

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. 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

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, †Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **C: Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

Lord of All Hopefulness

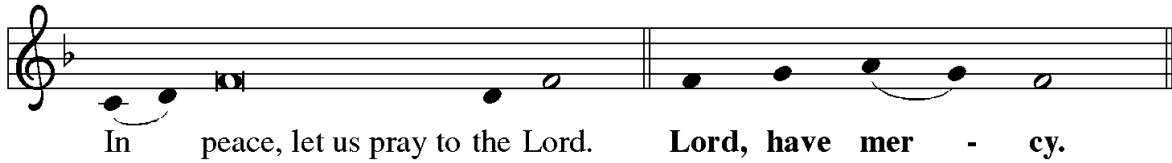
ELW # 765

***GREETING**

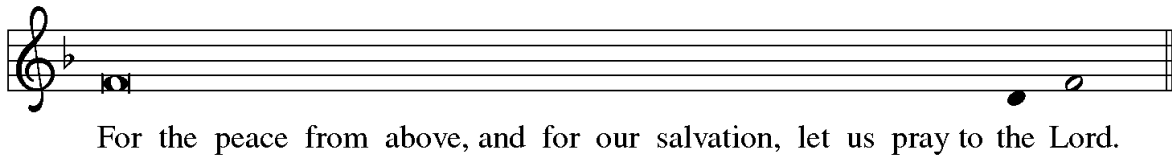
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

***KYRIE**

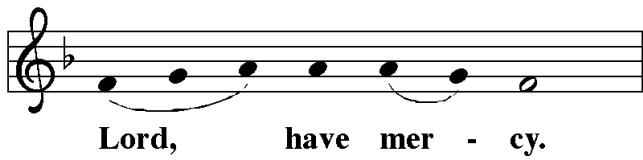
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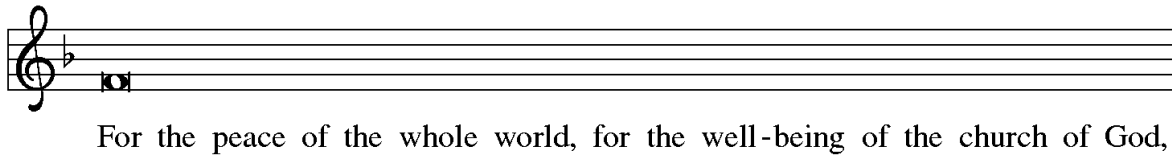
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



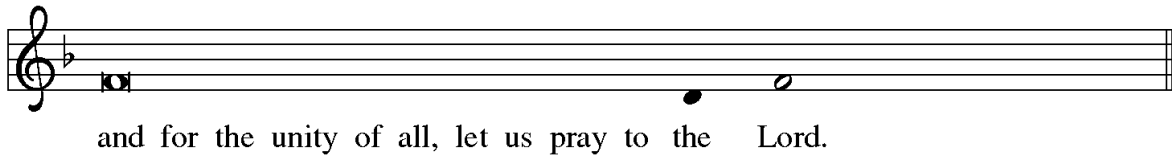
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



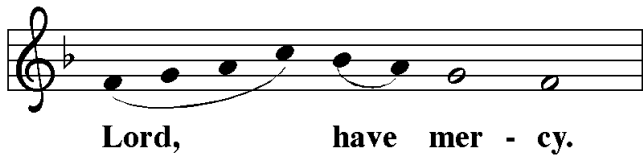
Lord, have mer - cy.



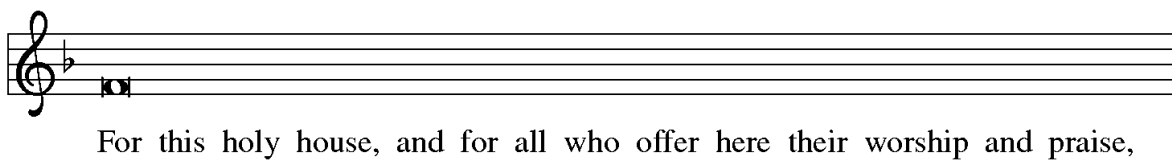
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



