

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheets which are located on the outside aisle of each pew. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: Scripture promises us that where two or three are gathered in God's name, God promises to be present. Trusting these words this morning we gather in the name of the Father, Son (✠), and Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P: Merciful God. **C: Amen.**

C: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by throwing mud at our enemies, calling each other names, and being so proud we become sore losers. We turn away from your love by excluding others from our play, not sharing our toys, and being too busy to care for those who have fallen. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your radical love, forgive us for our fear of failure, help us to trust you as we see from a new point of view, lead us to dream big, and show us new possibilities, that we may seek to live hand in hand as one family and walk, cartwheel, and run in your ways, to the joy of your holy name. Amen.

P: Hear the good news!

Christ is the one who is in a position to blame, but instead died for us, rose for us, and prays for us. God has changed the rules of life; Our life is no longer about getting the most points or winning the most trophies; it is about unconditional and extraordinary love. God has begun something new in us. Know that because of God's love for you; you are forgiven and sent out to play in peace. **C: Amen.**

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

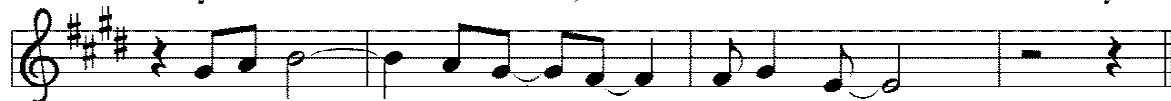
*KYRIE

S184



Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



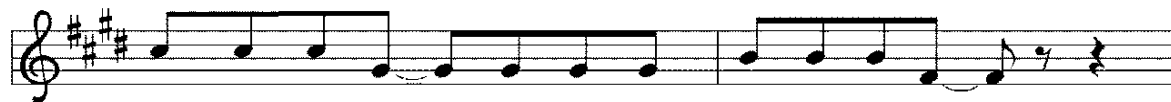
Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: *Let us pray* ... Let us pray. Gracious God, in the midst of mountains and life-giving streams you gather us. By our time together in word and sacrament, prepare us to go out from behind these walls to witness to your Spirit and unconditional love. Guide us in joy by your presence to tell the good news across these Allegheny hills and valleys, in Jesus' name. C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 (read responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel: John 10:1-10**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

***SONG**

I Just Wanna Be a Sheep

(Chorus):

I just wanna be a sheep! Baa! Baa! Baa! Baa!

I just wanna be a sheep! Baa! Baa! Baa! Baa!

And I pray to the Lord my soul to keep!

I just wanna be a sheep! Baa! Baa! Baa! Baa!

I don't wanna be a Pharisee,

I don't wanna be a Pharisee,

For they really weren't fair you see!

I just wanna be a sheep! Baa! Baa! Baa! Baa! (Chorus)

I don't wanna be a Sadducee...(For they really were sad you see)

I don't want to be a Hypocrite... (They're really not hip with it)

I don't want to be from Babylon... (They just babble on and on...) (Chorus)

***[CREED] I Believe, I do Believe**

(Chorus): I believe I do believe, truly I believe it, Truly I believe it, truly I believe it
(2x)

I believe in God the Almighty Lord Creator Mighty Lord Creator, mighty Lord
Creator (2x)

(Chorus) I believe in Jesus the Savior of the people Savior of the people, Savior of
the people (2x)

(Chorus) And I do believe in the power of the Spirit Power of the Spirit, power of the
Spirit (2x) (Chorus)

John Ylvisaker, © 1989 New Generation Publishers PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED COMM

***PRAYERS OF THE GATHERED COMMUNITY**

A: Fearless and faithful, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A: God, you call us into your church to be the body of Christ in the world. Let us
value every knee and elbow and mend every break and bruise. Lord in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: God, you created a world of wonders and know each bug and blade of grass. Make
us good caretakers as we use and share the resources you have entrusted to us.
Lord in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: God, you teach us mercy and justice. Raise up leaders who follow your way of
caring for the least, lost, and lowly, and let the world know you through our love.
Lord in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: God, you love and care for each of us even and especially when we have special
needs. For your children who are ill or injured, un- or underemployed, or suffering
in mind or spirit, and for those who concern us most whom we name before you
now....we ask for healing and wholeness. Lord in your mercy, **C: hear our
prayer.**

A: God, you walk with us all of our days and welcome us into the day that never
darkens. Give us the strength to follow the example of your saints who have gone
before us until we join them and you in life that has no end. Lord in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: All this and every other thing you know we need we trust to your merciful
goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting
that is comfortable for both you and them.*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

A: Let us pray ... God, you give us every good thing; all we are and all we have are gifts from you. Remind us to say “please” and “thank you”. Teach us to share. Open our hands to feed the world as you feed us with the bread of life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE**

P: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator of wonders beyond our galaxy. You formed us in your image, placing us in this world to love and serve you and to live in peace with your whole creation. Through scripture and your Son you have shown us how to live as one family. Your signs and witnesses in every age lead people from every time and place to worship you.

