

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 7, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.



---

*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by remembering God's gifts to us through Jesus' self-giving. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

---

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.

## HYMN

### Will You Come and Follow Me ELW 798



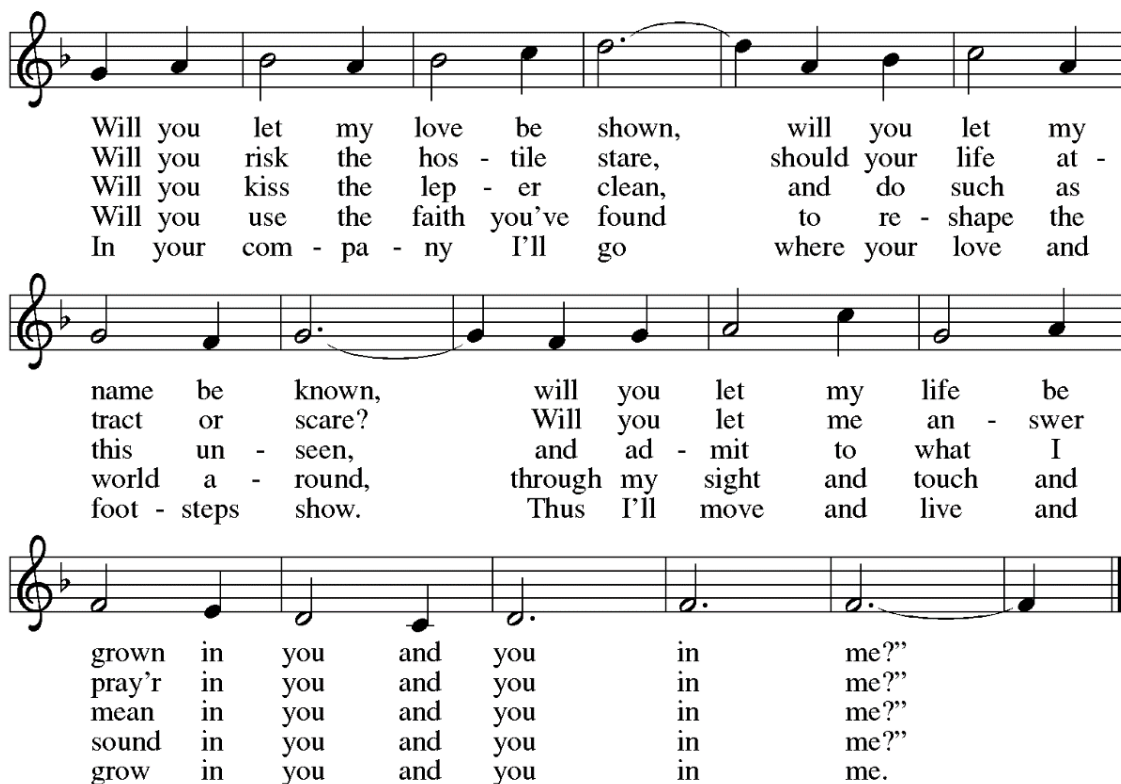
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
kind and nev - er be the same?  
free and nev - er be the same?  
side and nev - er be the same?  
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my life be known,  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life be known,  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as I can,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world,  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and name be known,  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer this un - seen,  
 and ad - mit to what I can, world a - round, through my sight  
 and touch and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and  
 grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
 our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
 in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful and loving God,

**C: we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.  
We turn away from the poor.  
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.  
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost  
and have been found.  
Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.  
In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!  
**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Please be seated**

## **FIRST READING**

## **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

A: A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, the thirtieth chapter.

<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

A: The Word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

# CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SECOND READING

## Psalm 1

A: A reading from Psalm 1.

A: <sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

C: <sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

A: <sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

C: <sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

A: <sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

C: <sup>6</sup>**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

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

## GOSPEL

**Luke 14:25-33**

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

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

## MESSAGE

## HYMN

**Come As You Are**

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been  
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

(So) Lay down your burdens lay down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart  
Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless  
And all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary  
Rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure

(So) Lay down your burdens lay down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart  
Come as you are

There's joy for the morning O sinner be still  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

## **THE PRAYERS**

P: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

P: God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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: Lord of the harvest,  
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.  
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,  
but on you, who richly provides for us.  
Multiply what we have gathered  
to bless all who are suffering and in need,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: O God,  
through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.  
Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand*

## BLESSING

P: The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 583



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

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