

# Worship In Person & At Home

## Twenty-fourth Week after Pentecost

### November 15 and 18, 2020



*In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather all together for worship as the body of Christ. While you cannot all be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.*

#### **Announcements**

#### **Prelude**

#### **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

## **Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.

<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?]

<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty fifth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Homily**

### **Reflection**

Here at the end of the church year and at the end of Matthew the readings from the Bible are as harsh as they ever get. But much in our world seems to fit these pictures. When we fail to act in justice and to use for the common good what God has entrusted to us, a day of darkness and gloom — Matthew’s “outer darkness” — descends upon us.

We rightly pray, as Jesus taught us, “Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.” And God does save us. The good news this Sunday is in the second reading: in Jesus Christ, God has made salvation and not wrath to be our future. By the power of the Spirit poured out from the risen Christ, we have been clothed in faith and love and hope, like armor in dangerous times. The word of God awakens us to live as if in a light-filled day, even when surrounded with darkness. But, amazingly, Paul also says that whether we are awake or asleep, Christ has shared our death that we may live with him. In gratitude, we have a chance again to use what we have been given for the well-being of our neighbor.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, let us pray to see God’s power in the church and in the world.

We pray, O God, for the church in our community and throughout the world. Raise up and sustain believers who will use their talents to assist with worship and to lead congregational ministries in this difficult time. Protect your people with the armor of your Word. O God, you are the Temple of your people: **Hear us and help us.**

For the earth we pray. During this autumn season, give to plants and wild animals a time of rest. Keep the coronavirus and other pathogens away from the animals that we farm. O God, you are the Maker of the heavens and the earth: **Hear us and help us.**

For all the nations we pray. Bring an end to war and terrorism. Cultivate a worldwide spirit of cooperation that will seek just international agreements and shared human rights. Rescue humankind from the worship of wealth, and give a homeland to migrants. O God, you are the Haven we seek: **Hear us and help us.**

For the United States we pray. Quell attempts at violence, and restore national good will. End prejudice of all kinds, and lead us into a unity that embraces diversity. Comfort those who live in fear of the future. Bless all newly elected officials, especially President-elect Biden, with a passion for justice and a commitment to honesty. O God, you are our Mighty Fortress: **Hear us and help us.**

We pray for all who are in need. Visit with health and good medical care all the sick, especially the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus. Prepare a vaccine to save our world from COVID-19. Give food, employment, and housing to the countless who are struggling to live. We pray especially for. . . O God, you are our Physician, our Nurse: **Hear us and help us.**

For many of us, what the ancient prophet said is now true: these are days of distress and anguish. We beg you to listen to the prayers of our hearts...O God, you are Father, Mother, Lover, Master, Friend: **Hear us and help us.**

We remember before you all the saints who have lived and died in the faith, especially Elizabeth of Hungary in her ministry to the sick, and those we name here now. . . . At the end of time, bring us all into your peace. O God, you are the Light perpetual: **Hear us and help us.**

Receive these prayers, and in your gracious mercy grant your strength to our neediness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Liturgy**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving & Words of Institution**

#### **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. 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.**

### **Music for Meditation During Communion**

#### **Benediction**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

### **Music to Send Us into the World for Service**

#### **Dismissal**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**For those worshipping in real time from home, Zoom Fellowship will be available immediately after the 9AM Sunday service:**

**596-621-1441, passcode 8675309**

# Hymn for Devotion

# Take My Life That I May Be

ELW # 685

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

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## St. Matthew Masks Are Here!

Pick up a mask the next time you come to worship or contact us to have one sent or delivered to you. Help spread the Good News, not the virus, and love your neighbors when you need to be out in public. (Free will contributions are gladly accepted.)



## Readings for the Week:

**Monday** Psalm 9:1-14. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231) Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4. **Wednesday** Matthew 24:24-51. **Thursday** Psalm 95:1-7a. **Friday** Revelation 22:1-9. **Saturday** Matthew 12:46-50. **Christ the King** Ezekiel 34:11-16, Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw Portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and sundaysandseasons.com, © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress.