*SANCTUS

You Are Holy

ELW # 525



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

* May be sung in canon.

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling

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***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: O God, from the very beginning you dwell in creation. Your fingerprints cover everything, everyone, everywhere. Wherever we look you are there! You dwell in tents, temples, mosques, and churches. Your song of love is carried on the wind around the world.

In Christ, you came to earth as the most vulnerable among us to live in your creation and play with your people. You came to share our joys and our sorrows. You promised to be here for all our tomorrows. In this holy meal, Jesus you bound us to you forever.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension, you found one more way to be with us forever. By the gift of the Holy Spirit you have come to journey with us. Your Spirit flows through the young whose lives are a mystery and the old who yearn for your face, continuing the song you began at creation. You call us to be light to the whole human race. Guide us to trust your promise of love and presence in our lives. Reassure us that your grace has changed us — a grace that changes everything. As we are nourished at this table by this holy meal, strengthen us through the Holy Spirit for the week ahead and unite us as your people. **C: Amen.**

P: In thanksgiving for your teaching, we pray as your disciples:

***LORD'S PRAYER (sung)**

Our Father (echo)

Who art in heaven (echo)

Hallowed be thy name. (echo)

Thy kingdom come (echo)

Thy will be done (echo)

On earth (echo)

As in heaven (echo)

And give us this day (echo)

Our daily bread (echo)

And forgive us our sins (echo)

As we forgive (echo)

And lead us not (echo)

Into temptation (echo)

But deliver us (echo)

From evil (echo)

For thine is the kingdom (echo)

And the power and the glory (echo)

Forever (echo)

And ever. (echo)

Our Father (echo)

Who art in heaven (echo)

Hallowed be thy name. (echo)

Together: Amen

***INVITATION**

P: Through this meal, God fills our cup to overflowing. All are welcome to God's table where we are nourished to live as a community in faith, hope, and love.

Come, receive the gifts of God for the people of God. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE AGNUS DEIO Lamb of God, to Earth You Came*

OLS # 7

1 O Lamb of God, to earth you came to
 2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to
 save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
 us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from
 on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Agnus Dei
 Music: THE SUFFOLK MIRACLE, Appalachian traditional
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DISTRIBUTION***BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray... Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have united us as your family and energized us. Give us grace that in everything we do, our work and our play, our rest and our fellowship, we may strive to reflect your love and your will in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P: May the Lord bless you with strength and courage. May the Lord give you vision and hope. May the Lord send you out in peace and lead you home in joy. In the name of the Father, Son (✠), and Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

SENDING SONGHere I Am, Lord*

ELW # 574

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and
that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Charles Kreider from Janet Kreider and family.

Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on Thursdays, May 4 and May 18 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Those helping on these Thursdays will be from the Martinsburg Church of God besides the regular volunteers.

Following are items most needed for May: Scalloped Potatoes, Macaroni, Tomato Sauce, Fruit and Cleaning Supplies. *Linda K. Smith*

Council Secretary is needed for Council meetings. Council meets via Zoom or in the Window Room once a month on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Please consider filling this position that is required in our Constitution and By Laws.

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Lori/Laura/Volunteers – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – Camp Sunday

Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Monday – Worship & Music Meeting, via Zoom & Window Room

Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Synod Spring Caucus, Lutheran Home, Hollidaysburg 6:30 a.m.

Friday - Sequanota Spring Benefit Dinner, 4:45 at Sequanota

Saturday - Sequanota Spring Work Day, 9:00 a.m. Sequanota

Sunday – Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

This Camp Sunday we welcome Hanna Weimer, Program and Marketing Director of Camp Sequanota. Hanna grew up in Rockwood, PA and is a graduate of IUP. Following several years teaching in Virginia and serving as a summer staffer at Sequanota, Hanna joined Camp's year-round staff. She also directs the pre-school at Laurel Trinity Lutheran in Jennerstown. We thank Hanna for sharing her passion for outdoor ministry with us this morning.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Doris Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Hunter Klotz, Darren Kreutzer, Dave & Linda Lehman, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Marlene Marquardt, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Dan & Jean Sinal, Cindy Thomas, Lori Tremmel, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Organist – Mary Nelson

Our Missionary Family – On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orzeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Lector – Mary Baker

Our Acolyte – Gabby Decker

Our Assisting Minister – Mike Lamborn

Our Altar Guild – Jackie Lightner, Tina Harclerode, Jane Fagans

Our Usher – Steve Oswalt

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Youth & Camping”

Third Century Fund (Endowment Fund)

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2022 and as a result has \$6,056.37 for distribution in 2023. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting one of the committee members: Beth Garner, Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 28, 2023. Funds will be distributed in June 2023.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

PURPOSE

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as, Cash, Securities, Bequests through wills or living trusts, Life insurance policies, charitable gift annuity and Life estates.

The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and Music - support for the worship of St, Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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*SENDING SONG

Here I Am, Lord

ELW # 574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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