# *The 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost* October 15, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship

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!

#### 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.

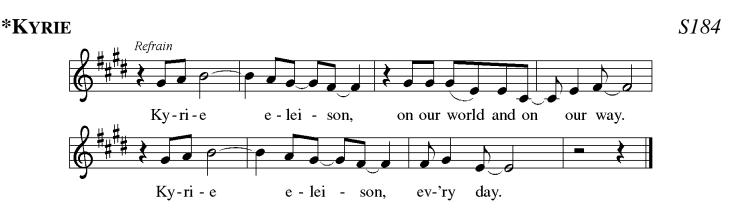
- P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.
- P: Steadfast and faithful God,
- C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have 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.



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: ST. CLEMENT, Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904 Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

#### \*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.



For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.  $\mathbf{R}$ 

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.  $\mathbf{R}$ 

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R** 

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.  $\mathbf{R}$ 

#### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: Let us pray* ... Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *C:* Amen.

#### FIRST READING: Exodus 32:1-14

<sup>1</sup>When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." <sup>2</sup>Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup>So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup>He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and

cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" <sup>5</sup>When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." <sup>6</sup>They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

- <sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" <sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."
- <sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" <sup>14</sup>And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

# PSALM 106:1-6, 19-23 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

- <sup>2</sup>Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord or proclaim in full God's praise?
- <sup>3</sup>Happy are those who act with justice and always do what is right.

#### <sup>4</sup>Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, and visit me with your salvation;

<sup>5</sup>that I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people,

that I may glory with your inheritance.

# <sup>6</sup>We have sinned as our forebears did;

we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

- <sup>19</sup>They made a bull calf at Horeb
- and worshiped a molten image;

# <sup>20</sup>thus they exchanged their glory

# for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

<sup>21</sup>They forgot God their Savior,

who had done great things in Egypt,

# <sup>22</sup>wonderful deeds in the land of Ham,

# and fearful things at the Red Sea.

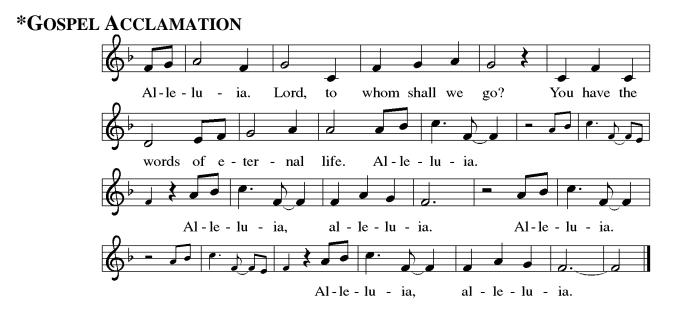
<sup>23</sup>So you would have destroyed them, had not Moses your chosen stood in the breach, to turn away your wrath from consuming them.

# SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

- <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- <sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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



**\*Gospel:** Matthew 22:1-14 The holy gospel according to Matthew.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

- <sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
- <sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

#### HOMILY

Pastor Traci



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953 Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

#### \*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: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
- *A:* For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A: For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world, that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace, C: receive our prayer.
- *A:* For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *A:* For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. God of grace, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A: For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace, *C*: receive our prayer.
- A: In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy, that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace, *C*: receive our prayer.
- P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.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

*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 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.

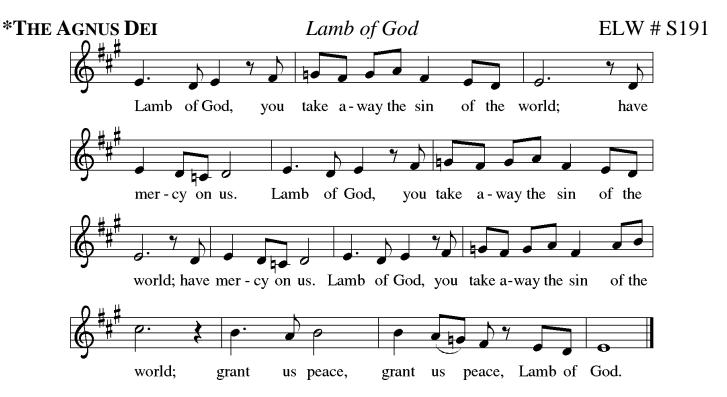
# \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- 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.



#### **\*INVITATION**

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

COMMUNION HYMNNow We Join in CelebrationELW # 462

#### \*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.

#### **\*SENDING SONG** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW # 674

#### \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you. C: Thanks be to God.

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**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Margaret and Stanley Metz by Melissa Fetzer.

