

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 27, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.



*Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."*

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Pastor Christian McMullan

Daniel S. Bower, Music Director

Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania

610-458-5675

[www.stmatthews-church.org](http://www.stmatthews-church.org)

## **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**

## **Come Now is the Time to Worship**

Come now is the time to worship  
Come now is the time to give your heart  
Come just as you are to worship  
Come just as you are before your God  
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
who gladly choose You now

Come now is the time to worship  
Come now is the time to give your heart  
Come just as you are to worship  
Come just as you are before your God  
Come

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives  
Willingly our knees will bow  
With all our heart, soul, mind and strength  
We gladly choose you now.

Come now is the time to worship  
Come now is the time to give your heart  
Come just as you are to worship  
Come just as you are before your God  
Come

## CONFESSION & 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: Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray,  
and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant  
mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good  
things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Please be seated

### FIRST READING

### Genesis 18:20-32

A: A reading from the Book of Genesis, the eighteenth chapter.

<sup>20</sup> Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.”

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup> And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup> Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup> He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup> Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### CHILDREN’S SERMON

### SECOND READING

### Colossians 2:6-19

A: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, the second chapter.

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a

spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

<sup>1</sup> **He** was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup> So he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy.  
May your kingdom come.  
<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.  
<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial.”  
<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,’ <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.  
<sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

**MESSAGE**

## HYMN

## Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And His righteousness  
And all these things  
Shall be added unto you  
Allelu alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone  
But by ev'ry word  
That proceeds  
From the mouth of God  
Allelu alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you  
Seek and ye shall find  
Knock and the door  
Shall be opened unto you  
Allelu alleluia

## 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*

## NOISY OFFERING

## OFFERING

### PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

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

*Please stand*

### 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 kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

**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

## Build Your Kingdom Here

Build Your kingdom here  
Let the darkness fear  
Show Your mighty hand  
Heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire  
Win this nation back  
Change the atmosphere  
Build Your kingdom here we pray

Come set Your rule and reign  
In our hearts again  
Increase in us we pray  
Unveil why we're made

Come set our hearts ablaze with hope  
Like wildfire in our very souls  
Holy Spirit come invade us now  
We are Your church  
We need Your pow'r in us

We seek Your kingdom first  
We hunger and we thirst  
Refuse to waste our lives  
For You're our joy and prize  
To see the captives' hearts released  
The hurt the sick the poor at peace  
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause  
We are Your church  
We pray revive this earth

Build Your kingdom here  
Let the darkness fear  
Show Your mighty hand  
Heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire  
Win this nation back  
Change the atmosphere  
Build Your kingdom here we pray

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r  
Reaching the near and far  
No force of hell can stop  
Your beauty changing hearts  
You made us for much more than this  
Awake the kingdom seed in us  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ  
We are Your church  
We are the hope on earth

Build Your kingdom here  
Let the darkness fear  
Show Your mighty hand  
Heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire  
Win this nation back  
Change the atmosphere  
Build Your kingdom here we pray

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **St. Matthew's Staff**

Pastor Christian McMullan cmcmullan71@gmail.com

Daniel Bower, Music Director worship@stmatthews-church.org

Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries 484-320-0785

Sandy Elkins, Director St. Matthew's School 610-458-3381

Sara Richardson, Church Administrator 610-458-5675

Sandy Dewees, Cemetery Operations Coordinator 610-458-8121