

**St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran
Church & School**

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Worship for the 21st Sunday after Trinity

October 26 & 29, 2023

Opening Hymn: Speak, O Lord CW 633

- 1** Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy Word;
take your truth, plant it deep in us,
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all your purposes for your glory.

- 2** Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility;
test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

- 3** Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,
truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built,
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

**I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you
in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise *(sung to tune of CW 460)*

1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our
loves so well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his
sin a - way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed— for your

grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your glo - ry,
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly,
might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our joy - ful
Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the glo - ry
ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

P: O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of your church, that being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles and inspired by the example of the prophets and apostles of the past, we may always make a pure confession of your saving truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament: Daniel 6:10-12; 16-23

¹⁰Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He continued to do that, just as he had been doing before this. ¹¹Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

¹²They then went and asked the king about the decree. "Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?"

¹⁶Then the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you." ¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit. The king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel's situation. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him. But he could not sleep.

¹⁹At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹Then Daniel spoke with the king. "Your Majesty, may you live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me because he found me innocent in his presence. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime."

²³Then the king was very glad and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day (*sung to tune of CW 460*)

♪ **Savior, since of Zion's city**

I thro' grace a member am.

Let the world deride or pity

I will glory in your name.

Fading are the world's vain pleasures,

All their boasted pomp and show;

Solid joys and lasting treasures

None but Zion's children know.

Epistle: Acts 4:8-20

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, ⁹if we are being questioned today for a kind act that was done for the lame man, as to how this man has

been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead! By him this man stands before you healed. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.

¹²“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”

¹³When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and found out that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were astonished and took note of the fact that these men had been with Jesus.

¹⁴But since they saw the man who had been healed standing there with them, they could not say anything in reply. ¹⁵After they had ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin, they discussed the matter among themselves. ¹⁶They asked, “What should we do with these men? To be sure, it is evident to all who live in Jerusalem that a miraculous sign has been done through them, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷However, in order that this may spread no further among the people, let us give them a strict warning not to speak any longer to anyone in this name.”

¹⁸Then they summoned them and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, “Decide whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God. ²⁰For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn: Christ High-Ascended *CW 747*

- 1 Christ high-ascended, now in glory seated,
throned and exalted, victory completed,
death's dread dominion finally defeated,
we are his witnesses.
- 2 Christ, from the Father ev'ry pow'r possessing,
who on his chosen lifted hands in blessing,
sends forth his servants, still in faith confessing,
we are his witnesses.
- 3 Christ, who in dying won for us salvation,
lives now the firstborn of the new creation;
to win disciples out of ev'ry nation,
we are his witnesses.
- 4 Christ in his splendor, all dominion gaining,
Christ with his people evermore remaining,
Christ to all ages, gloriously reigning,
we are his witnesses.

Sermon Text: Matthew 10:16-23

¹⁶“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

²¹“Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. ²³And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

To Endure As A Witness For Christ Can Sometimes Be Hard

I. Listen to your Savior's instructions

II. Remember your Savior's promises

Response to God's Word

♪ **5 As at his parting, joy shall banish grieving,
faith in his presence strengthen our believing;
filled with his Spirit, love and pow'r receiving,
we are his witnesses.**

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P: Gracious God, in mercy you sent your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, into this world to redeem us from sin and rescue us from hell. Through your Scriptures and by your Spirit, you have brought us to faith in your Son and have assured us that Christ has fully completed the work of our salvation. Lead us to rejoice in the message of forgiveness through faith alone in Christ Jesus.

C: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

P: Almighty God, in the face of immense pressure to compromise their confession, you emboldened Martin Luther and the Lutheran reformers to take a firm stand on the truths of Scripture. Through their clear confession of faith, you restored the gospel to your church and have preserved this saving truth among us today. Send us your Holy Spirit that we exhibit the same zeal and faithfulness as the Lutheran confessors. Give us courage to confess our faith sincerely and boldly in the classroom, the workplace, the community, and to everyone we encounter who needs to hear the truth of your Word. Use our confession to bring faith in your Son to the hearts of those who do not yet believe in you.

