

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

### Gospel Bluegrass Sunday

#### July 20, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

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*This Sunday, in the Gospel reading Jesus tells parables using those images for the kingdom of heaven. What exactly is that “treasure,” that “pearl”? He uses them as metaphors for the kingdom of heaven. But what exactly does THAT look like? This Sunday Daniel Bower and his bluegrass band will share some of that treasure with*

*us as the message.*

*The Holy Spirit moves us in many different ways, and when it comes to music, moves us in many different styles. Let us thank our musicians for how they share that with us as their act of worship, and let us share with each other the “treasures” and “pearls” God has led us to discover.*

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Pastor Christian McMullan

Daniel S. Bower, Music Director

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## WELCOME

Please stand

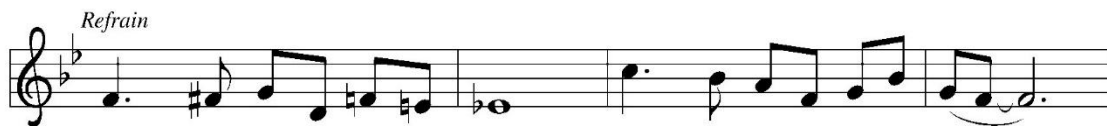
## GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

## OPENING HYMN

## Just a Closer Walk With Thee ELW 697



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: In the name of God, our Creator,  
Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

**C: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we choose self-righteous resentment and anger.**

**You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow impatient in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break the bondage of our sin,  
and show us the path of life.  
C: Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✠ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C:** Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

## Psalm 150

A: A reading from Psalm 150.

A: <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

Praise God in the holy temple;  
praise God in the mighty firmament.

**C: <sup>2</sup>Praise God for mighty acts;  
praise God for exceeding greatness.**

A: <sup>3</sup>Praise God with trumpet sound;  
praise God with lyre and harp.

**C: <sup>4</sup>Praise God with tambourines and dance,  
praise God with strings and pipe;**

A: <sup>5</sup>Praise God with resounding cymbals,  
praise God with loud clanging cymbals.

**C: <sup>6</sup>Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.  
Hallelujah!**

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW 172



## GOSPEL

## Matthew 13:44-53

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, <sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” <sup>53</sup>When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## GOSPEL MUSIC MESSAGE

### HYMN

### Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound ELW 779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

## THE PRAYERS

P: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

P: God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Trusting in your loving kindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## THE OFFERING

### NOISY OFFERING

*Please stand*

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

*In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**C: Amen.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 God thanks and praise.**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 acts of healing, his body given up,  
and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to celebrate together your eternal banquet.  
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

*Please be seated*

## **COMMUNION**

*This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.  
**C: Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand*

## BLESSING

P: The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace.  
**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## Will the Circle Be Unbroken

### Chorus:

Will the circle be unbroken  
Bye and bye Lord bye and bye  
There's a better home awaiting  
In the sky Lord in the sky

I was standin' by my window  
On one cold and cloudy day  
When I saw this hearse come rollin'  
For to carry my mother away **Chorus**

Lord I told the undertaker  
Undertaker please drive slow  
For this body you are haulin'  
Lord I hate to see her go **Chorus**

I will follow close behind her  
Try to hold off and be brave  
But I could not hide my sorrow  
When they laid her in her grave **Chorus**

I went back home Lord  
My home was lonesome miss my mother  
She was gone all my brothers sisters cryin'  
What a home so sad and lorn **Chorus**

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**St. Matthew's Staff**

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