 867 — Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

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 and Proclamation

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 640 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

Prayers: God's peace and comfort be with the family of **Tyler Dorbritz whose father, Helmut Dorbritz** was called home to heaven this past week.

St. Matthew's Calls Issued

Last Sunday, St. Matthew's issued three divine calls. Please keep these three people in your prayers as they consider where they may serve in the Lord's kingdom.

1) **Miss Alexandria Conrad – 2nd Grade.** Miss Conrad currently serves at Immanuel Lutheran School in Manitowoc, WI.
2) **Miss Anna Hemmelman – 4th Grade.** Miss Hemmelman currently serves at Gethsemane Lutheran School in Omaha, NE.
3) **Mr. Kevin Bode - Music Coordinator.** Mr. Bode currently serves at Emmanuel Lutheran School in Tempe, AZ.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study at 9:15am
Our Adult Bible class is entitled, **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 examine God's promises in Scripture and his faithfulness to them both in the lives of those in the Bible and our lives.

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 – Thursdays at 8:30am
Join us **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 School and Teen Study at 9:15am
Sunday School is once again studying various Bible stories, using the Christ Light curriculum. Parents, please drop off your children in the sanctuary at 9:15am. You can pick up your children in their respective classrooms. Teen study is not meeting today. Teens are encouraged to attend the Adult Bible Study in the school commons.

TWO New Bible Information Classes Underway
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 and Pastor Hillmer to register and we'll see you there!

1) Monday's at 6:30pm – join Pastor Bigelow in the Church Conference room.
2) Wednesday's at 6:30pm – Join Pastor Hillmer in the Church Conference room.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY:
Wednesdays - OCT 28 & NOV 11 | 6:30PM | Gathering Space
Women's Ministry invites all women of St. Matt's (and their friends) to join us for *Bad Girls of the Bible: And What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs. Each session explores a different "bad girl" from the Bible. On October 28, we'll discuss Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39. Books are available in the church office for $5. Come as you are and see what we can learn as we read from God's Word about these women and apply it to our lives. Hope to see you there!

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** Oct 31 & Nov 1
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Eric Wegner **Late –** Eric Ziel	**Saturday –** Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Tim Taubenheim **Late –** Andy Rosenau
Greeters	**Early** – Dave & Betty Reul **Late** – Andy & Carrie Rosenau	**Early** – Curt Delie & Mary Beth Williams **Late** – Eric & Beth Ziel
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Jim & Karen Spiegelberg **Early –** Tim & Carolyn Thiele **Late –** Jon & Ginny Kehren	**Saturday** – Dwight & Janet Sandvold **Early –** Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late –** David & LeeAndra Dodge
Organist	Melody Ryan	Char Bouche
Special Music	Handbells & Choir	Rejoice!
Flowers		Mark & Linda Smith – Bob Peregrine Birthday
Projection	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Dan Metzger **Late –** Toby Brandenstein	**Saturday** – Krista/Sam D'Amore **Early –** Ethan Bergh **Late –** Kendar Lauersdorf
Sound	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Karen Haertel **Late –** Heather Bigelow	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Joel Aldinger **Late –** Rik Krahn
Livestream	Jason Cox	Nathan Bergh

This Week at St. Matthew's		
Saturday	5:30 pm	Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 6:30 pm	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 20/30's Bible Study Laudate Dominum Rehearsal
Monday	6:30 pm	Bible Information Class
Tuesday	7:45 am	Grounded in God
Wednesday	10:00 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Shorehaven Service Non School Catechism Bible Information Class Women's Bible Study
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Rejoice! Choir Handbell Choir / Men's Choir
Saturday	10:00 am 5:30 pm	Trunk or Treat Worship Service DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 6:30 pm	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School, Teen Bible Study Laudate Dominum Rehearsal

Highlights and Announcements

2026 Area Reformation Service
Join us for the 2026 Area Reformation Service on **Sunday, October 25, at 4:00 p.m. at Lakeside Lutheran High School in the West Gym.**
This year, we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's The Bondage of the Will. Come worship together as we reflect on God's grace and the truths of the Reformation.