C: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

P: Eternal God, you have promised to preserve and protect your church in every age. Even when it appeared that the enemies of the gospel had silenced your truth, you kept your people faithful to you and your Word. Bless all who face hardships for their faith with an added measure of your Holy Spirit so that they do not lose heart as they bear their crosses. Comfort the sick and suffering, the depressed and lonely, those who are persecuted and ridiculed for their faith, and all others who need the encouragement of your love. Fix our eyes on the cross of your Son, his empty tomb, and the sure promise of eternal life in heaven's glory.

C: In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

P: Lord God, you know the concerns of our hearts and minds. Increase our trust in your power and wisdom that we may rest secure in the plans and purposes you have for our lives. Hear us for your name's sake and hear us as we pray as you taught us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord**

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who strengthens us by his Spirit to be faithful witnesses. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Tune of CW 413*

1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,
your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!
Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!
in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Words of Institution

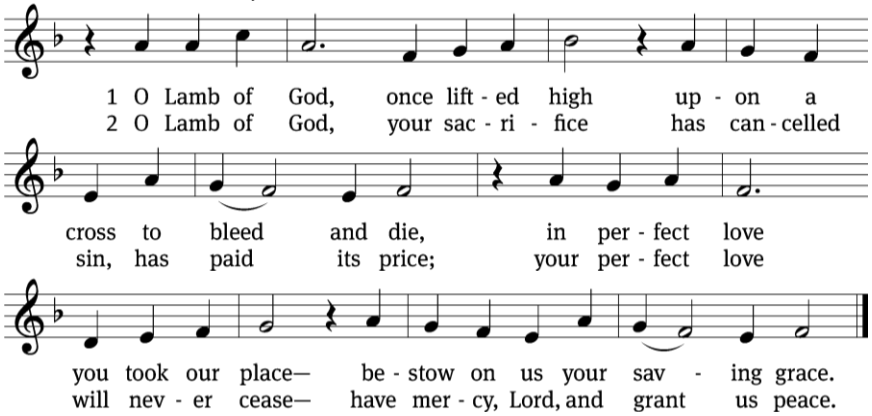
P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

Lamb of God *Tune of CW 641*



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
 2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled
 cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love
 sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love
 you took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
 will nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: Jesus Comes Today with Healing *CW 668*

- 1 Jesus comes today with healing,
 knocking at my door, appealing,
 off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.
 He himself makes preparation,
 and I hear his invitation:
 "Come and taste the blessed feast."
- 2 Christ himself, the priest presiding,
 yet in bread and wine abiding
 in this holy sacrament,
 gives the bread of life, once broken,
 and the cup, the precious token
 of his sacred covenant.

- 3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
 blood and body, giv'n for me,
very Lamb of God from heaven,
who to bitter death was given,
 hung upon the cursèd tree.
- 4 God descends with heav'nly power,
gives himself to me this hour
 in this ordinary sign.
On my tongue his pledge receiving,
I accept his grace, believing
 that I taste his love divine.
- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
whose own feast of love I savor,
 bidden by his gracious call.
Wedding garments he provides me,
with a robe of white he hides me,
 fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,
comfort in my tribulation,
 balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
cleanses me from sin and error,
 makes my wounded spirit whole.

Distribution Hymn: "Draw Near and Take" CW 661

- 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Saved by his body and his holy blood,
with souls refreshed we give our thanks to God.
- 2 Christ our Redeemer, God's eternal Son,
has by his cross and blood the vict'ry won.
He gave his life for greatest and for least,
himself the off'ring and himself the priest.

3 Let us approach with faithful hearts sincere
 and take the pledges of salvation here.
 Christ, who in this life all the saints defends,
 gives all believers life that never ends.

4 With heav'nly bread he makes the hungry whole,
 gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
 Lord of the nations, to whom all must bow,
 in this great feast of love be with us now.

Thanksgiving

Song of Simeon *Tune of CW 968*

In peace, Lord, you let your ser-vant now de-part ac-cord-ing
 to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal-va-tion, which
 you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple,
 a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the
 glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
 C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word CW 862

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would seek to overthrow your Son
and to destroy what he has done.**
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your Christendom that we
may sing your praise eternally.**
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.**

Communion Registration *Communicant members of St. Matthew's are reminded to register for Holy Communion on the "Care Card" found in the pews. If you are visiting St. Matthew's today, we request that you please speak with the Pastor before communing. Questions and answers which will assist you in preparing for partaking of the Lord's Supper are found on page 295 in the front of the hymnal.*

Members, Visitors & Guests—Welcome to St. Matthew's!

