



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

*Worship for the 6th Sunday of Easter
May 11 & 14, 2023*

Opening Hymn: Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore You CW '93, 189

**1 Jehovah, let me now adore you,
For where is there a God such, Lord, as you?
With joyful songs I come before you;
Oh, let your Spirit teach my heart anew
To praise you in his name through whom alone
Our songs can praise you, through your blessed Son.**

**2 O Father, draw me to my Savior
That your dear Son may draw me then to you.
Your Spirit guide my whole behavior
And rule both sense and reason in me, too,
That, Lord, your peace from me may ne'er depart
But wake sweet melodies within my heart.**

**3 Grant that your Spirit prompt my praises;
Then shall my singing surely please your ear.
Sweet are the sounds my heart then raises;
My prayer in truth and spirit you will hear.
Then shall your Spirit lift my heart in love
To sing these psalms to you, my God above.**

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with true hearts and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.**

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me for Jesus' sake.

P: Christ has died. Christ has risen from the dead. Christ will come again in glory. In his great mercy, "God made us alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross." 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: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O Lord, Our Lord

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a C-clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther, you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin; you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,". The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and triplets.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

P: Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sunday School Children (10:30): "Love!"

Lesson: Acts 7:51-60

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers— ⁵³you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it."

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶He said, "Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. ⁵⁸They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." After he said this, he fell asleep.

Verse of the Day:

4 The Spirit pleads for me with sighings

That are not speakable by lips defiled.

He bids me pray with earnest cryings,

Bears witness that I am your precious child,

Joint heir with Christ, and thus may dare to say:

O heav'nly Father, hear me when I pray!

Epistle: Revelation 1:9-18

⁹I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingship and patient endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.

¹⁰I was in spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard a loud voice behind me, like a trumpet, ¹¹saying, "Write what you see on a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

¹²I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me. When I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands, ¹³and among the lampstands was one like a son of man. He was clothed with a robe that reached to his feet, and around his chest he wore a gold sash. ¹⁴His head and his hair were white, like white wool or like snow. His eyes were like blazing flames. ¹⁵His feet were like polished bronze being refined in a furnace. His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶He held seven stars in his right hand. A sharp two-edged sword was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining as the sun shines in all its brightness.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last—¹⁸the Living One. I was dead and, see, I am alive forever and ever! I also hold the keys of death and hell."

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith (Luther's Explanation of the 3rd Article)

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified, and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one truth faith. In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Hymn: As Angels Joyed with One Accord CW 320

1 As angels joyed with one accord

Upon the advent of our Lord,

So laud we all and bless the name

Of him who from the Father came.

2 He came, not clothed in majesty

Nor pow'r that suits his deity.

In lowly state he walked till he

In dying set us captives free.

3 This done, he soared to God's right hand,

Yet orphaned not his chosen band,

For he, not bound in grace and pow'r,

Attends his own each day and hour.

4 In ev'ry age—let praise abound—

He comes; we hear his voice resound.

His glorious gospel does not cease

To bring us comfort, joy, and peace.

**5 He comes in water to the child
And cleanses it, from birth defiled.
This washing seals his pard'ning grace
And shows the Father's kindly face.**

Sermon: John 14:15-21

¹⁵"If you love me, hold on to my commands. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him."

Come, Holy Spirit!

I. Counsel us in Christ's absence

II. Comfort us with Christ's presence

Response to God's Word

**6 He comes to us in bread and wine
To give himself—and gifts divine.
Oh, praise him for this sacrament,
Redeeming love's great testament!**

**7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
Shall vanish when he comes again.
Where we shall see him face to face,
There joy alone shall have a place.**

Offering

Prayer of the Church for Easter

P: God of all grace, we thank you for the gift of eternal life in your Son. By the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and by the faithful testimony of the apostles you have assured us that our faith stands on a sure and solid foundation.

C: Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain me.