20s/30s Sunday Bible Study
A new monthly Sunday Bible study this fall for adults in their 20s and 30s!
Join us between services in the School Library on **Oct. 25, and Nov. 29** as we spend time in God's Word and connect with others in the same stage of life. We'll explore *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?: 12 False Christs* and consider who Jesus truly is.

9th Annual Trunk or Treat
Saturday, October 31 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Join us for a morning of free family fun—door prizes, a photo booth, coffee, snacks, a petting zoo, and trunk or treating! Together we can make this community event a success!
How you can HELP - Sign Up Today to Donate Snacks/Treats or Decorate a Trunk!

Kids Winter Coat Drive: Help keep kids warm!
Cold weather will be here before we know it! As you're cleaning out closets and finding children's winter coats and gear that no longer fit, consider donating them to our **Kids Coat Drive** from **OCT 19–NOV 1** to support **New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers**.

SHINE Activities Team is collecting new or gently used washed children's:
Jackets & Coats | Hats | Gloves & Mittens in sizes **2T–Youth XL.**

Donation boxes will be available at **St. Matthew's Church, School, and First Steps**. *Thank you for helping provide warm winter clothing to children in need!*

St. Matthew's Blood Drive - November 14
Give the gift of life! Join us for a blood drive on *Saturday November 14, 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! Please use the QR code to register or you may contact Jennifer in the church office at 262-912-6350 or jmanssen@smls.org.

ACTS Teen Movie Night
Join ACTS for a fun evening of movies, tacos, and fellowship on **Saturday, November 7, from 5–8 PM** at the Jump's House! We'll make tacos together, and each teen is asked to bring a side dish to share. Come ready for a great night of food, friends, and fun! **SIGN UP TODAY!**

Save the Date: Advent by Candlelight - *Questions of Christmas*
Join us **Sunday, November 29, at 3:00 PM for *Questions of Christmas*,** an afternoon of reflection and fellowship as we explore the familiar moments of the Christmas story and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Table decorations will be provided, and bringing a dessert to share is completely optional. Simply register by NOV 15 and come enjoy this special time together! Register at smls.org/events.

Fall Landscaping Cleanup – Brown Street Campus
Please join us **November 7, 9 AM–Noon** as we prepare the Brown Street campus landscape for winter. Bring gloves, rakes, garden clippers, and weeding tools. An alternate date will be selected if weather interferes (hopefully no snow!). Questions? Contact Debby Kuklinski at 414-520-6642.

Elegant Farmer Pie Sale
Score big at your Thanksgiving table and support the Cardinals! St. Matthew's School is partnering with The Elegant Farmer to offer their famous baked-in-a-bag pies and other seasonal goodies, with $7 from every item purchased going directly toward new Physical Education equipment! Order online now through November 1.
Scan the QR code to see the available items and place your order.

NEW! Women's Basketball
SHINE is offering a new opportunity for women to get together for basketball! Join us **Thursdays beginning November 5 from 6:00–8:00 PM in the gym.** *All skill levels are welcome!* Bring a friend and come join the fun! Questions? Contact Stephanie Ryan at stephanie.koch.dpt@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars: Annual Soups & Sweets Fundraiser!
Join us **November 21 & 22 after services in the Commons** for our annual Soups & Sweets Fundraiser, hosted by the SHINE Activities Team! Take home and enjoy homemade soups, baked goods, and handmade crafts. Proceeds will support the church's historical timeline wall. *Members are invited to donate soups, baked goods, snacks, or handmade crafts. **Soup containers and copies of the donation information are now available in the Gathering Space and at First Steps.** Donations can be dropped off at church on Saturday morning, November 21. *Monetary donations will also be accepted throughout the month of November.*



Acknowledgments
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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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FIRST STEPS
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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

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