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## Schedule

**Meetings – NONE**

## **In-Person Worship**

Sunday: 9AM in the Sanctuary, 10:30AM in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday: 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

## **Online Worship**

Sunday: 9AM Livestream from the Sanctuary

Monday & Friday: 9AM posted Hymn Devotions

Tuesday & Thursday: 9AM & 9PM Morning & Night Prayer

## **Online Study**

Tuesday — Friday: Midday Kids' Devotions

## **Shoe Boxes Needed**



If you have spare medium to large size shoe or boot boxes that you'd like to get out of your house, please drop them off at the church by November 20th. We need them for an Advent project.



## **Advent in a Box**

Mark your calendars for Advent in a Box: Thursday evenings, December 4, 11, and 18. On Sunday, the 29th of November, be sure to pick up an Advent Box with the materials we'll use for a time of learning and crafting together by Zoom. (If you won't be at worship on the 29th, let us know and we'll get the materials to you).

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:**, John Aljets, Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Helena Bassler, Kelly Burk, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Melissa Fetzer, Brian Fleck, Jim Freyer, Erika Hallam, Betty Helsel, Dan Hershberger, Jeff Hoenstine, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Darren Kreutzer, Kristen Malloy, Rick McIntyre, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Nathan, Jim Negley, Zowe Orczeck, Aunt Mica, Elaine Ormsby, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Kaleb Sollenberger, Barbara Smith, Connie Smith, Luther Steele, Michael Sutton, Wyatt Sweinhart, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Ashley Zanfino, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Our college students:** Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

**Basic Training for the Army:** Nathan Smith

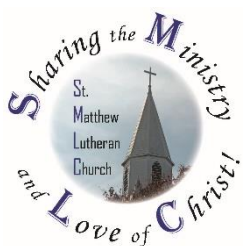
**Serving God and Us Today**

- Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott
- Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith
- Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel
- Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck
- Our Sexton – Bill Brown
- Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster
- Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Anna Klepser

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*United Lutheran Seminary*”

**Our “Annual Commitment Card”**

**Please complete the card below and return in the offering plate or to the church office by November 29, 2020.**



**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Stewardship Commitment Card 2021**

Mission in the Parish \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (wkly. or mthly) circle one  
(Current Expense)

Mission in the World \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (wkly. or mthly) circle one  
(Benevolence)

Ventures in Faith \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (wkly. or mthly) circle one

Building Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (wkly. or mthly) circle one

**Total Giving** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (wkly. or mthly) circle one

**St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran  
Stewardship  
Commitment Card 2021**

Mission in the Parish \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Current Expense)

Mission in the World \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Benevolence)

Ventures in Faith \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Building Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Giving** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**KEEP THIS SECTION FOR  
YOUR RECORDS**



**(Please circle one)** →

**Weekly or Monthly**



## 2021 Offering Envelopes

Everyone who is a confirmed member or **is a visitor and has requested envelopes** receives Offering Envelopes. Included in this “Bulletin” is a NEW Time and Talent Sheet and a Commitment Card for 2021.

**Electronic Offerings:** If you would like to have funds given directly from your savings or checking please call Lori or Laura at 814-793-2413 to get more info. It is only a 5-minute process.

If you already give Electronically and would like to increase your offerings, checking please call Lori or Laura at 814-793-2413 to get more info. It is only a 5-minute process.

Time and Talent sheets from previous years are deleted and a NEW TIME & TALENT SHEET needs to be completed EVERY YEAR.

**January 2021 Offering Envelopes will be mailed in December 2020 to your homes.**

The other options for offering or tithing are below:

### Ways to Support St. Matthew

**Offering Envelopes:** These are mailed to our contributors at their homes monthly.

❖ if you would like to use the **“Simply Giving”** on-line program of automatic bank drafts from your checking account. (*Forms are in the church office. Please see Lori.*)

**Giving Online:** Visit the church website at **“www.stmatthewlc.com”**

- 1) Click on the **“Give”** button, (on the top white banner)
- 2) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

### **Mobile Giving:**

- 1) Visit **“Play Store on your mobile device”**
- 2) Find the **“Vanco Payment”** app (this is free)
- 3) Click on the **“Install”** button
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Follow the onscreen instructions to schedule your one-time contribution or recurring contributions.