#### 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 – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka Our Financial Bookkeeper – Laura Orczeck Our Sexton – Phil Claar Our Assisting Minister – Jay Hoenstine Our Lector – Janet Stewart Our Acolyte – Calleigh Wright Our Usher – Steve Oswalt Our Altar Guild – Elaine Buchart, Janet Stewart Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to "United Lutheran Seminaries"

#### Dr. Smith's Last Sunday

Dr. Adam Smith has announced his resignation as St. Matthew's Pianist/Accompanist in advance of a move to the Lancaster area. Next Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be Adam's last Sunday with us; he has graciously offered to return to play a holiday concert on Friday, December 15th, to benefit Camp Sequanota. We extend our appreciation for his sharing the gift of music with us for the past four years and wish him and his family many blessings in the future.

#### **Church Messenger**

The October 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.

## **Martinsburg Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry will be open for food distribution on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. Curryville Church of the Brethren will provide 3 or 4 people to help distribute food, in addition to regular helpers. If anyone harvests more vegetables or fruits than can be used, we will welcome it on the dates it is open!
Items most needed for October: Beverages, Vegetable Soup, Fruit, Pasta Sides and Paper Towels. We appreciate your prayers and support! Thank You! *Linda Smith*

# This Week at St. Matthew:

# 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### **This Week Events**

Today –	Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
	Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
	Early Bird Deadline for The Weekend Youth Event
Monday –	Cub/Boy Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday –	Bible Study, Window Room/Zoom 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday –	Yoga, Fellowship Hall 5 p.m.
Thursday –	Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 9-11 a.m.

Allegheny Synod Women's Convention,
Newry Lutheran Church 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Messenger Deadline

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, 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, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Kay McGraw, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Tim Wilson, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, 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).

# The Weekend

Allegheny Synod Youth Event Grades 6-12 December 8-10, 2023 Huntingdon, PA

Registration is Now Open \$10 deposit/ for Familes & Friends -St. Matthew covers the remainder See Pastor Traci for forms & details FORMS ARE ALSO LOCATED AT THE USHER STATION



# 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

Please speak with Pastor Traci if you have any interest in attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans.

**2022** Audit The full church audit of 2022 is available in the church office.



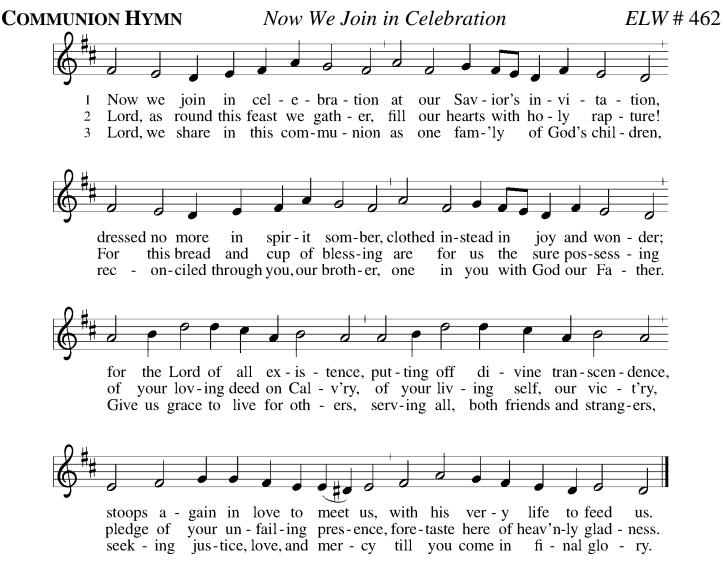
Lacey Ripka, daughter of Administrative Assistant Jen Ripka and her husband Chad, celebrated senior night on Thursday as the lone senior for the Central High School Lady Dragon soccer team. She was presented with two flower arrangements and wanted to share them with St. Matthew for this Sunday's service.



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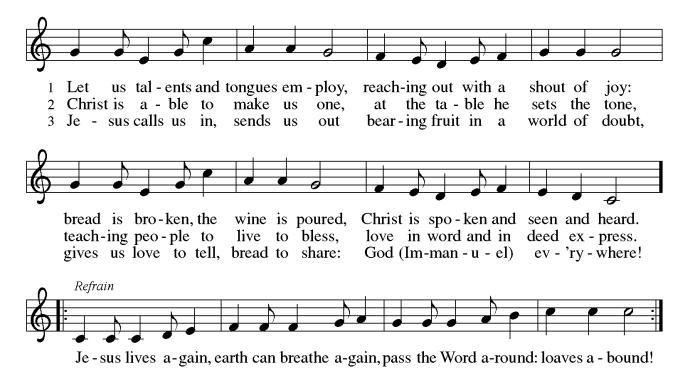


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