P: Though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us see him with the eyes of faith. Through your Holy Spirit, breathe on your Church that it may faithfully proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people. Grant that we also may be illumined by the heavenly light of your Word, and so keep us in the one and only true faith.

C: May God be gracious to us and bless us, and make his face shine upon us; that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

P: Preserve us from all assaults on our souls, deliver us from doubt and despair, and preserve us from worldly wisdom and false teaching.

C: Turn my eyes from worthless things; preserve my life according to your Word.

P: Forgive the sins of your people. Strengthen the doubting and the faithless. Bring back the forgetful and the wayward, and comfort the anxious and distressed.

C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation; and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

P: As we go from this holy place today, grant peace and rest to us all.

C: The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

The Preface

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 right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.
You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.
I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of six staves of music in a single system, all written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C:'. The music is a simple, melodic line. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glo - ry. You are my God, and I will ex - alt you. I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal - va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.' The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution Hymn: "Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face" CW 660

1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon you lean.

2 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
Here is the heav'nly table spread anew.
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with you.

3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
Another arm but yours to lean upon.
It is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in your might, your might alone.

4 Mine is the sin but yours the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt but yours the cleansing blood.
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Your blood, your righteousness, O Lord, my God.

5 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear.
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
The bread and wine remove, but you are here,
Nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Distribution Hymn: Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven *CW 460*

1 Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

2 Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Death at last has met defeat:
see the ancient pow'rs of evil
in confusion and retreat;
once he died, and once was buried:
now he lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
whom we worship and adore.

3 Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to God on high:
alleluia to the Savior
who has gained the victory;
alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
to the triune Majesty!

THANKSGIVING

Thank the Lord



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.
 He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Prayer

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through 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 (6:30 & 10:30): Alleluia! Sing to Jesus CW 606:3

**3 Alleluia! Not as orphans
 are we left in sorrow now;
 Alleluia! he is near us;
 faith believes, nor questions how.
 Though the cloud from sight received him
 when the forty days were o'er,
 shall our hearts forget his promise:
 "I am with you evermore"?**

Sunday School Children (8:00): "Love!"



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. Please note:

- For those who prefer grape juice, in the center of each tray there are purple individual cups containing grape juice.
- Those who prefer a gluten-free wafer will find individually wrapped wafers in the tray on the table in the center aisle.

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

Let us praise our risen Savior who did not leave us as orphans but sent the Holy Spirit to counsel us in his absence and to comfort us with his presence!

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 Week— 252 (34/218)

Bible Class – 13

Offering Last Week—\$18,152.52

Sunday School –19

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

"Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"

Romans 15:13.

Announcements:

1. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by Tom and Karin Timmermann.
2. **2023 Confirmation/Examination Rehearsal** Please note that the members of this year's confirmation class will meet on Wednesday, May 17, in church from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to rehearse for examination and confirmation which will be held on Sunday, May 21. Remember the schedule for the 21st. Examination will be held between services from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. Confirmation will be held in the 10:30 a.m. service. Members of St. Matthews are encouraged to attend either the Thursday service or the Sunday 8:00 a.m. service to provide room in church for the confirmands and their families.

3. **Woman's Bible Class** – We will continue with the book “More Prepared to Answer” by Mark Paustian. Each lesson stands alone so feel free to join at any time. Hope to see you there!
Debbie Lenser.
4. **Ascension Day Service** Ascension day is coming up on Thursday, May 18 we will observe this important festival with a special Ascension Day Service. This will not be a communion service. However, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper in both Sunday services on May 21st. Please join us on Ascension Day to sing our great Ascension hymns. The service begins at 6:30 p.m.
5. **Thank you! Thank you!** Blessed beyond measure is a good description of my reaction to my farewell between services on April 30th. I want to thank each and every one of you that spoke to me, contacted me, gave me cards, and supported me with your kind words and prayers! I want to especially thank the Fellowship and Education Committees and Miss Moeller and Mr. Proeber for all of the extra work you put in for my farewell. St. Matthew's has truly been a blessing for me and my family these last 34 years. You called a young graduate out of New Ulm 34 years ago, and you built me up and supported me as I grew into my roles at St. Matthews. I pray I have made just a fraction of the impact in your lives that all of you have made in mine. Thank you again. I am blessed! *Craig Sonntag*
6. **A special thank-you** to the students in grades 5-8 for their work on Arbor Day. Tasks completed were; moving shavings, painting the tunnel, cleaning the gym, cutting back the brush behind the back stop.