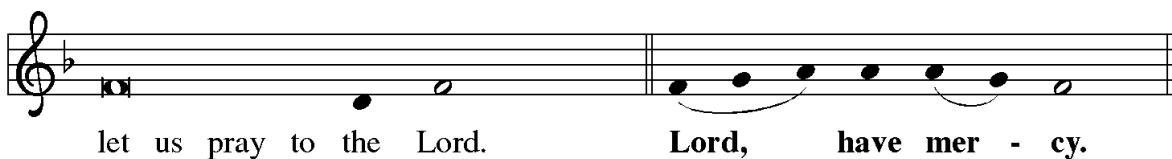
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



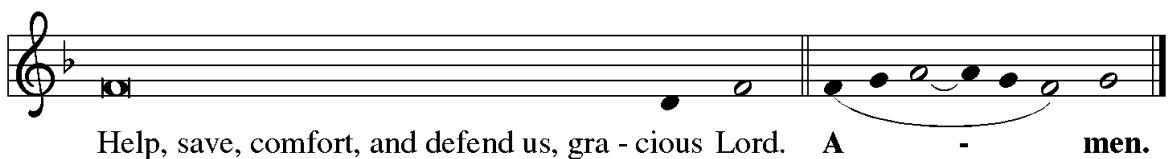
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Assisting minister



A single musical staff in G major, 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody begins with a whole rest on the first beat, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



A single musical staff in G major, 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note G3.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



A single musical staff in G major, 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody continues with a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4, a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note G2.

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



A single musical staff in G major, 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody continues with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, a quarter note A1, and a quarter note G1.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



A single musical staff in G major, 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody continues with a quarter note G1, a quarter note A1, a quarter note B1, a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, a quarter note A1, a quarter note G1, a quarter note F1, a quarter note E1, a quarter note D1, a quarter note C1, a quarter note B0, a quarter note A0, and a quarter note G0.

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



A single musical staff in G major, 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody continues with a quarter note G0, a quarter note A0, a quarter note B0, a quarter note C1, a quarter note B0, a quarter note A0, a quarter note G0, a quarter note F0, a quarter note E0, a quarter note D0, a quarter note C0, a quarter note B-1, a quarter note A-1, and a quarter note G-1.

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



A single musical staff in G major, 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody continues with a quarter note G-1, a quarter note A-1, a quarter note B-1, a quarter note C1, a quarter note B-1, a quarter note A-1, a quarter note G-1, a quarter note F-1, a quarter note E-1, a quarter note D-1, a quarter note C-1, a quarter note B-2, a quarter note A-2, and a quarter note G-2.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



A single musical staff in G major, 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody continues with a quarter note G-2, a quarter note A-2, a quarter note B-2, a quarter note C2, a quarter note B-2, a quarter note A-2, a quarter note G-2, a quarter note F-2, a quarter note E-2, a quarter note D-2, a quarter note C-2, a quarter note B-3, a quarter note A-3, and a quarter note G-3.

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



A single musical staff in G major, 4/4 time, with a treble clef. The melody continues with a quarter note G-3, a quarter note A-3, a quarter note B-3, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B-3, a quarter note A-3, a quarter note G-3, a quarter note F-3, a quarter note E-3, a quarter note D-3, a quarter note C-3, a quarter note B-4, a quarter note A-4, and a quarter note G-4.

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: EXODUS 12:1-14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

PSALM 149 (*read responsively*)

¹Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

²**Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.**

³Let them praise their maker's name with dancing; let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.

⁴**For the LORD takes pleasure in the people and adorns the poor with victory.**

⁵Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them sing for joy on their beds.

⁶**Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand,**

⁷to wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

⁸**to bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron,**

⁹to inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all God's faithful ones.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

ELW # 656

***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

***C:* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A: Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God, ***C:* receive our prayer.**

A: Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.
C: Amen.

