



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)  
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*Worship for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
May 30 & June 2, 2024*

**Opening Hymn: Through Simple Water, Drawn and Poured** CW 685

1 Through simple water, drawn and poured,  
united with his pow'rful Word,  
in baptism Jesus sets us free  
from sin's dread pow'r and slavery.

2 There at the font with promise true  
God brings his saving grace anew —  
the sin-infected soul he heals  
and all his pard'ning love reveals!

3 My sinful self was crucified  
with Christ, as if I, too, had died;  
and as he rose, I also rise  
to live with strength that he supplies.

4 From that day on God helps me drown  
the sinful self and hold it down.  
I am made new; I'm born again,  
repenting, trusting, serving him.

5 When doubts arise, when sin assails,  
the pow'r of baptism never fails.  
"I am baptized! What should I fear?  
God's love for me is always near!"

## Invocation

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

**C: Amen.**

P: O Lord, open my lips.

**C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

P: Hasten to save me, O God.

**C: O Lord come quickly to help me.**

## Confession of Sins

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart 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.**

Baptism of Elijah Kenneth Brandl (Sunday: 9:00 a.m.)

P: The Father has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves: let us worship him.



**C:** Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,  
 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a  
 great God and a great king a - bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are  
 in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he  
 made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and  
 bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God  
 and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

### Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; 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: Ezekiel 36:22-32

<sup>22</sup>Therefore, say this to the house of Israel. This is what the LORD God says. I am about to act, O house of Israel, not for your sake, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you have gone. <sup>23</sup>I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you profaned

among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the LORD God, when I reveal myself as holy in front of their eyes through you. <sup>24</sup>I will take you from among the nations. I will gather you from all the lands, and I will bring you to your own soil. <sup>25</sup>I will sprinkle purifying water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurity and from all your filthy idols.

<sup>26</sup>Then I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>I will put my Spirit within you and will cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will carefully observe my ordinances. <sup>28</sup>Then you will live in the land I gave your fathers. You will be my people, and I will be your God. <sup>29</sup>I will save you from all your impurity. I will summon the grain and make it plentiful. I will not bring famine upon you. <sup>30</sup>I will increase the fruit on the trees and the produce in the fields, so that you will never again suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. <sup>31</sup>Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves on account of your guilty deeds and your abominations. <sup>32</sup>It is not for your sake that I am about to act, declares the LORD God. Let this be known to you!

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Verse of the Day:** *(sung to the tune of CW 685)*

♪ **Create in me a new heart, Lord,  
That gladly I obey your Word.  
O let your will be my desire  
And with new life my soul inspire.**

**Gospel: Mark 4:26-34**

<sup>26</sup>He said, "The kingdom of God is like this: A man scatters seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and while he sleeps and rises, night and day the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The ground produces fruit on its own: first the blade, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>When the crop is ready, he swings the sickle without delay, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>Then he said, "To what should we compare the kingdom of God? Or with what parable may we picture it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard

seed, which when sown on the ground is one of the smallest of all the seeds planted in the ground. <sup>32</sup>Yet when it is planted, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches so that the birds of the sky can nest under its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many similar parables he continued to speak the word to them, as much as they were able to hear. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

### **Apostles' Creed**

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth** *CW 505*

**1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

- 2 For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night;  
hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,  
sun and moon, and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.
- 4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

#### **Sermon: Colossians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints <sup>5</sup>because of the hope that is stored up for you in heaven. You have already heard about this in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that is present with you now. The gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the entire world, just as it also has been doing among you from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in truth. <sup>7</sup>You learned this from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf. <sup>8</sup>He is the one who told us about your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, from the day we heard about your love, we also have not stopped praying for you. We keep asking that you would be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, <sup>10</sup>so that you might live in a way that is worthy of the Lord. Our goal is that you please him by bearing fruit in every kind of good work and by growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup>as you are

being strengthened with all power because of his glorious might working in you. Then you will have complete endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup>The Father rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*Live In A Way That Is Worthy Of The Lord*

*I. Live a life of gratitude*

*II. Live a life of growth*

**Response to God's Word:**

♪ For thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n;  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**Offering**

**Prayer of the Church**

P: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

P: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

P: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

P: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Make our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

P: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight.**

P: These prayers we bring in Jesus' name, and in his name, we pray as he 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.**

**Hymn: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways** CW 705

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways  
to keep his statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace  
to know and do his will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by your Word,  
and make my heart sincere;  
let sin have no dominion, Lord,  
but keep my conscience clear.
- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,  
a stricter watch to keep,  
and should I e'er forget your way,  
restore your wand'ring sheep.
- 4 Make me to walk in your commands—  
'tis a delightful road—  
nor let my head or heart or hands  
offend against my God.