Also thanks to all who helped with the cleaning day at church last week Saturday. Lots of tasks were accomplished. Many hands make light work.

7. **May Schedule Change** Please note that we will begin our summer worship schedule on Sunday, May 28. That means that on Sunday, May 28, which is the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, We will have just one service on Sunday morning beginning at **9:00 a.m.** There will be no Bible Class on the 28th

and during the month of June. Bible Class will resume on Sunday, July 9 at 8:00 a.m. However, please keep in mind that we will continue to have our Thursday evening worship service throughout the summer beginning at 6:30 p.m.

8. **Summer Bible Camp Save the Date** Our Summer Bible Camp for 2023 will be held on July 18, 19 and 20. Please mark your calendars for this fun adventure!
9. **Luther Prep Summer Camps** Luther Prep is excited to offer a variety of day camps & overnight camps for various sports AND for the 3rd year in a row our Phoenix Adventure Camp! We hope to see many of your children join us! Go to https://www.lps.wels.net/apps/pages/summer_camps for all the details & registration info!
10. **2023-2024 Preschool Enrollment** We will be accepting preschool enrollment forms for the coming school year. Our program for 3 year olds will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00–11:15 a.m. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1st. Our 4 year olds will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 8:00-11:15 a.m. Children registering for this class must be 4 years old by September 1st. We are also offering wrap-around care for students after preschool is over. This new program started four years ago. We would like you to get the applications in by May 28 so a spot can be reserved for you. Shortly after that we will begin advertising to the public that there are spots available for next year. If you have any questions about our preschool or would like an enrollment form, please contact Mr. Proeber or Mrs. Sonntag.
11. **2023 LWMS Convention**-the annual LWMS convention is just around the corner! This year it will be held in LaCrosse, WI, from June 22-25, 2023. Our Rock River Circuit (of which St. Matthew's is a part), is co-hosting the event with the Crow River Circuit in Minnesota, which means that many of our members have been busy planning and getting ready to host this huge event! If you've already attended an LWMS convention, you know how uplifting and rewarding they are. If you have never been to one, this is a great opportunity since it is so close to home! Early bird registration is due by April 1. Please see the information posted

on the bulletin board in the narthex, or visit www.lwms.org for convention information and forms. Please continue to pray for the spread of the Gospel through our WELS missionaries and mission opportunities!

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers, Bob Williams, Mike Fox

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

Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. –Gerald Wellnitz, Richard Stout, Evan Burnside,
Tom Timmermann

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

CODS:

8:00 a.m. – Phil Fry

10:30 a.m. – Tim Stirmel

6:30 p.m. – Marc Augsburg

Next Week CODS:

8:00 a.m. – Doug McIlvain

10:30 a.m. – George Ehlers

6:30 p.m. – Jim Daley

Greeters

8:00 a.m. – Bev Boughton

10:30 a.m. – John & Joanne May

Next Week Greeters:

8:00 a.m. – George & Jan Ehlers

10:30 a.m. – Jean Ruppier

Church Cleaning:

May 20, 2023 – Mark Schulz & David Schumann families

May 27, 2023 – Todd Schwark & Russ Scott 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

School Track Meet 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday

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

2023 Confirmation Examination

Rehearsal 4:00 p.m.

Choir Practice 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.

Preschool & Kindergarten Play

6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Ascension Day Service

6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Sunday

Worship with Communion

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Confirmation Examination

9:15 a.m.

Confirmation Service with

Communion 10:30 a.m.