## Christ the King Sunday, November 21, 2010

The crown, a symbol of royal authority, represents Jesus, the King of Kings. It can also symbolize the “crown of glory,” the eternal reward that faithful Christians receive in heaven (see 1 Peter 5:4). Three crowns are often used to represent the wise men who traveled from the East in search of the baby, Jesus.



## Dear Ministry Leader & Partner,

As the Christmas season gets closer, we begin to set our minds on things like peace, love, and joy. But we know that not everyone in our community experiences these things, especially in these uncertain and trying times. For some, the holidays bring a reminder of grief, depression, loss, and desperate need.

**Among the Martinsburg Churches** a collective vision is to impact the lives of those around us, letting all that we do be done in love (I Corinthians 16:14), we believe direct involvement in the community is extremely important. It is our hope that we can count on your support as we gear up for our annual “Cove Christmas Love” event, which reaches out to families in need during the holiday season. As a part of our mission, we distribute toys, grocery store gift cards and other items to area families with children under the age of 16. By asking your congregation to stand behind this project and provide donations of gift cards, new toys, as well as monetary donations, you can help us in our mission to give every child a Merry Christmas, one gift at a time. **Your donation will serve as an example of generosity, dedication, and service to our community. (A box is in the church Narthex.)**

Donations may be mailed in, or pickup arrangements may be made.

**On behalf of our team, I want to thank you for any consideration you may give to our cause!**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Chris Garretson, 210 N. Wall Street, Martinsburg PA 16662

Pastor, Memorial Church of the Brethren Office (814)793-2422

Coordinator, Cove Christmas Love, Mobile (814)254-8328, Martinsburg Association of Area Churches

Email: PastorChrisG@outlook.com

### Committees Need Volunteers

**Age:** 18 – 100 years old

**Christian Ed. Committee – Needs Volunteer** - responsible for enlightening and overseeing our religious education among our youth and adults.

**Evangelism Committee – Needs Volunteer** - responsible for conducting the meetings and overseeing the activities of connecting our members and fellow neighbors.

**Nominating Committee – Needs Volunteers (2)** - responsible for the new slate of members for Council each year. Usually, meets once in October and November.

If you were thinking that chairing a committee is a lot of work; it's not. Responsibilities of chairing a committee, means that you oversee your committee members and attend Council Meetings once a month. Some committees meet once a month, some just once every quarter or once or twice a year.

Please call Sheena Tremmel at 515-2962 to volunteer your **Time** to God. Or you may talk to one of the committee members:

Shelley Clinich John Lear Linda Smith Peggy Steinfurth

## Thanksgiving Outreach

We are asking for donations of the following items so those from our community who are in need can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. You can bring your donations with you to worship on Sundays or Wednesday before Nov. 18, 2020.

Items Needed: (Name Brand Preferred and No Expired Items Please.)

**Frozen Turkey**  
**Stove Top Stuffing**  
**Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes**  
**Jars of Gravy**  
**Canned Corn**  
**Canned Green Beans**  
**Canned Sweet Potatoes**  
**Cranberry Sauce**  
**Frozen Pumpkin Pie**  
**Disposable Roasting Pan**



## **MITTEN COLLECTION "BOX"** **November 29, 2020**

The first Sunday in Advent you will see a "Mitten Box" in the Narthex. Please bring school-age children's mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs or socks to be placed in the Mitten Box from November 29<sup>th</sup> until December 20<sup>th</sup>. These will be distributed by the school nurse at the Spring Cove Elementary Schools for needy children. Donations of money can be given by marking a pew envelope "**Mitten BOX**", and the money will be used to purchase needed items. *Let's help children have a warmer winter!*