## **Prayer**

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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: On What Has Now Been Sown**      CW 925

- 1    **On what has now been sown  
      your blessing, Lord, bestow;  
      the pow'r is yours alone  
      to make it spring and grow.  
      O Lord, in grace the harvest raise  
      and you alone shall have the praise!**
  
- 2    **To you our wants are known;  
      from you are all our pow'rs.  
      Accept what is your own  
      and pardon what is ours.  
      Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive  
      and to your Word a blessing give.**
  
- 3    **O grant that each of us  
      now met before you here  
      may meet together thus  
      when you and yours appear  
      and follow you to heav'n, our home.  
      E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**

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

Let us live lives that are worthy of our great and gracious God: lives of gratitude and lives of growth!

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—293 (181/112) Women's Bible Study – 15

Offering Last Week—\$8,203.25 **Finish the Work – \$95,829.75**

(Meeting our 2024 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$14,735.00.)

*“Let my soul live and praise you, and may your judgments help me.”*

*Psalm 119:175*

**Announcements:**

1. **Baptism** Elijah Kenneth Brandl, son of Jacob and Tiffany Brandl was born on May 7, 2024 and will be baptized today in the 9:00 a.m. service. Serving as sponsors are Vanessa Roberts and Nathan Shallenberger. *He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Titus 3:5-6*
2. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Sunday morning Bible class will meet today at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
3. **Summer Sunday School** Our first sessions will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be no classes in the month of July. We will resume on August 4<sup>th</sup> with classes continuing on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. We will start at 8am and meet in the library. Please contact Lisa Thoni with any questions. Thank you.
4. **Summer Bible Camp Save the Date** Our Summer Bible Camp for 2024 will be held on July 16, 17 and 18. Please mark your calendars for this fun adventure!
5. **Altar Flowers** If you would like to supply flowers for the altar for Thursday/Sunday worship, please sign up on the bulletin board in the lower hallway. We're especially looking for flowers in July, August, and September. Thank you!
6. **Cleaning Opportunity** – Can you spare up to two hours once maybe twice a year depending on the number of volunteers we have signed up? We need volunteers to clean the sanctuary, narthex, choir loft, bathroom, and hallway going down to the Walker St. doors. You would be partnered with another

individual or family. Cleaning supplies and vacuum cleaners are provided. If you can help in this way, please contact Phil Fry or Lori Sage.

7. **Proeber Retirement Service** School was out for our students on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, but for the Proebers, school will be out forever as they embark on their next big assignment: Retirement! You are cordially invited to join us in thanking God for the many years of service the Proebers have provided to our church, school, and families. Join us on Sunday, June 16 at 9:00 a.m. for our worship service. A Retirement program will follow at 10:00 a.m. with a catered lunch to be served at 11:00 a.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the church lobby if you plan on attending. *If you would like to give the Proebers a card to wish them well in their retirement, you may place the cards in the box in the Narthex.*
8. **Women's Bible Class** Women's Bible Class is held Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are currently working on our handouts regarding Pastor Mark Paustian's books "Prepared to Answer" and "More Prepared to Answer". We hope to have the lessons ready to print in 2024. When we aren't doing these lessons we are using a Women's Bible Study Book from NPH called "In God's Orchard- Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Lenser at 608-728-3120.
9. **Finish the Work** Perhaps you have noticed that we are running regular updates for the special "Finish the Work" debt retirement/ reduction offering. **To date offerings given to this special effort total over \$95,000.00!! We have received 88 special gifts.** For this we thank our gracious God and his generous people here at St. Matthews. If you would still like to participate in the offering, special "Finish the Work" envelopes are still available on the counter in the narthex. Thank you again to all for your prayers and support.
10. **Thank you to the women** who served on the altar guild for the month of May: Jean Ruppier, Theresa Biele, Jean Muche, and Katie Schwark. Serving for the month of June will be: Kris Kroening, Erin Stout, Kate Carlson, and Kari Axelsen.

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## Assisting with Worship

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### Organist:

Meredith Moeller

### Ushers:

9:00 a.m. – Fred Shadoski, Russ Scott

### Next Week Ushers:

9:00 a.m. – Mark Schulz, Mike Lenser, Kevin Paasch

### CODS:

Thursday, May 30, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Jim Daley

Sunday, June 2, 9:00 a.m. – Kyle Stade

### Next Week CODS:

Thursday, June 6, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Phil Fry

Sunday, June 9, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – Marc Augsburg

### Greeters

Sunday, June 2, 9:00 a.m. – Bob & Linda Williams

### Next Week Greeters:

Sunday, June 9, 9:00 a.m. – Mike & Deb Lenser

### Church Cleaning:

June 8, 2024 – Michael Borchardt & Bev Boughton families

June 15, 2024 – Dale Brooks & Evie Burkholder families

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## This Week at St. Matthew's

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### **Sunday**

Bible Class/Sunday School 8:00 a.m.

Worship 9:00 a.m.

### **Wednesday**

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

### **Thursday**

Worship Service with Communion 6:30 p.m.

### **Friday**

Sprouts 9:00 a.m.

### **Sunday**

Bible Class & Sunday School 8:00 a.m.

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

**Announcements:**