***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 of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C: Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW # S144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

ELW # S144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 for 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C Amen.**

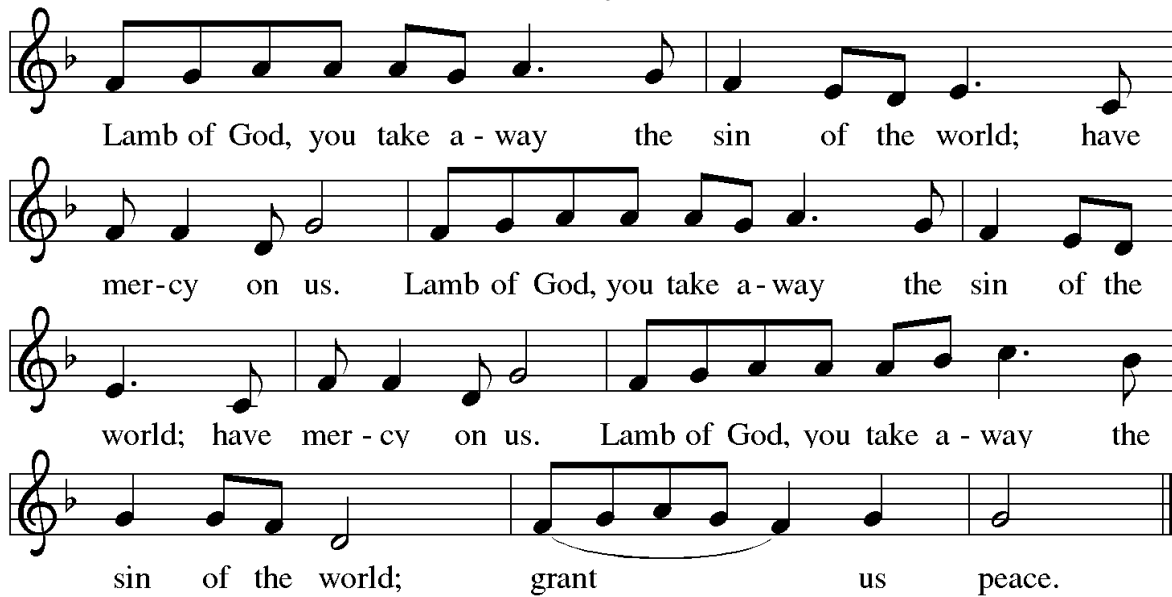
***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***C:* 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

THE AGNUS DEILamb of God*

ELW # S146



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

***INVITATION**

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

COMMUNION HYMN*Lamb of God*

ELW # 336

***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... Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **C: Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

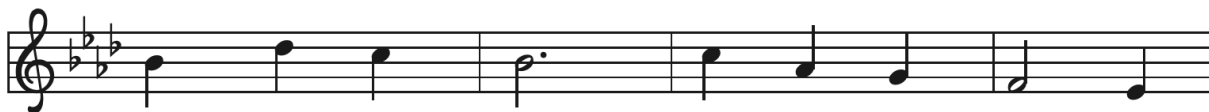
P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
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***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **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 by Jean Sinal in honor of the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Department, and in Remembrance of 343 FDNY 9/11/01.

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 – Leslie Hand, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Martie Gilbert

Our Lector – Kaye Burket

Our Usher – Martie Gilbert

Our Altar Guild – Cindy Snyder and Jeannie Smith

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*OEW and Missionaries*”

Church Messenger

The September 2023 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

Share the Harvest



The “Share the Harvest” table is up and running. In the months to come, if you have extra fruit or vegetables to share with members of the congregation, please bring your items and place them on a table in the Narthex. Members will be able to help themselves to items as desired. Any remaining produce after Sunday morning will be given away at the discretion of the donor. *“Let us share God’s harvest with others.”*

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from the Martinsburg Mennonite Church will be helping to distribute food on Thursday, September 21st from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. along with the regular volunteers. If anyone harvests more vegetables or fruit than can be used, we will welcome it on the dates it is open!

Items most needed for September: Cereal, Ravioli, Mashed Potatoes, Tomato Sauce, Kidney Beans. Many thanks for all your donations!

Many thanks for your donations! Linda Smith

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Lori – Tues. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – *Happy Grandparents Day*

Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

“God’s Work, Our Hands” Event following worship, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday - Council Meeting, Window Room & Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday - Yoga, Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.

Thursday - Civic Life & Faith, St. Matthew, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.

Sunday – Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Our Administrative Assistant, Loretta (Lori) Tremmel, is retiring effective September 15, 2023. The Congregational Council has accepted her request. On Sunday, September 24, 2023, Pastor Traci and members of St. Matthew will recognize Lori’s faithful employment since November 1993. May God bless her retirement years with health and enjoyment.