When it is not easy to be a witness for Christ in the world let us listen to his instructions and remember his promises.

If you are visiting our service, please sign a "care card" in the church pew or our guest book and come back to visit again soon.

Attendance Last Sunday—247 (60/187)

Bible Classes—58

Offering Last Week—\$6,490

Sunday School—22

(Meeting our 2023 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$14,735.00.)

"I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame"

Psalm 119:46.

Announcements:

1. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by George and Jan Ehlers in loving memory of Joshua.
2. **8th Annual Men's Retreat** – Peace, Loves Park will be hosting their 8th annual Men's Retreat on Saturday, November 4th and are inviting the men of our congregation to join them for this special event! Pastor Craig Wilke from Sure Foundation in Brandon, SD will provide an outreach-themed presentation (at this point they are not sure if he will be here in person or present remotely). Pastor Wilke will be drawing from his experience with starting a new mission church and sharing some lessons learned from doing outreach in today's world. They will serve a light breakfast from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. The presentation will be from 9:00 am to 11:30 a.m. A brat and beer lunch will be served from 11:30 to noonish. There is no cost. If you are able to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board in the lower hallway. Please sign up soon as we need to have our number in by October 31st.
3. **Meetings** The church council has prepared a proposed ministry plan for calendar year 2024. The council scheduled an open meeting for between services on Sunday, November 12 at which the proposal will be presented to all members of the congregation. The council also set the Voters' meeting for after the 10:30 service on November 12 at which a ministry plan will be adopted for next year. Please plan to attend these meetings!
4. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – We will begin a study of the Minor Prophets in Bible Class this morning. The study will start with the book of the prophet Hosea. Bible class meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship area downstairs. You are invited to join us.
5. **Woman's Bible Class** – Women's Bible Class is held Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. This week we will do a lesson summary of topics we have been studying. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Lenser at 608-728-3120.
6. **Veterans' Day St. Matthew's Lutheran School!** The children of St. Matthew's Lutheran School would like to invite you to a Veteran's Day celebration on Friday, November 10, 2023. We hope that you will consider joining us for this special celebration

beginning at 10:30 a.m. and concluding with lunch around noon. If you are a Veteran or would like to help us thank our Veterans, please join us! Sign up on the church bulletin board in the narthex.

7. **Attention parents of college students (and military members.)**
The Ladies Guild would like to send a card and small gift to your students. Please give their mailing address to Debbie Lenser or the church office. You could also email it to fbiele28@yahoo.com. This includes students who live at home. Deadline: Sunday, November 5th. Thank you!
8. **Piano Lesson Students** There will be no piano lessons on Oct. 31 for school children.
9. **School Schedule Reminder** Students will be dismissed at 11:30am on Thursday due to parent/teacher conferences. There is no school on Friday

Assisting with Worship

Organists:

Kathi Hendee

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Doug McIlvain, Dane McIlvain, Jeff Burandt

10:30 a.m. – Fred Shadoski, Russ Scott

Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Mark Schulz, Mike Lenser, Kevin Paasch

10:30 a.m. – Jim Langkamp, Grant Langkamp

CODS:

Thursday, October 26, 6:30 p.m. – George Ehlers

Sunday, October 29, 8:00 a.m. – Brian Hartwig

Sunday, October 29, 10:30 a.m. – Tim Stirmel

Next Week CODS:

Thursday, November 2, 6:30 p.m. – Steve Sage

Sunday, November 5, 8:00 a.m. – Tom Timmermann

Sunday, November 5, 10:30 a.m. – Jim Daley

Greeters

8:00 a.m. – Mike & Debbie Lenser

10:30 a.m. – Karen DeLong-Eichman

Next Week Greeters:

8:00 a.m. – Craig & Cathy Sonntag

10:30 a.m. – Mary Kowal

Church Cleaning:

November 4, 2023 – Todd Schwark & Russ Scott families

November 11, 2023 – David Newlin & Fred Shadoski families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

Worship with Communion

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

Monday

Tuesday

No piano lessons

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Confirmation Class 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Sr. Choir 5:45 p.m.

Thursday

Worship 6:30 p.m.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Students Dismissed at 11:30 a.m.

Friday

Parent/Teacher Conferences

No School

Sunday

Worship with Communion

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.