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, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Ted Chipperfield, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Doris Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Kay McGraw, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Tim Wilson, Pat Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our

Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings.

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Jeff Hoenstine.

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

Study on the ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life & Faith

The ELCA addresses contemporary social issues and seeks to offer theologically informed guidance regarding the questions of modern life through documents called *Social Statements*. The whole church helps author these statements through studies and feedback gathered as they are being written; social statements are then adopted by the Churchwide Assembly. We are currently in the study and feedback phase of a social statement that will speak to the intersection of the Church and civic life. What are our responsibilities as Christian disciples in a democracy?

Please join Pastors Traci, Amanda, and MartyJo and the area Lutheran churches for this six-week study on Civic Life & Faith. We will meet on Thursdays at 7PM with light refreshments:

September 14th: St. Matthew, Martinsburg

September 21st: St. Luke, Roaring Spring

If you can't attend every week, please join us for the weeks you're available. At the end of our study, we will provide feedback to the Churchwide task force.

Young at Heart Dinner

Our "Young at Heart" folks from the Allegheny Lutheran Home, Homewood, and The Village at Morrisons Cove, along with members of St. Matthew, are invited to the Young at Heart Luncheon on Tuesday, September 26, in St. Matthew's fellowship hall. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. Reservations are due by September 22. Please sign the sheet posted in the narthex or contact the church office at 793-2413 to make your reservation.



LAY VISITATION TRAINING

Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg
916 Hickory St., Hollidaysburg



Answering a call to minister with others can be challenging even when they may have belonged to the same congregation. Yet, the need to reach out to those who are no longer able to participate in the worship life and social activities of the church can be vital to those who reside at home or in skilled care facilities.

Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries will provide training to address these and other concerns for those interested in serving on their congregation's visitation team.

The training will include:

- ❖ 3 educational sessions held at 10:00 a.m. on 10/5, and 11/2.
- ❖ 3 reflection sessions held at 10:00 a.m. on 9/28, 10/26, and 11/30.
- ❖ Opportunities to make 6 visits each month with residents in the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg. The visitation schedule is flexible.
- ❖ All participants who complete the training will receive a certificate of completion.

If you have questions or to register, please contact:

Pastor Hamer, Director of Pastoral Care and Congregational Relations
at 814-696-4558 or by email at pastor.hamer@almsm.org
or by contacting

Miss Hannah Myers, Life Enrichment Manager at
814-696-4530 or by email at hannah.myers@almsm.org

The Rev. Robert Linders: On Sunday, September 17th, we will welcome guest preacher, The Rev. Robert Linders to the pulpit. A graduate of Gettysburg College, Monmouth College, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and Princeton Theological Seminary, Pastor Robert served his first two calls in New Jersey before serving as senior pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown. He is a published author and teacher of homiletics. Pastor Robert is a friend of Murray and Sharon Smith.

Welcome We welcome Jennifer Ripka to St. Matthew as our new Administrative Assistant. Jennifer is a graduate of Altoona Area High School, South Hills School of Business & Technology, and Penn State, Altoona. She has worked in accounting and customer service in several local businesses and serves as the treasurer for the Lady Dragons Soccer Boosters. Jennifer, her husband, and their three children live in Martinsburg. Jennifer will be staffing the office on weekday mornings. Home phone # 814-935-3801.



Dear friend,

The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany our neighbors in Hawaii impacted by these wildfires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

By standing with Maui's wildfire survivors, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.

With gratitude,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

If you consider a gift to Maui's Disaster Response mark your offering envelope or a pew envelope with "**Maui**" and place in the offering plate. Place your **name** or **offering envelope number** on the envelope.

*OPENING HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW # 765



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



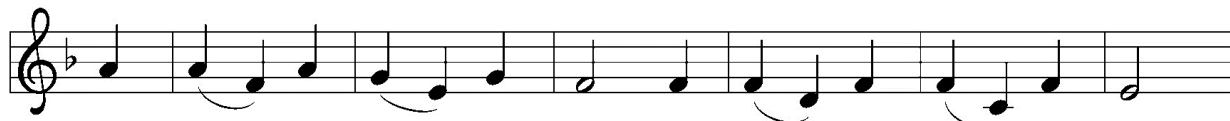
be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW # 336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

